



2019-2020 Florida Job Growth Grant Fund Public Infrastructure Grant Proposal

Proposal Instructions: The Florida Job Growth Grant Fund Proposal (this document) must be completed by the governmental entity applying for the grant and signed by either the chief elected official, the administrator for the governmental entity or their designee. Please read the proposal carefully as some questions may require a separate narrative to be completed. If additional space is needed, attach a word document with your entire answer.

Governmental Entity Information

Name of Governmental Entity: Gulf County Board of County Commissioners

Government Federal Employer Identification Number: [REDACTED]

Primary Contact Name: Kaci Rhodes

Title: Grants Administrator

Mailing Address: 1000 Cecil Costin Sr. Blvd., Room 301

Port St. Joe FL 32456

Phone Number: (850) 227-2393

Email: krhodes@gulfcounty-fl.gov

Secondary Contact Name: Jim McKnight

Title: Director, Gulf County Economic Development Coalition

Phone Number: (850) 227-2393

Public Infrastructure Grant Eligibility

Pursuant to section 288.101, F.S., the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund was created to promote economic opportunity by improving public infrastructure and enhancing workforce training. Eligible entities that wish to access this grant fund must submit public infrastructure proposals that:

- Promote economic recovery in specific regions of the state, economic diversification or economic enhancement in a targeted industry. ([View Florida's Targeted Industries here.](#))
- Are not for the exclusive benefit of any single company, corporation or business entity.
- Are for infrastructure that is owned by the public and is for public use or predominately benefits the Public.

1. Program Requirements:

(If additional space is needed, attach a word document with your entire answer.)

Each proposal must include the following information describing how the project satisfies eligibility requirements listed on page 1.

A. Provide a detailed description of the public infrastructure improvements.

See attached Description

B. Provide location of public infrastructure, including physical address and county of project.

The physical location of the public infrastructure improvements will be 5,025 feet of Cessna drive ending at 167 Cessna Drive located in Port St. Joe, Florida 32456. (Gulf County) See attached locator map.

C. Is this infrastructure currently owned by the public? Yes No

If no, is there a current option to purchase or right of way provided to the County?

A deed has been drafted and will be executed upon notification of funding. See attached draft.

D. Provide current property owner.

Skyborne Trchnology---NAICS # 336411
115 County Road 381
Wewahitchka, Fl. 32465

E. Is this infrastructure for public use or does it predominately benefit the public?

Yes No

Yes, this road will be open to the public and provide better access to the existing businesses and to one new business immediately with other future businesses and work force housing to be developed at a later date.

F. Will the public infrastructure improvements be for the exclusive benefit of any single company, corporation or business entity?

Yes No

SEE ATTACHED

G. Provide a detailed description of, and quantitative evidence demonstrating, how the proposed public infrastructure project will promote:

- Economic recovery in specific regions of the state;
- Economic diversification; or
- Economic enhancement of a Targeted Industry ([View Florida's Targeted Industries here.](#))
 - Describe how the project will promote specific job growth. Include the number of jobs that will be retained or created, and in which industry(ies) the new net jobs will be created using the North American Industry Classification System ([NAICS](#)) codes. Where applicable, you may list specific businesses that will retain or create jobs or make capital investment.
 - Provide a detailed explanation of how the public infrastructure improvements will connect to a broader economic development vision for the community and benefit additional current or future businesses.

SEE ATTACHED

2. Additional Information:

(If additional space is needed, attach a word document with your entire answer.)

A. Provide the proposed commencement date and number of days required to complete construction of the public infrastructure project.

The project time line is as follows; Expect EDA funding by June 21,2020. Submit EFI/DEO Application June 10 2020, Obtain EFI Funding approval by June 30 2020. Advertise for Construction July 17 ,2020, Award construction contract August 25, 2020, Construction begins October 2020, Construction Ends February 15 2021 2021, Grant Closeout March 31, 2021.

B. What permits are necessary for the public infrastructure project?

The required and waste water permits have been obtained and the project has been approved by the Gulf County Planning Board. Florida State Clearinghouses has reviewed the proposal under the following authorities: Presidential Executive Order 12372; § 403.061(42), Florida Statutes; the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended; and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4347, as amended. And in an email response of April 6, 2020 found the project compliant. See Attached.

- C. Detail whether required permits have been secured, and if not, detail the timeline for securing these permits. Additionally, if any required permits are local permits, will these permits be prioritized?

All required permits and approval have been obtained as detailed in B above.

- D. What is the future land use and zoning designation on the proposed site of the infrastructure improvements, and will the improvements conform to those uses?

The current and future land use designation is mixed use commercial/residential which allows both types of planned development use. The proposed infrastructure improvements are consistent with the area and support the plans for development.

- E. Will an amendment to the local comprehensive plan or a development order be required on the site of the proposed project or on adjacent property to accommodate the infrastructure and potential current or future job creation opportunities? If yes, please detail the timeline.

Yes No

The project requires no amendment to the comprehensive plan and has been approved by the Gulf County Planning Board and County Commission.

- F. Is the project ready to commence upon grant fund approval and contract execution? If no, please explain.

Yes No

Project can begin upon upon funding as detailed in the project schedule above.

- G. Does this project have a local match amount? Yes No

If yes, please describe the entity providing the match and the amount.

EDA through their disaster relief program will be providing approximately 60% of the funding. There is no local match as resources are limited due to hurricane recovery.

- H. Provide any additional information or attachments to be considered for this proposal. Maps and other supporting documents are encouraged.

SEE ATTACHED

Site Maps, Warranty Deed (Draft), Environmental Narrative, Apalachee Regional Planning Council Concurrence Letter, and support letters from potential partners and other businesses who could benefit from the public infrastructure improvements.

3. Program Budget

(If additional space is needed, attach a word document with your entire answer.)

Estimated Costs and Sources of Funding: Include all applicable public infrastructure costs and other funding sources available to support the proposal.

1.) **Total Amount Requested** \$ 483,164.00 _____
 Florida Job Growth Grant Fund

A. Other Public Infrastructure Project Funding Sources:

City/County \$ 0.00 _____

Private Sources \$ 0.00 _____

Other (grants, etc.) \$ 615,448.00 _____

Total Other Funding \$ _____

EDA Disaster
 Please Specify: _____

B. Public Infrastructure Project Costs:

Construction \$ 1,049,100.00 _____

Reconstruction \$ _____

Design & Engineering \$ 58,000.00 _____

Land Acquisition \$ _____

Land Improvement \$ _____

Other \$ 615,448.00 _____

Total Project Costs \$ 1,107,100.00 _____

EDA Disaster
 Please Specify: _____

Note: The total amount requested must be calculated by subtracting the total other public infrastructure project funding sources in A. from the total public infrastructure project costs in B.

- C. Provide a detailed budget narrative, including the timing and steps necessary to obtain the funding and any other pertinent budget-related information.

The \$615,448 matching funds from the EDA Disaster-2019 grant program will be awarded in June of 2020. Matching fund of \$483,164 are need to fund the total project cost of \$1,107,100 project. Due to Hurricane damage, Gulf County does not have the required matching funds. A complication in the project arose when EDA ruled they could not fund the Water and Electric portions of the project because those services were not provided by a Governmental entity. Hence it is requested that the money for both those services be funded EFI/DEO and to lesser amount the road and sewer. Skyborne Technology is the first business that will benefit from the infrastructure has donated the property for the improvements. See detail on attached budget Section 3 C.

4. Approvals and Authority

(If additional space is needed, attach a word document with your entire answer.)

- A. If the governmental entity is awarded grant funds based on this proposal, what approvals must be obtained before it can execute a grant agreement with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (e.g., approval of a board, commission or council)?

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners is the applicant and has approved this application for funds. The Board would need to approve the grant agreement and that action would occur at the next regular or special meeting if time is of the essence. The Board Chairman would sign the agreemnt.

If board authorization is not required, who is authorized to sign?

N/A

- B. If approval of a board, commission, council or other group is needed prior to execution of an agreement between the governmental entity and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity:

- i. Provide the schedule of upcoming meetings for the group for a period of at least six months.
- ii. State whether entity is willing and able to hold special meetings, and if so, upon how many days' notice.

The Board of County is scheduled for regular meetings on June 23, 2020 and July 27, 2020, August 25 ,2020, September 22, 2020, October 22, 2020, November 24,2020. Due to the COVID crisis, the commission is holding at minimum one special meeting a week.

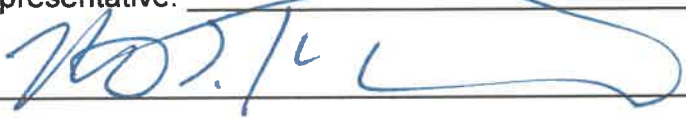
- C. Attach evidence that the undersigned has all necessary authority to execute this proposal on behalf of the governmental entity. This evidence may take a variety of forms, including but not limited to: a delegation of authority, citation to relevant laws or codes, policy documents, etc.

See Attached Memorandum

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I have express authority to sign this proposal on behalf of the above-described entity and to the best of my knowledge, that all data and information submitted in proposal is truthful and accurate and no material fact has been omitted.

Name of Governmental Entity: Gulf County Board of County Commissioners

Name and Title of Authorized Representative: Michael Hammond, County Administrator

Representative Signature: 

Signature Date: 06-11-2020

EFI Grant Application Attachment Pages

Program Requirements

- A. **Description of public Infrastructure improvements**--- Paving 8/10ths of a mile on Cessna Drive from Rutherford Street to the entrance of a new aerospace business at Costin Airport. The road will serve three existing businesses initially, the new Skyborne Project/Hangar and other business to be developed in the future. In addition, infrastructure improvement includes the provision of sewer to include a grinder station approx. 5,075 LF of 2" low pressure force main to tie/connect to the City of PSJ's sewer system. Provide Water including approx. 4,800 LF of 6" main and 2" service line. Provide three phase Electrical Service to the hangar site.
- B. **Location of public infrastructure and physical address**- The infrastructure improvements will be located on land to be deeded to Gulf County by Skyborne Technology, the new business to be locating on Cessna Drive. Cessna Drive run parallel to the airstrip for 4,000 feet providing space for other businesses. The physical address of the new Skyborne project is 167 Cessna drive, Port St. Joe Fl. 32456. (See attached site map)

F. **Benefit a single company?** No, the project will benefit more than one new business. Skyborne Technology who fabricates Airships outfitted with Drones for surveillance, communications, agriculture and other purposes will be the first beneficiary. Their Hangar facility will serve as a training facility for the project partners and will attract other aerospace businesses as an anchor for this industry cluster. It is projected that the paving of the road will catalyze other property develop their property for workforce housing and/or expand businesses. Collaboration with the nearby Gulf Coast State College's, Gulf Franklin Campus, the Unmanned Safety Institute and the local high schools are in the planning stages. Partners expressing interest include R2, Kazpur Aviation, and Unmanned Systems Inc (See attached letters).

G. **Quantitative evidence demonstrating how project will promote economic recovery**--The Costin Airport Hangar (in Port St. Joe) that the grant's infrastructure makes possible will provide the assembly, outfitting and training area for the 200 ft. airships. Skyborne Technology will create 71 mostly high paying jobs.

* **Economic Recovery & Economic Diversification**

Prior to Hurricane Michael, Gulf County was already economically distressed. According to the *Stats America Distress Report*, Gulf County is economically distressed as evidenced by its 24-month unemployment rate, which exceeds the United States rate by 0.74 points (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019). Per capita income is also low, with Gulf County's per capita income calculated at \$21,255 versus \$32,621 for the U.S. (American Community Survey, 2018). Hurricane Michael impacts exacerbated the level of economic distress, causing the loss of over 17,000 jobs across the disaster impacted region (University of West Florida—Haas Center, 2019). Hurricane Michael made landfall on October 10, 2018, initially causing the closure of all businesses in Gulf County, with 40 percent remaining closed two

months later. Post-disaster needs largely stemmed from the lack of resilient transportation, communications, and utilities infrastructure.

The scope of work for this project directly addresses the need for resilient transportation, communications, and utilities infrastructure by including the construction of necessary infrastructure (road, water, wastewater and electrical services) that will connect the airport-based property of the primary beneficiary—Skyborne Technology—to the main road. Access roads around the airport are currently unpaved, which makes them more treacherous and unstable during a major storm. Paving the roadway and providing critical infrastructure to the airport property increases economic resiliency by hardening the assets that provide access to the airport and thereby also increasing the resiliency of adjacent property owners' existing and future businesses. The airships that will be assembled by Skyborne Technology at the new hangar facility will also improve Gulf County's ability to bounce back from future storms, as the airships can be deployed post-disaster to bring communications back online and thereby facilitate timely disaster assessment and response. Overall this project will diversify Gulf County's economic base, create high wage jobs in resilient fields like advanced manufacturing and aerospace technology, provide resilient infrastructure, and enhance Gulf County's ability to bounce back from future disasters and economic downturns.

- **Economic enhancement of a Targeted Industry-- NAICS Code: 336411 SIC 3721**

In support of this project the Apalachee Regional Planning Council created an economic model using REMI PI to forecast impacts of the project on Gulf County. The 10-year forecast projects a 10-year average of 94 jobs created, with an average wage of \$87,923. Average annual increase in disposable income is forecast to be \$4.091million and the average annual GDP is projected to be \$8.9 million. In support of this project the Apalachee Regional Planning Council created an economic model using REMI PI to forecast impacts of the project on Gulf County. The 10-year forecast projects a 10-year average of 94 jobs created, with an average wage of \$87,923. Average annual increase in disposable income is forecast to be \$4.091million and the average annual GDP is projected to be \$8.9 million. Skyborne Technology will create 71 mostly high paying jobs during the first three years to include (12) seamstresses @ 40,000 to \$50,000 per year, (6) CAD operators at 60,000 to 75,000 per year, (4) directors of manufacturing at \$75,000 to \$150,000, (4) test pilots @ \$125,000, (7) management positions @ \$125,000, (10) unmanned drone pilots @ \$75,000 to \$125,000, (8) unmanned airship pilots @ \$75,000 to \$125,000, (8) Drone Manufacturing Specialists @ \$60,000 to \$80,000 and (12) Telecommunications specialist @ \$60,000 to \$75,000.

Additional Information

- B. Permits necessary for the public infrastructure project (continued)
 - Comments and approval from the Tribal Historic Preservation Officers have been received.
 - Approval of impacts from the US Fish and Wildlife Service

1. Program budget

C. Budget Narrative (Continued)

	Estimated Budget		
	Rural Infrastructure Fund		
Description	EDA Disaster Grant	RIF/DEO Grant	Total
Construction			
Road	500,000.0	125,000	625,000
Sewer	40,000	10,000	50,000
Water	-	109,000	109,000
Electric		226,000	226,000
Engineering/Design	46,400	11,600	58,000
Contingency	29,048	7,820	39,100
Sub Total Infrastructure	615,448	483,164	1,107,100
Other Project			
Skyborne Technology			
Land			1,000,000
Equipment			400,000
Hangar Construction			3,800,000
Sub Total			5,200,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST	615,448	483,164	6,307,100

4. Approvals and Authority

C. Evidence the undersigned has authority to execute. See Below:

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE
Michael L. Hammond, County Administrator**
1000 CECIL G. COSTIN SR. BLVD., ROOM 302, PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA 32456
PHONE (850)229-6106 • FAX (850) 564-7503 • EMAIL: bocc@gulfcounty-fl.gov
DATE AND TIME OF MEETINGS • FOURTH TUESDAY AT 9:00 A.M. E.T

MEMORANDUM

**TO: GULF COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FROM: MICHAEL L. HAMMOND, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
RE: SIGNATURE AUTHORITY
DATE: MAY 20, 2020**

By this memorandum, I am requesting for the Chairman or County Administrator to be able to sign any and all agreements and contracts that are approved by the Board.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me anytime.

Thanks.

FILED FOR RECORD
REBECCA TORRES
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
20 MAY 21 PM 1:48

BCC APPROVED
DATE 5/20/20 

CONSENT
DATE: 5/20/20 

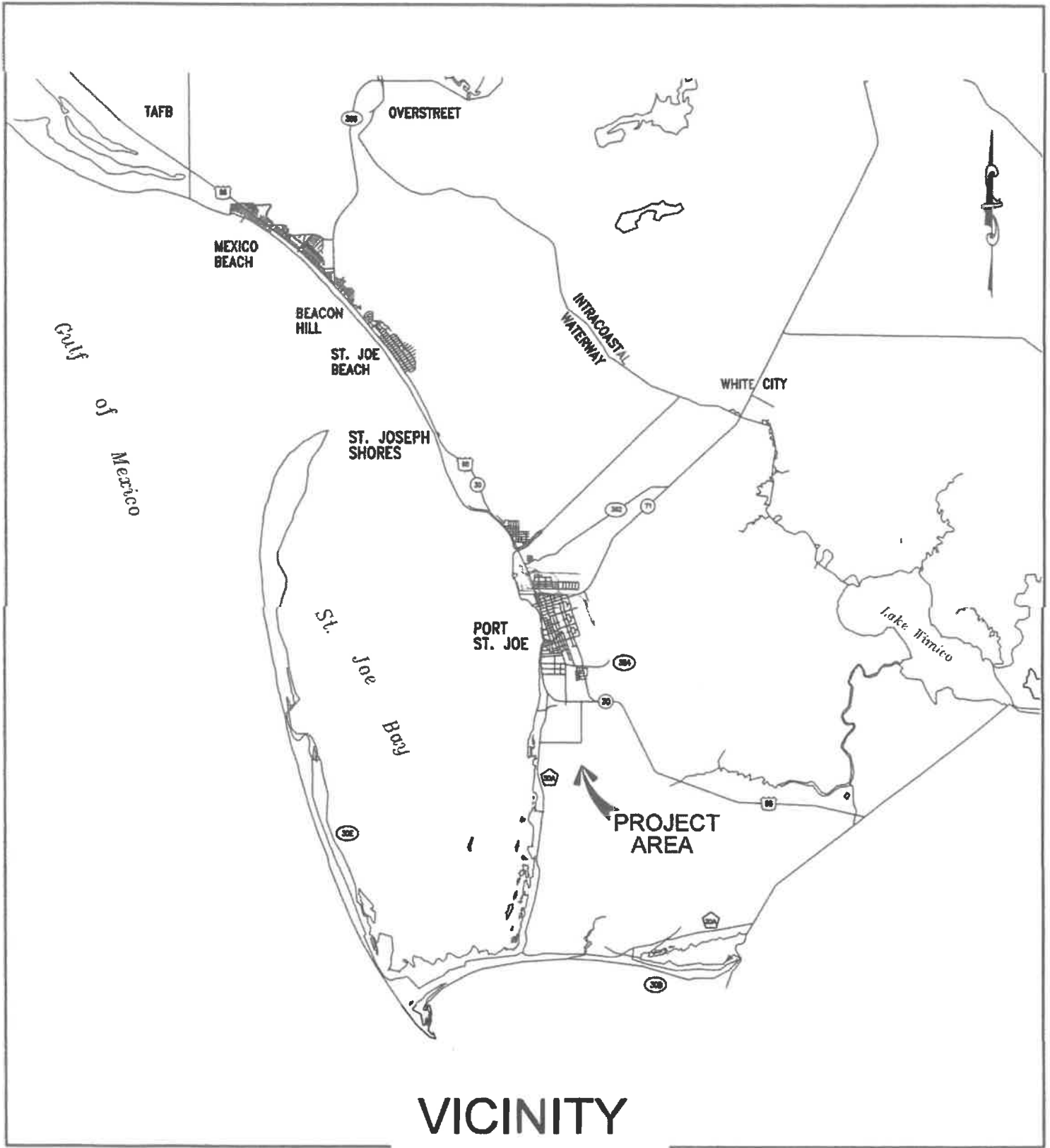
DAVID C. RICH
District 1

WARD MCDANIEL
District 2

JIMMY ROGERS
District 3

SANDY QUINN
District 4

PHIL MCCROAN
District 5



VICINITY
MAP



© 2019 Microsoft Corporation © 2019 DigitalGlobe © CNES (2019) Distribution Airbus

<p>Location Map</p> <p>Site Address</p> <p>Site Name</p> <p>Client</p>		<p>Dewberry</p> <p>101 N ... St 710 Tallahassee, FL 32301 850.523.0062</p>		<p>DATE: 7/19</p> <p>SCALE: TAB</p> <p>MAP: TAB</p> <p>FILE:</p>	<p>PROJECT No: 50088995</p> <p>SCALE No: LM</p>
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PREPARED BY:
Thomas S. Gibson, of
RISH & GIBSON, P.A.
116 SAILOR'S COVE DRIVE
PORT ST JOE, FL 32456

WITHOUT BENEFIT OF TITLE SEARCH OR ABSTRACT
AND IS BASED SOLELY ON FACTS PROVIDED BY EITHER
OF THE PARTIES

WARRANTY DEED

This warranty deed is dated this ____ day of _____, 2020 by; **Skyborne Technology Investment Properties, Inc.**, a Florida corporation, hereafter called Grantor, for and in consideration of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) and other good and valuable considerations, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, does bargain, sell, convey and grant to:

Board of County Commissioners of Gulf County, Florida,

whose address is: 1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida 32456, hereafter called Grantee, and the heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns of Grantee, forever, the real property in **Gulf County, Florida**, described in Exhibit A attached hereto.

SUBJECT TO Covenants, Restrictions, and Easements of record, if any. Together, with all the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereto belonging or in anywise appertaining.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same in fee simple forever. Grantor hereby covenants with the said Grantee that the Grantor is lawfully seized of said land in fee simple; that the Grantor has good right and lawful authority to sell and convey said land; that the Grantor hereby fully warrants title to all persons whomsoever; and that said land is free of all encumbrances, except taxes accruing subsequent to December 31, 2019, and SUBJECT TO the Applicable Comprehensive Plan, including developmental regulations and are not hereby reimposed. Grantor does hereby warrant title to said land and will defend the same against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever, subject only to any exceptions set forth herein.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this instrument has been executed by Grantor.

Signed, sealed and delivered
in the presence of:

Skyborne Technology Investment Properties,
Inc.

By: _____
Michael Lawson, CEO

Witness Signature
Printed Name: _____

Witness Signature
Printed Name: _____

February 5, 2020

Skyborne Technology LLC.

Economic Development Administration – Paving of Cessna Drive in Port St. Joe, FL
Infrastructure Project (Gulf County)

EDA Environmental Narrative

A. Project Description

1. Beneficiaries

As indicated in Sections A.3.b. and B.5. of the EDA Grant application, Gulf County is proposing to improve and pave the existing Cessna Drive, which currently consists of an unimproved dirt road. Improvements to Cessna Drive will support access to the proposed development of a hangar facility, by Skyborne Technology, LLC site, at the Costin Airport (a privately-owned airport). The Skyborne project will create with job opportunities for skilled labor, training, and educational opportunities.

2. Proposed Construction

The purpose of the project is to construct the required physical infrastructure to improve Cessna Drive in Gulf County, Florida. The land for the roadway improvements consists of a 66-foot wide right-of-way (ROW) that traverses south approximately 5,179-feet from West Rutherford Street. The proposed roadway will be 21 feet (with two 10-foot travel lanes, 6-foot sodded area on either side, and ditches or swales on either side. Cessna Drive is located within the larger 34.13-acre parent parcel (Parcel ID: 06236-099R) that consists of a privately-owned airport and associated facilities, located at 167 Cessna Drive in Port St. Joe, Gulf County, Florida.

The northern portion of Cessna Drive is located in in Section 25, Township 8S, Range 10W and ends to the south in Section 25, Township 8S, Range 11W.

The infrastructure project will include the entry road and utility extensions from Rutherford Street to the proposed hangar facility site, the initial internal road system, and the initial internal utility systems. The major components of the infrastructure project are listed below.

- a. A new two-lane asphalt entry road approximately 5,179-feet long and 21-feet wide, along the length of the eastern boundary of the Skyborne Technology Investments property.

wetlands. A copy of the National Wetlands Inventory map is attached (see Appendix D). The wetlands are also depicted on the roadway plans.

4. Floodplains

- a. A FEMA floodplain map is attached that displays the project location and boundaries (See Appendix E). The project site is located in Zone X, identified as a 500-year flood zone.

The property address is in the Gulf County Unincorporated Areas, which is located in the National Flood Plain Insurance Program.

5. Endangered Species

- a. Threatened, endangered and candidate species found in the project area were reviewed using the US Fish and Wildlife's Information, Planning, and Conservation System (IPaC) webpage, and the Florida Natural Areas Inventory webpage (FNAI). No critical habitat was identified for the project area. Wading birds and over listed species may occupy adjoining areas; however, the project will not negatively impact adjacent areas. No adverse effects on listed species is anticipated. Copies of the IPaC and FNAI reports are attached (see Appendix F).

6. Land Use and Zoning

- a. The zoning designation of the parcel which Cessna Drive is located within is classified as vacant land according to the Gulf County Property Appraisers webpage. The project is located within an unincorporated area. The proposed roadway project is consistent with zoning and land use.

7. Solid Waste Management

- a. There will be no solid waste generated by the road improvement Infrastructure project with exception to excess construction materials and employee generated waste. The responsible party for construction activities would be responsible for removing any solid waste and disposing at the appropriate facility.

8. Hazardous or Toxic Substances

- a. No toxic, hazardous or radioactive substances will be utilized or produced by the proposed road project.
- b. There is a fuel facility associated with airport near West Rutherford Street,

- a. No excessive noise will be generated with exception to standard traffic noises.

16. Permits

- a. The permits of an environmental nature that are expected to be required for the Cessna Drive project include the following:
 - i. Site plan review, Gulf County
 - ii. Environmental Resource Permit (ERP), Northwest Florida Water Management District
 - iii. National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit; expected to be filed by the contractor for this project.
- b. Status: Permits have not been applied for or obtained.

17. Public Notification/Controversy

- a. The road is existing, and the proposed improvements are not anticipated to be controversial. The Skyborne project will generate new jobs and the public response is positive.

18. Cumulative Effects

- a. The potential cumulative or indirect impacts resulting from the Cessna Drive improvements are not likely to have an adverse effect on existing conditions of the overall area. Cessna Drive, the airport facility, various single-family homes, and timberland have occupied the area for over ten years. The improvements to the roadway to provide access to a future hangar facility will temporarily increase traffic patterns; however, it is unlikely the volume of vehicular traffic will negatively impact existing conditions.

D. Mitigation

- a. At all areas of construction, Best Management Practices (BMP) will be implemented to prevent improper runoff. These practices will include installation of straw bales and silt fences at construction perimeters. All grading and clearing will be performed on a "just in time" basis, so that bare soil is not exposed for any longer than necessary.

Apalachee Regional Planning Council

Serving Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson,
Liberty, Leon and Wakulla Counties and their municipalities



January 21, 2020

Gulf County Board of County Commissioners
1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd.
Port St. Joe, FL 32456
(850) 564-7503
bocc@gulfcounty-fl.gov

RE: Gulf County Infrastructure Project – EDA Disaster Supplemental Funding Request

To Whom It May Concern:

Apalachee Regional Planning Council staff has reviewed the application listed above in accordance with its Intergovernmental Coordination Review responsibilities and authority. As a result of the review, staff has the following response:

- No Comment/Neither consistent nor inconsistent with the Regional Plan.
- Supports the project/Consistent with Regional Plan.
- Inconsistent with local plan. Concur, contingent on local plan amendment.
- Objects to the project/Inconsistent with Regional Plan; explanation attached
- Has no objection to the project/Not inconsistent with Regional Plan.
- Cannot evaluate the project; explanation attached.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Caroline Smith".

Caroline Smith
Intergovernmental Review Coordinator

OFFICE
2507 Callaway Rd, Ste 200
Tallahassee, Florida 32303

CONTACT
850.488.6211
www.thearpc.com



January 21, 2020

Mr. Jim McKnight, Director
Gulf County Economic Development Coalition
1000 Cecil Costin Blvd, Suite 400
Port St Joe, FL 32456

Dear Mr. McKnight:

I am pleased to confirm Gulf Coast State College's support of your application for the Gulf County EDA Disaster grant funding to provide the infrastructure (road, water, wastewater, and electrical) to the Skyborne Hanger at the Costin Airport in Port St Joe, Florida.

Gulf Coast State College is in full support of this project and is looking forward to working with Skyborne Technologies. As you know, Gulf Coast is heavily invested and engaged in the expansion of our unmanned vehicle systems program at the Gulf Franklin Campus. In fact, with the location of Skyborne Technologies and the Unmanned Safety Institute in your community, Gulf County seems to be well on its way to becoming the epicenter in the region for the expansion and deployment of this exciting new technology.

If I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dr. John Holdnak
President

Office of the President
5230 West U.S. Highway 98
Panama City, Florida 32401
www.gulfcoast.edu

Dr. John Holdnak
T 850.872.3800
F 850.767.8001
johnhak@gulfcoast.edu



**UNMANNED
SAFETY
INSTITUTE**

January 22, 2020

**Jim McKnight, Director
Gulf County Economic Development Coalition
1000 Cecil Costin Blvd., Suite 400
Port St. Joe, FL 32456**

Dear Mr. McKnight:

This letter supports the Economic Development Coalition application for grant funds to provide infrastructure to the Skyborne Hangar at Costin Airport. As you know, the Unmanned Safety Institute has teamed with Gulf and Franklin County School Districts along with Gulf Coast State College to provide unmanned aircraft career education and industry certifications to students in this part of Florida. Having access to Skyborne Technology, the manufacturer of unmanned systems, could enhance their learning opportunities and perhaps provide future employment opportunities.

Further, as a former Florida police chief and emergency manager, having a fully functional airport in case of a natural disaster is invaluable.

Given the above, the Unmanned Safety Institute supports the grant application for Skyborne Technology infrastructure improvements at Costin Airport.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide an additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Donald L. Shinnamon, Sr.

**Donald L. Shinnamon, Sr.
Vice President**

unmannedsafetyinstitute.org // +1 877.535.7233 // 1500 E Taylor Road, Deland, FL 32724



601 South Boulder Avenue
Suite 800
Tulsa, OK 74118
(918) 557-3106

22 January 2020

Gulf County Economic Development Coalition
1000 Cecil Costin Blvd, Suite 400
Port St. Florida 32456

RE: R Squared Technologies, Inc. Relocation to Gulf County, Florida

Dear Mr. McKnight:

Our company was part of the initial Skyborne Technology, Inc. Press Conference on September 10, 2018. At that time, R Squared Technologies, Inc. committed to relocate to Gulf County, Florida. Specifically, our black box communication technology will be manufactured in Gulf County and tested at Costin Airport once the new hangar facility is operational. The communication device will be integrated into the unmanned capabilities of Skyborne's unmanned airships and UAV Systems for disaster relief, surveillance, public safety, distance learning and other vertical markets.

R Squared is committed to employing local talent for the manufacturing and training of our communication systems as a partner of Skyborne Technology.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Robinson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

William Robinson, CEO