

Baker County

MIDPOINT PARKWAY PROJECT FLORIDA JOB GROWTH GRANT FUND APPLICATION

PRESENTED TO:
Enterprise Florida (EFI) and
Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)





**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.

Governmental Entity Information

Name of Governmental Entity: Baker County

Government Federal Employer Identification Number: ██████████

Contact Information:

Primary Contact Name: Ms. Kennie Downing

Title: County Manager

Mailing Address: 55 North 3rd Street
Macclenny, FL

Phone Number: (904) 259-3613

Email: kennie.downing@bakercountyfl.org

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 governmental 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:

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

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

"Midpoint Parkway Project"- Midpoint Parkway is designed to develop in 3 segments. Plans call for a three-lane roadway: two lanes each 12 feet wide and center lane 14 feet in width to allow for the wider turning movements required**Complete answer attached**

B. Is this infrastructure owned by the public?

Yes No

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

Yes No

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

Yes No

E. 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.

Midpoint Parkway is projected to generate interest in Baker County's developing marketing areas, for future industrial/commercial development. Midpoint Parkway will also provide an alternative truck route between Interstate 10 and U.S. 90 providing a more attractive incentive to Midpoint Business Park establishments and alleviate heavy truck traffic and congestion in downtown Macclenny, which is also is a major goal of the project.

New roads and road improvements boost the economy of a community by improving transportation networks that provide economic benefits to adjacent properties. A reduction in travel time equates to reduced fuel costs for people in local communities. Theoretically these cost savings increase local property values through the buildup of the surrounding infrastructure.

Midpoint Parkway is destined to be a catalyst for economic growth and development.....

F. 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.](#))
 - As part of this response, describe how the project will promote specific job growth. Include a description of the number of jobs that will be retained or created, the average wages of such jobs, and in which industry(ies) the jobs will be created using the North American Industry Classification System ([NAICS](#)) codes. Where applicable, you may list specific businesses that will retain or grow jobs or make capital investment.
 - Further, include the economic impact on the community, region, or state and the associated metrics used to measure the success of the proposed project.

According to researchers at the University of Central Florida, The Sunshine State is on pace to see its economy reach the \$1 trillion mark by 2018 and set to become the 16th largest economy in the world by 2019, as ranked by World Bank.

Baker County, FL is the 52nd largest county in Florida by population. The median household income in Baker County, FL was \$47,121 in 2015, which represents a 0.55% growth from the previous year. Additionally, there were 10,174 residents in Baker County, FL with jobs in 2015, which is a 1.32% increase from the previous year.

Comparatively, the median household income in Duval County, FL was \$49,554 in 2015, which represents an 8.25% growth from the previous year. Additionally, there were 433,627 residents in Duval County, FL with jobs in 2015, which is a 5.67% growth from the previous year.

Employment in Baker County, FL has been growing at a rate of 1.32%, from 10,041 employees in 2014 to 10,174 employees in 2015.

Baker County is geographically and demographically often included in Jacksonville/Duval County's "First Coast" region excluding the County from many rural county incentives due the proximity of Baker County to the metro area. Many residents live in Baker and work in the Jacksonville Metro area.

According to the Florida Chamber of Commerce, Baker County's Wealth Migration increased in 2016. Wealth Migration is the amount of Adjusted Gross Income this



2. Additional Information:

A. Is this project an expansion of an existing infrastructure project?

Yes No

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

Commencement Date is 6 months from funding date; 18-24 months completion

C. What is the location of the public infrastructure? (Provide the road number, if applicable.)

Midpoint Parkway Project will extend from near the Walmart Distribution Center on.....

D. Who is responsible for maintenance and upkeep? (Indicate if more than one are applicable.)

Federal State County City Other_____

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

St. Johns River WMD, FDOT driveway-connection permit & Army Corps of Engineers

F. 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?

Listed permits have not been secured. The time line is 5-6 months from the funding date. Local permits are not required.

G. 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 proposed infrastructure improvements of Midpoint Parkway falls within an Agricultural zoning and FLUM district.

The proposed infrastructure improvements will not require any zoning or FLUM changes.



H. 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

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

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

Yes No

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

J. Does this project have a local match amount?

Yes No

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

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

K. Provide any additional information or attachments to be considered for this proposal.

To supplement this application, there is a 39 page attachment of additional information unable to fit in text boxes as well as images supporting the project.



3. Program Budget

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

A. Public Infrastructure Project Costs:

Construction	<u>\$ 6,419,000.00</u>
Reconstruction	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Design & Engineering	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Land Acquisition	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Land Improvement	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Other	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Total Project Costs	<u><u>\$ 6,419,000.00</u></u>

Please Specify: _____

B. Other Public Infrastructure Project Funding Sources:

City/County	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Private Sources	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Other (grants, etc.)	<u>\$ 2,034,376.00</u>
Total Other Funding	<u><u>\$ 2,034,376.00</u></u>

Please Specify: FDOT

Total Amount Requested \$ 4,384,624.00

Note: The total amount requested must equal the difference between the public infrastructure project costs in 3.A. and the other public infrastructure project funding sources in 3.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 County has already completed the engineering design of the project with FDOT TRIP funds awarded in the amount of \$650,000.00.

The County has also been awarded funding from FDOT for Segment 3 in the amount of 2,034,376.00. This is \$529,000.00 short of the funding needed to complete this portion of the project which is \$2,563,000.00.

Baker County is also prepared to commence with the construction of Segment 2. Construction costs for this portion of the Midpoint Parkway Project is.....



4. Approvals and Authority

- 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 Baker County Board of County Commissioners will have to approve the grant agreement.

- 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.

Complete answer attached

- ii. State whether that group can hold special meetings, and if so, upon how many days' notice.

Yes. Upon 5 days notice.

- 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.



I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I have express authority to sign this proposal on behalf of the above-described governmental entity.

Name of Governmental Entity: Baker County Board of County Commissioners

Name and Title of Authorized Representative: Bobby Steele, Vice-Chairman

Representative Signature: *Robert L. Steele*

Signature Date: 9/19/2017



Florida Job Growth Grant Fund
Public Infrastructure Grant Proposal
"MIDPOINT PARKWAY PROJECT"

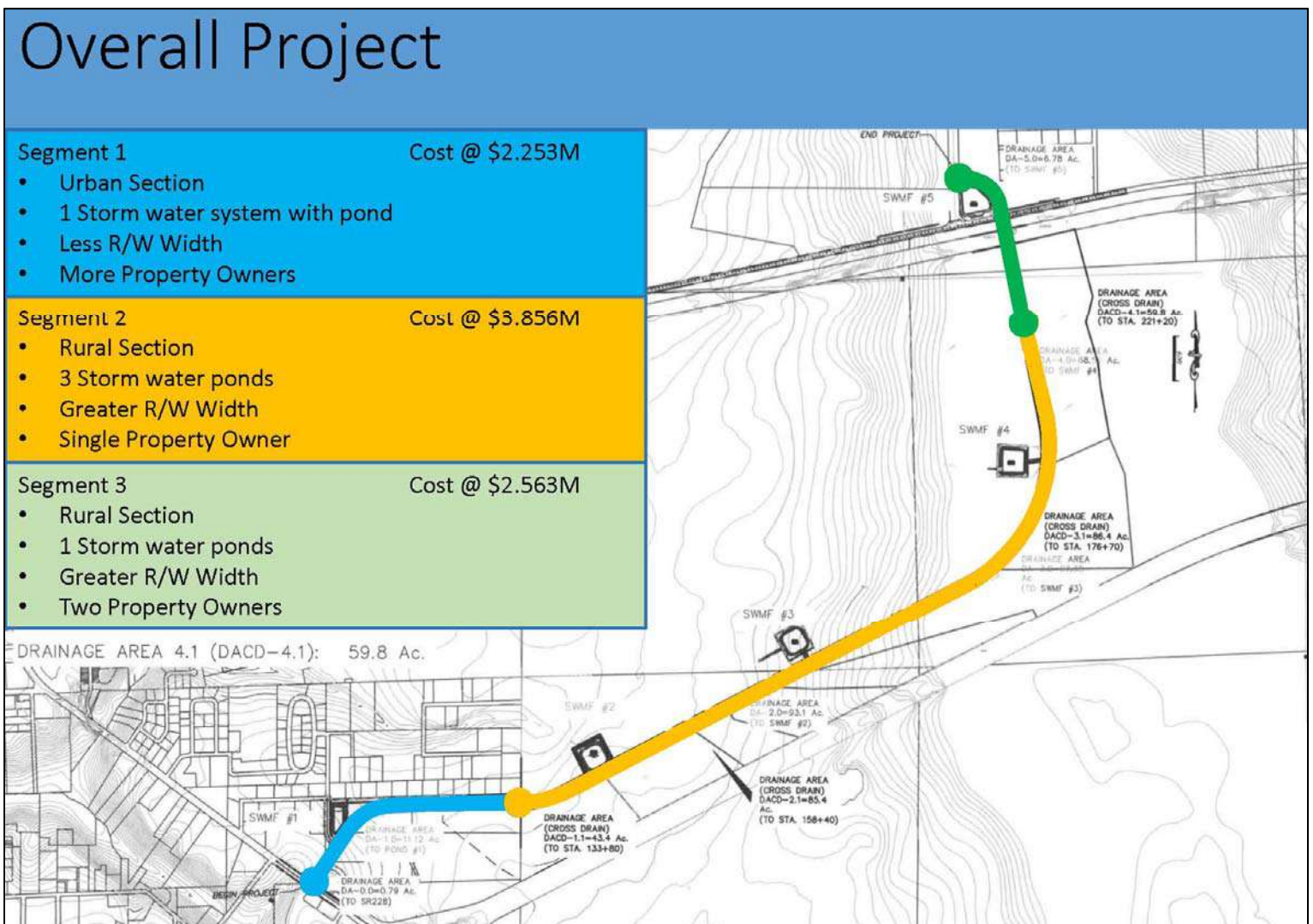
Additional Application Response Detail



SECTION 1A

"Midpoint Parkway Project"- Midpoint Parkway is designed to develop in 3 segments. Plans call for a three-lane roadway: two lanes each 12 feet wide and center lane 14 feet in width to allow for the wider turning movements required by 18-wheelers; ROW will include a corridor 120 feet wide along the entire 3.3-mile length of Midpoint Parkway, as well as additional lands for at least two retention ponds, utility easements and a "flyover" bridge across U.S. 90 and the CSX railroad tracks.

The County is requesting funding for segments 2 & 3 through the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund.



This image illustrates the new Midpoint Parkway design.



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Additional Page 2



The volume of semi-truck traffic from this one business park vendor is approximately 700 trucks a day funneling through the local streets of downtown Macclenny.



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Additional Page 3



The planned Midpoint Parkway will end at this section of Enterprise Boulevard.

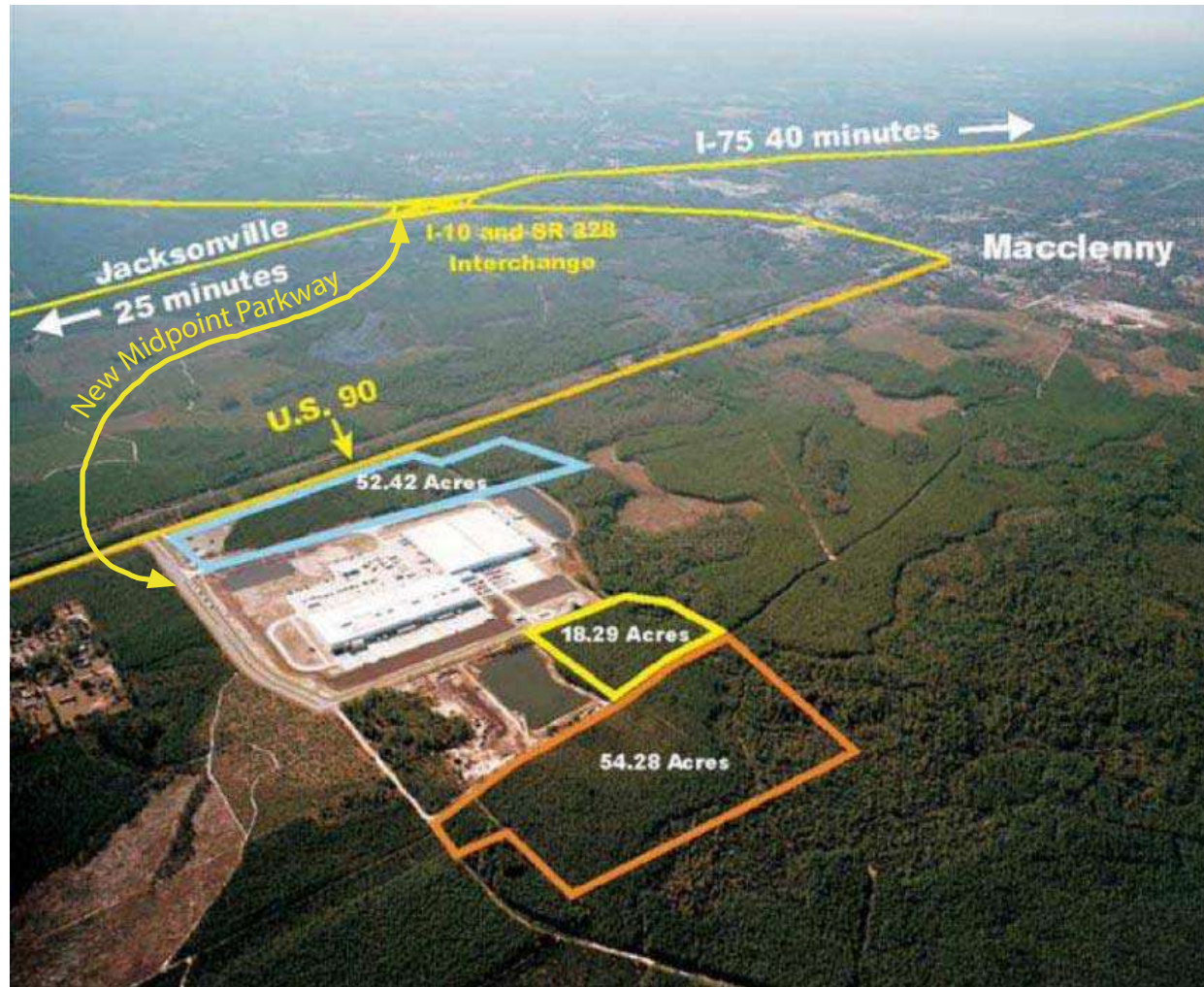


Florida Job Growth Grant Fund
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Additional Page 4



An example of the extensive curb damage that can be seen throughout the County and City as trucks navigate through narrow streets to the Interstate.



Local Realtor map depicting available business park parcels near Wal-mart Distribution Center; prime property with the development of Midpoint Parkway. All parcels created along the new Midpoint parkway will generate optimal industrial sites for businesses seeking direct access to I-10, Jacksonville and I-75 all built to suite.



SECTION 1E

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Midpoint Parkway is destined to be a catalyst for economic growth and development within Baker County. The Parkway will provide support to Midpoint Business Park which has an opportunity to provide over 4,100 jobs and will also support the Wal-Mart Distribution Center, currently supplying 750-800 jobs locally. The strategic location gives industrial users access to major travel routes and railroad service to future potential business that will find this a valuable location for their operations. The project will also open an area designated for residential development, called the Baker Commons subdivision, near SR 228, which has been approved for construction.

Local officials are optimistic that the future development potential along the new corridor could provide hundreds of new jobs, as well as opportunities for the City of Macclenny to profit by extending water and sewer utilities to the site. The pending development of the vacant parcels provides a valuable opportunity to create a partnership for the benefit of all. Our economic development partners are working hard to increase desirability for companies to locate within the Midpoint Industrial Business Park and promote opportunities to assist in creating new jobs and increase private investment. Please see the attached PowerPoint from the County wide public meeting pertaining to this project.

SECTION 1F

According to researchers at the University of Central Florida, The Sunshine State is on pace to see its economy reach the \$1 trillion mark by 2018 and set to become the 16th largest economy in the world by 2019, as ranked by World Bank.

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Additional Page 7



**WEALTH
MIGRATION**

\$5.55

Million per Year

Baker County is geographically and demographically often included in Jacksonville/Duval County's "First Coast" region excluding the County from many rural county incentives due to the proximity of Baker County to the metro area. Many residents live in Baker and work in the Jacksonville Metro area.

According to the Florida Chamber of Commerce, Baker County's Wealth Migration increased in 2016. Wealth Migration is the amount of Adjusted Gross Income this county gains or loses each year from people migrating into and out of the county.



POVERTY RATE

16.8%

(Better)

It is predicted by the Florida Chamber of Commerce that Baker County will require over 1300 new jobs to sustain its growth by the year 2020. The First Coast economy has struggled to recover from the Great Recession in 2008. However, unemployment has fallen below the national average to 4.1% vs 4.4% (National Average). Pay is low in some key industries, comparatively speaking. The First Coast is home to 3 of the 17 Fortune 500 companies headquartered in Florida: Winn-Dixie, CSX, and Fidelity National Finance and will Amazon will soon call Jacksonville, FL home with the development of a new fulfillment center.



**EDUCATIONAL
ATTAINMENT**

10.9%

Bachelor (Improving)

The Midpoint Parkway Project will promote economic recovery in the Northeast region of the state by providing growth and expansion opportunities in Baker County, FL as well as throughout the adjacent counties in Northeast Florida.

80.4%

High School (Improving)

Modern roads and bridges, state-of-the-art infrastructure, and innovative projects to restore, protect and showcase the natural beauty of the Baker County are all necessary pieces to reclaim, maintain and sustain a vibrant economy and a place for our children to call home.



**SALES TAX
REVENUE**

\$1.65

Million per Year (Improving)

The Parkway will support the developing Midpoint Industrial Business Park with the potential to sustain employment similar to that of the Wal-Mart Distribution Center currently located in the area.

Due, in part, to the development of the Wal-Mart Distribution Center in Baker County, Sales Tax Revenues are increasing along with improving poverty rates and education as reported by the Florida Chamber of Commerce in 2016. Fundamental factors like these

create economic recovery.

According to the Wal-Mart Distribution Center, the average truck flow in and out of the site is around 700 trucks per day. The staffing fluctuates with the work volume, but the average is 750-



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Additional Page 8

800 associates. It is important to note employment remained steady throughout the economic downturn in this industry.

Darryl Register the Director of Chamber of Commerce and coordinator for Baker County Economic Development states, the following about the Midpoint Parkway Project: “I think the answer to the question is going to be mostly us (Baker County) describing how the future development of the 750+ acres (Midpoint property) industrial property will benefit the County. How does 6 million SF of industrial development change the County for the better?”

For example, Walmart Distribution Center is over 900,000 SF and they have 800 employees and pay tangible taxes of \$214,035 and property taxes of \$455,616 to the County, schools, etc. for a total of \$669,651; then extrapolate the (potential tax revenue) for projected development of the Midpoint Industrial Business Park property (approximately 6 million SF of additional development space).

The new Parkway would serve as a “bridge of development”, between city and county, and would help to sustain the expected growth due to the increase in population in the County. As population patterns continue to migrate, improved access to existing commercial properties will allow for increased value both in business volume and sales.

This new three-lane divided roadway will provide a crucial link between major commercial development along SR 228 and US 90. The area adjacent to the new corridor is primed for additional commercial development, which would be a boost to the local economy, provide significant opportunities for new jobs in Baker County, and provide sustainable tax revenues to the County and State for the foreseeable future. Immediate benefits would be felt locally with a reduction in traffic congestion and short-term construction projects benefiting industry suppliers, construction workers, hotels, restaurants, etc. The long-term positive economic benefits would include new businesses, additional jobs and a vibrant new economy to enhance the existing community.

The new Amazon 1-million-square-foot fulfillment center in Jacksonville is projected to provide approximately 2,500 jobs to the First Coast. About 500 of those jobs are expected to average \$50,000 a year with the rest in the \$12-\$15-an-hour range.

The Target Distribution Center in, Columbia County, adjacent to Baker on the west, is a 420,000 SF high-rise food distribution center with Automated Storage and Retrieval Systems (ASRS), 85' tall (-15F) freezers, 65' tall (34F) coolers, meat, wet produce, banana rooms, and 45' tall (55F) dry goods. Ammonia refrigeration system, shrinkage compensating concrete floors, and Quell fire protection technology. The Target Distribution Center employs approximately 250 workers.

Baker County intends to market the Midpoint Industrial Business Park supported by the infrastructure improvements to Midpoint Parkway for developments similar to the ones attracted to this region. The Park will have direct CSX Rail service available into the site. It is centrally located between I-95 to the east and I-75 to the west, sited on the north side of I-10 with convenient access at SR-228.

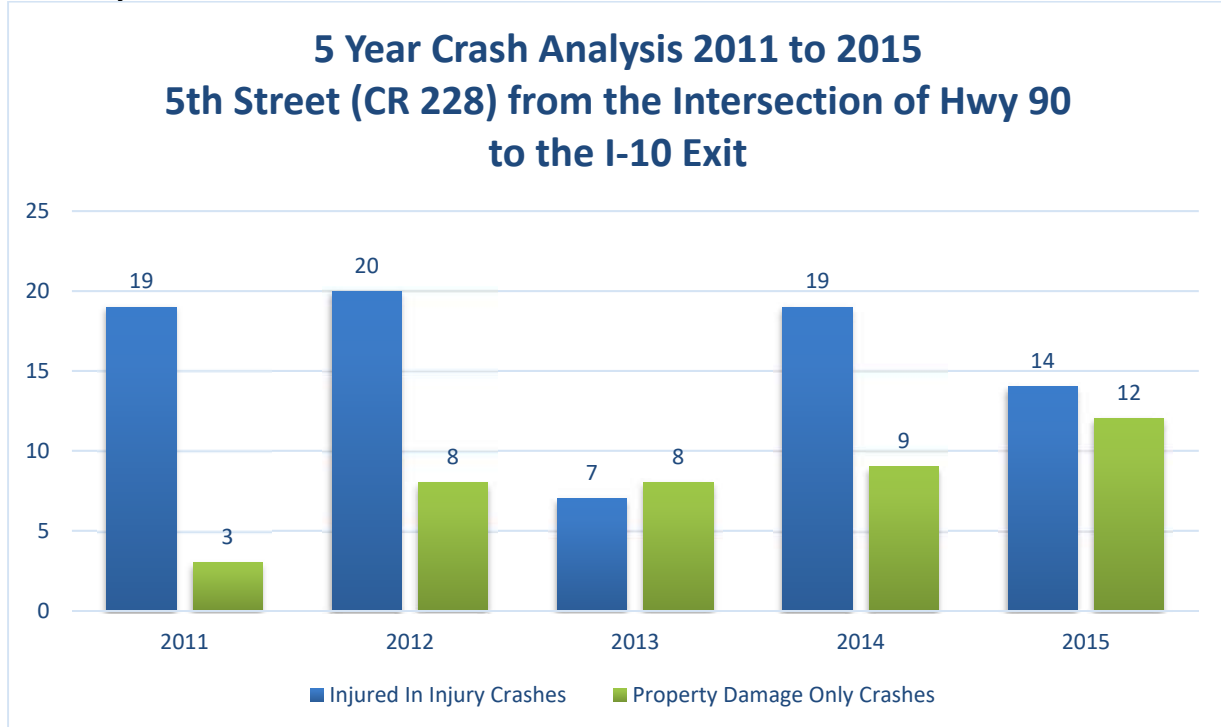


Truck traffic will have 2 dedicated turn lanes at a signalized intersection just off SR-228 into Midpoint Parkway to access the park with little local traffic congestion. Departure from the park can be by SR-228 or to US-90 to the north off Midpoint Parkway. I-75 is less than 45 minutes west via I-10 while US-301 is 5 miles east via either I-10 or US-90. I-295 is 20 minutes east of Midpoint on I-10.

Jacksonville International Airport is 25 minutes away via I-10 East to I-295 North. The Port of Jacksonville is 40 minutes away via I-10 East to I-95 North. The Distribution Matrix validates the Midpoint Industrial Park location as superb for business and commerce requirements throughout the Southeast and Florida.

In respect to safety, numerous repairs have been required to fix damaged curbs run over by the big rigs that routinely travel from Interstate 10 through Macclenny's commercial core to reach the distribution center. In addition to easing local traffic congestion, the Midpoint Parkway will open up opportunities for economic development and the creation of hundreds of new jobs on more than 700 acres of woodland that have been bypassed by developers.

Traffic Engineering Specialists with the Florida Department of Transportation reports traffic data on Highway 90 and also on 5th Street traveling towards Interstate 10. From 2011 through 2015, There have been 80 reported accidents along the section of roadway from 5th Street to I-10, fortunately, with no fatalities.



**The infographic metrics used in the section were provided by The Florida Scorecard™; a dynamic online tool that identifies and tracks key metrics that are important to Florida's economy today and into the future. The Florida Scorecard gives stakeholders the power to measure progress on a statewide level and within their own communities. The Florida Scorecard™ is provided by the Florida Chamber of Commerce.*



SECTION 2C

Midpoint Parkway Project will extend from near the Walmart Distribution Center on US 90 to the intersection at Barber Road in front of Walmart SuperCenter on CR 228 and I-10. Macclenny and County officials have been pushing for the new infrastructure for years (*see attached newspaper articles*) to reduce the volume of heavy truck traffic, including 18-wheelers serving Walmart, at the crowded intersections of US 90 at SR 121 and SR 228.

SECTION 3C

The County has already completed the engineering design of the project with FDOT TRIP funds awarded in the amount of **\$650,000.00**. The County has also been awarded funding from FDOT for Segment 3 in the amount of 2,034,376.00. This is **\$529,000.00** short of the funding needed to complete this portion of the project which is **\$2,563,000.00**.

Baker County is also prepared to commence with the construction of Segment 2. Construction costs for this portion of the Midpoint Parkway Project is **\$3,856,000.00**. The County has not been able to obtain any funding for this segment of the project. With Segment 3 funding primarily in place and plans completed for all segments, Baker County is requesting **\$4,384,624.00** to fund the construction of Sections 2 and 3 as shown on the attached drawings.

Because engineering design has been completed for this project, the only major task to complete before construction is Right-of-Way (ROW) acquisition. Early ROW discussions have already taken place with landowners and the landowners are willing to donate or sell the needed ROW to the County. Several landowners have already donated ROW in support of this project totaling **\$49,940.00** in value.

It is anticipated that the ROW acquisition process will take approximately 4 months. Then approximately 2 months are needed to advertise and award the construction contract. After the construction contract is awarded, approximately 10-12 months are needed to construct the project. This amount represents approximately 68% of the total project cost.



SECTION 4.B.I

Provide the schedule of upcoming meetings for the group for a period of at least six months.

The Baker County Board of County Commissioners meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 5:00pm.

Tuesday, 19 September 2017 at 5:00 PM

Tuesday, 3 October 2017 at 5:00 PM

Tuesday, 17 October 2017 at 5:00 PM

Tuesday, 7 November 2017 at 5:00 PM

Tuesday, 21 November 2017 at 5:00 PM

Tuesday, 5 December 2017 at 5:00 PM

Tuesday, 19 December 2017 at 5:00 PM

Tuesday, 2 January 2018 at 5:00 PM

Tuesday, 15 January 2018 at 5:00 PM

Tuesday, 6 February 2018 at 5:00 PM

Tuesday, 20 February 2018 at 5:00 PM

Tuesday, 6 March 2018 at 5:00 PM

Tuesday, 20 March 2018 at 5:00 PM

Tuesday, 3 April 2018 at 5:00 PM

Tuesday, 17 April 2018 at 5:00 PM

Tuesday, 1 May 2018 at 5:00 PM

Tuesday, 15 May 2018 at 5:00 PM



SECTION 4C

Attached are minutes from the December 6, 2016 Baker County Board of County Commissioners Meeting electing Jimmy Anderson Chairman of the Board thereby giving Chairman Anderson all necessary authority to execute this proposal.

BAKER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES

December 6, 2016

The Baker County Board of Commissioners met in a scheduled meeting with the following members present:

Chairman, James G. Bennett
Commissioner, Bobby Steele
Commissioner, James Croft
Commissioner, Cathy Rhoden
Commissioner, Jimmy Anderson

Also Present:

County Attorney, Rich Komando
Clerk, Stacie D. Harvey
County Manager, Kennie Downing

Note: These meeting minutes are a summarized version of the actual discussions at the meeting. These are not verbatim transcripts. For a complete audio recording of the discussion please visit www.bakercountyfl.org/board or contact Sara Little at sara.little@bakercountyfl.org

REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Bennett welcomed everyone in attendance and called the meeting to order. Chairman Bennett led in the invocation and pledge.

Chairman Bennett requested that item 10 under new business be moved to the first item on the agenda. Commissioner Jimmy Anderson moved to approve the regular agenda with the requested modification. Commissioner Bobby Steele seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous.

Chairman Bennett called for approval of the consent agenda which consisted of:

1. Expense Report
2. Minutes, November 15, 2016 – Regular Session
3. Minutes, November 15, 2016 – Public Hearing
4. Request to waive Ag Center Rental Fee

Commissioner Jimmy Anderson moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Cathy Rhoden seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous.

Chairman Bennett called for public comments.

There were no public comments.

Clerk to the Board, Stacie D. Harvey called for nominations for Chairman of the Board. Commissioner James Croft moved to nominate Commissioner Jimmy Anderson as Chairman to the Board. Commissioners James Bennett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous.

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MINUTES- Regular Session

December 6, 2016

Clerk to the Board, Stacie D. Harvey called for nominations for Vice-Chairman of the Board. Commissioner James Bennett moved to nominate Commissioner Bobby Steele as Vice-Chairman to the Board. Commissioner Cathy Rhoden seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman James Bennett recognized the Baker County Historical Society. The Historical Society was recently recognized by the Northeast Florida Regional Council for their efforts on restoration to the Historic Jail. The Board thanked the members of the Historical Society for the work put in to restoring the old jail and seeking grants to fund those repairs.

Chris Milton, Director of Community Development appeared before the Board to request that Mrs. Christy Linster be appointed to the Land Planning Agency as an alternate member. Commissioner James Croft moved to appoint Mrs. Linster to the LPA. Commissioner Bobby Steele seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Kennie Downing requested the Board authorize staff to issue a bid for updates to Fire Station 20. Mrs. Downing stated that the work requested was to extend one bay to house the fire truck that is assigned to that fire station. The truck is too large to be housed inside the facility and is currently parked on site and subject to inclement weather. Mrs. Downing stated that estimated costs were \$15,000 to \$20,000 and were budgeted. Commissioner Jimmy Anderson moved to approve the request. Commissioner Bobby Steele seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Kennie Downing presented a request to piggy-back off the City of Jacksonville for the purchase of one EMS unit. Mrs. Downing stated that this purchase would be grant funded. Commissioner Jimmy Anderson moved to approve the request. Commissioner Cathy Rhoden seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Kennie Downing presented a request to award the Grant Writing Services RFP to North Florida Professional Services. Mrs. Downing stated that proposals were received and reviewed by staff. North Florida Professional Services ranked the highest of all received. Commissioner Jimmy Anderson moved to approve the request. Commissioner Cathy Rhoden seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Kennie Downing presented the 2017 County Holiday calendar for approval. Mrs. Downing stated this calendar coincides with the Federal and Circuit Court Calendar and does not include any new holidays from prior years. Commissioner Jimmy Anderson moved to approve the 2017 Holiday Calendar. Commissioner Bobby Steele seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Kennie Downing presented the 2017 Commission liaison list. After a brief discussion it was determined that the following list would apply for 2017:

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MINUTES- Regular Session
December 6, 2016

BOBBY STEELE

*Chamber of Commerce
St. Mary's Shoals Park
Community Action Agency
Worksource*

JAMES BENNETT

*NEFRC
TPO/TRIP
N. Fl. Regional Trans. Comm.
Small Co. Coalition & Legislative Affairs
NFEDP*

CATHY RHODEN

*Health Planning Council
NEFSH
New River Solid Waste
Library/Library Co-Op*

JAMES CROFT

*Public Safety Coordinating Council
St. Mary's River Committee
New River Solid Waste
New River Library Co-Op*

JIMMY ANDERSON

*NEFRC
Small County Coalition & Legislative Affairs
BCDC
Transportation Disadvantaged
Council on Aging
Recreation Advisory Board*

Commissioner Jimmy Anderson moved to approve the 2017 liaison list. Commissioner Cathy Rhoden seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Kennie Downing presented the public official bond for Commissioner Cathy Rhoden and Commissioner Bobby Steele for approval. Commissioner James Croft moved to approve the bond. Commissioner Jimmy Anderson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner James Croft requested that the monthly stipend of \$150.00 issued to Commissioners be removed as County policy and no longer offered. Commissioner Croft stated that currently no Commissioner is receiving the stipend but that it is still on the record as policy. Commissioner James Croft moved that the policy be removed and no longer offered to Commissioners. Commissioner Jimmy Anderson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Kennie Downing presented the pending business report as follows:

Continued on next page

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MINUTES- Regular Session
December 6, 2016

PENDING BUSINESS ITEM	PRIORITY	STATUS	START DATE	% COMPLETE	COMMENTS
Courthouse HVAC conversion recommendation	High	In Progress	2/1/2014	75%	Will be presented at same time as new Courthouse MOU. Courthouse Meeting Jan 23rd
LDR Revisions	High	In Progress	05/06/2014	75%	Mining- Workshops continue prior to BOCC regular meetings. Additional LDR Revisions will be reviewed by the LPA.
Shoals Park Timber Plan	High	In Progress		50%	Estimated completion Dec 2016
Midpoint Parkway Design	High	In Progress		75%	Updated plans are currently under review.
Grant Writing RFP	High	In Progress	06/07/2016	100%	Four proposals were received. Under review.
Bee Keeping at Shoals Park	Low	In Progress	07/05/2016	0%	FCT approved beekeeping in Shoals Park, pending location of acceptable sites.
Olustee Park- electricity, parks equipment	Normal	In Progress	09/23/2016	0%	Referred to Recreation Advisory Board
Honor Box, Fees, Online pay at Shoals Park	Normal	In Progress	09/23/2016	0%	Referred to Recreation Advisory Board
Poles and Gate at Shoals Park	Normal	In Progress	11/01/2016	0%	
Shoals Park, Phase 3 OHV trails grant	High	In Progress	09/23/2016	0%	Awaiting "Notice to Proceed" from DEP
Status of Jonesville Community Center	Normal	In Progress	11/15/2016	0%	Fire Marshal released building, but report is still pending. Bldg will remain taped for safety until the repairs begin. Community has funding and volunteers ready to start work.

Kennie Downing presented an updated organizational chart that included the merger of the recreation and maintenance departments. Mrs. Downing stated that once approved this chart will be made available on the County website. Commissioner James Croft moved to approve the organization chart. Commissioner Jimmy Anderson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous.

Rich Komando requested the Board extend the moratorium on mining given that the new mining Ordinances are still under review by the Commission. Mr. Komando stated that the current moratorium is set to expire on December 31, 2016. After a brief discussion the Board agreed to extend the moratorium for an additional six months. Commissioner Jimmy Anderson moved to approve the extension for a six month period. Commissioner James Croft seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous.

Meeting adjourned.

Stacie D. Harvey, Clerk

Oliver J. Anderson, Chairman



Florida Job Growth Grant Fund
Public Infrastructure Grant Proposal
"MIDPOINT PARKWAY PROJECT"

Midpoint Parkway Public Meeting PowerPoint Slides

SECTION 4C

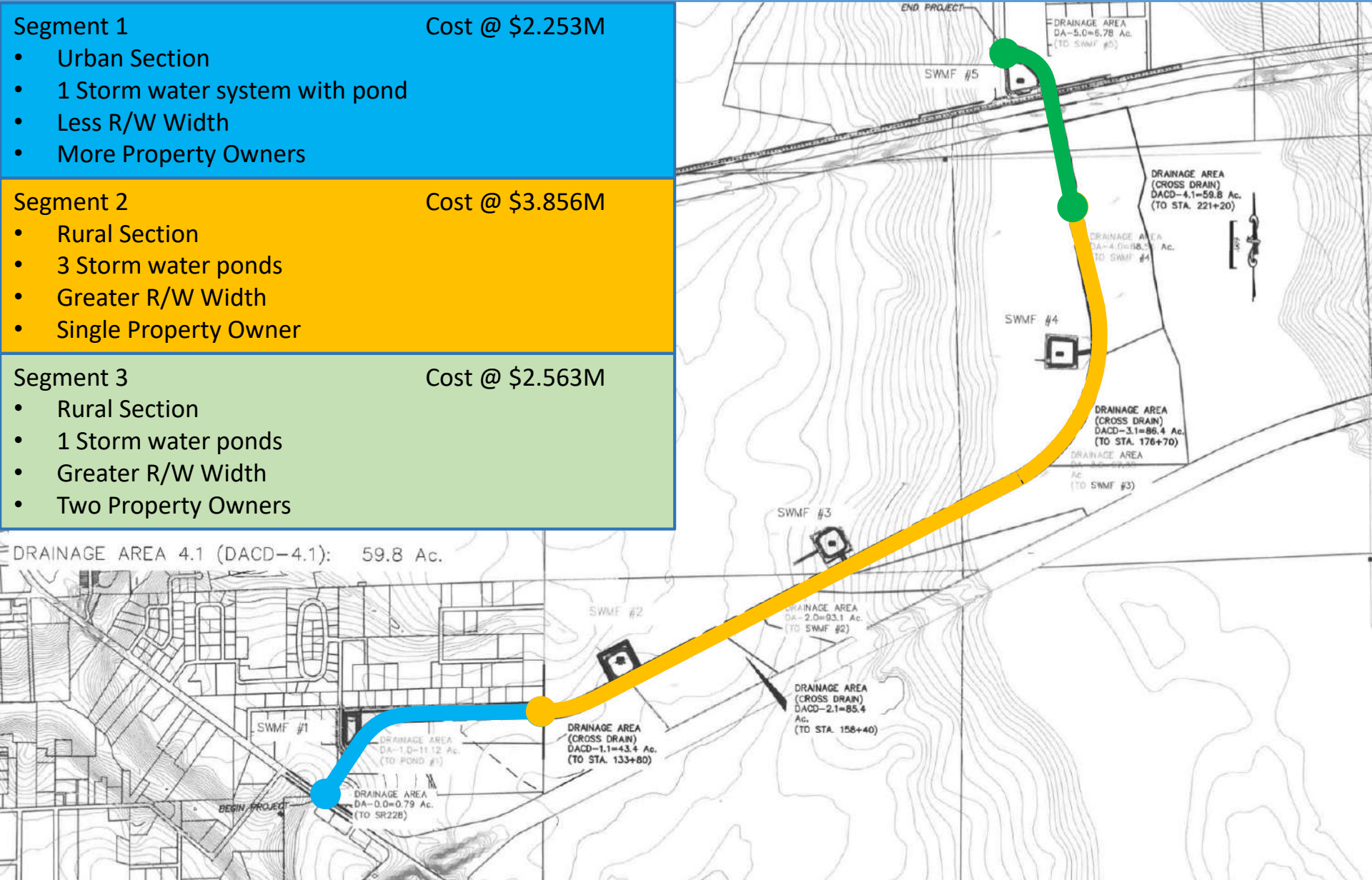
Midpoint Parkway

Public Meeting

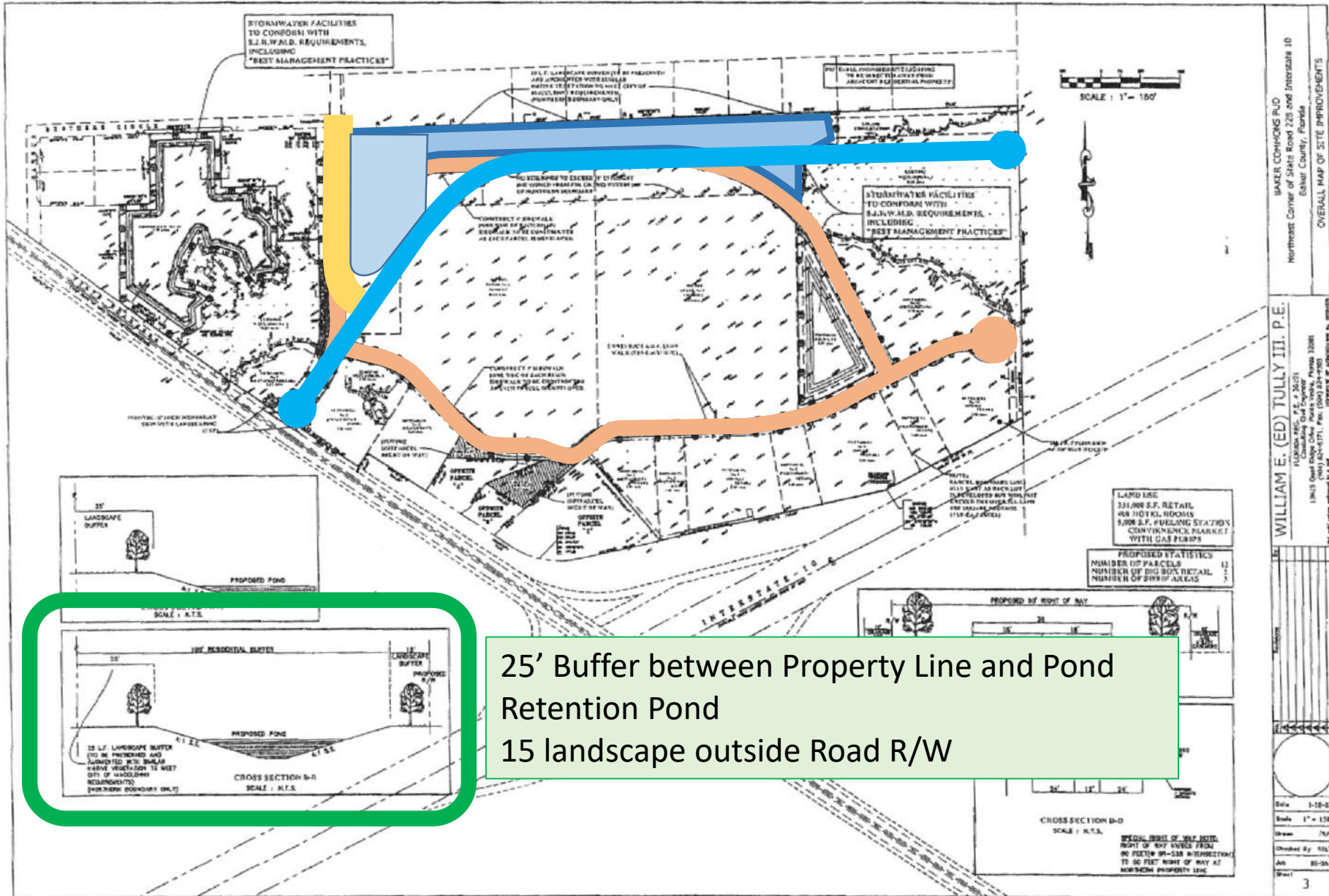
June 6, 2017

Overall Project

Segment 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Urban Section1 Storm water system with pondLess R/W WidthMore Property Owners	Cost @ \$2.253M
Segment 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Rural Section3 Storm water pondsGreater R/W WidthSingle Property Owner	Cost @ \$3.856M
Segment 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Rural Section1 Storm water pondsGreater R/W WidthTwo Property Owners	Cost @ \$2.563M



Baker Commons PUD



25' Buffer between Property Line and Pond Retention Pond
 15 landscape outside Road R/W



Florida Job Growth Grant Fund
Public Infrastructure Grant Proposal
"MIDPOINT PARKWAY PROJECT"

Midpoint Parkway Design Plans Cover Sheet

COMPONENTS OF CONTRACT PLANS SET

- SIGNING AND PAVEMENT MARKING PLANS
- SIGNALIZATION PLANS
- BRIDGE STRUCTURE PLANS
- UTILITY PLANS

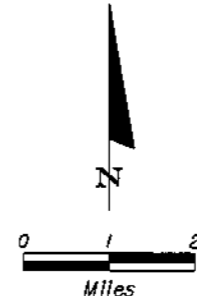
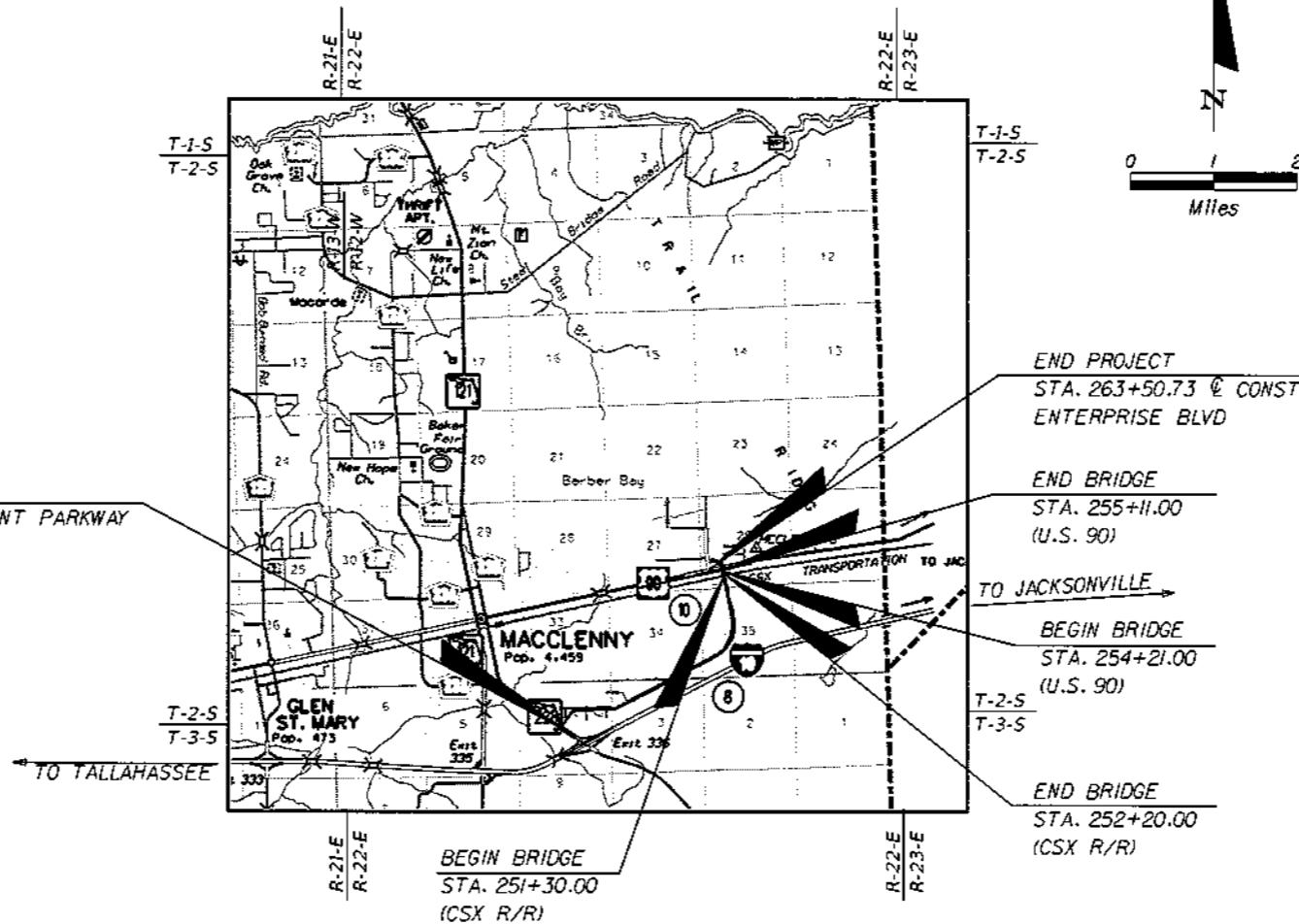
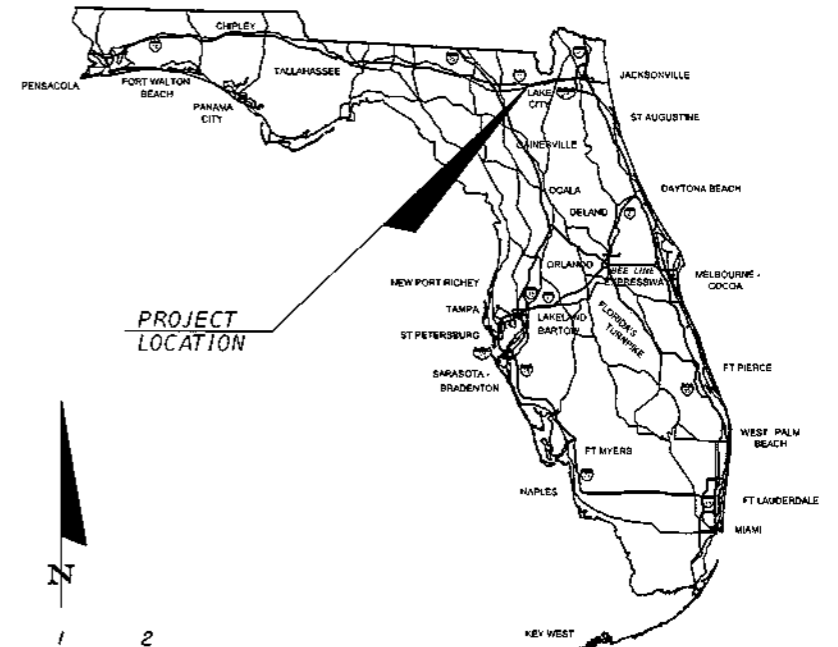
A DETAILED INDEX APPEARS ON THE KEY SHEET OF EACH COMPONENT

INDEX OF ROADWAY PLANS

SHEET NO.	SHEET DESCRIPTION
1	KEY SHEET
2	SUMMARY OF PAY ITEMS
3	DRAINAGE MAP
4 - 6	TYPICAL SECTIONS
7	SUMMARY OF QUANTITIES
8	SUMMARY OF DRAINAGE STRUCTURES
9	PROJECT NOTES
10	PROJECT LAYOUT
11 - 36	ROADWAY PLAN AND PROFILES
37	S.R. 228 SPECIAL DETAILS
38	S.R. 90 SPECIAL DETAILS
39 - 40	DRAINAGE STRUCTURES
41	OUTFALL DETAILS
42	ROADWAY SOIL PROFILE
43 - 44	CROSS SECTIONS
45 - 46	STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN (SWPPP)
47 - 48	TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CONTROL PLAN
49 - 50	UTILITY ADJUSTMENTS PLANS

CONTRACT PLANS
COUNTY PROJECT NO. 2014-08-0-2014/SL
BAKER COUNTY

ROADWAY DESIGN PLANS OF
MIDPOINT PARKWAY
BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA



ROADWAY SHOP DRAWINGS TO BE SUBMITTED TO:

CONSOLIDATED DESIGN PROFESSIONALS, LLC
 2108 DELTA WAY
 TALLAHASSEE, FL 32303
 (850) 391-7800
 ATTN: MR. CLEVE E. DRYDEN, P.E.

PLANS PREPARED BY:

CONSOLIDATED DESIGN PROFESSIONALS, LLC
 2108 DELTA WAY
 TALLAHASSEE, FL 32303
 CERT. OF AUTH.: 9938
 CLEVE E. DRYDEN
 P.E. LICENSE NO. 33115

NOTE: THE SCALE OF THESE PLANS MAY HAVE CHANGED DUE TO REPRODUCTION.

BAKER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| JAMES A. CROFT - CHAIRMAN | DISTRICT 1 |
| JIMMY ANDERSON | DISTRICT 2 |
| GORDON CREWS | DISTRICT 3 |
| JAMES G. BENNETT | DISTRICT 4 |
| MARK HARTLEY | DISTRICT 5 |

ROADWAY PLANS
 ENGINEER OF RECORD: CLEVE E. DRYDEN, P.E.

P.E. NO.: 33115

FISCAL YEAR	SHEET NO.
17	1

GOVERNING STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS:

Florida Department of Transportation, 2016 Design Standards and revised Index Drawings as appended herein, and 2016 Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction, as amended by Contract Documents.

For Design Standards click on the "Design Standards" link at the following web site:
<http://www.dot.state.fl.us/rddesign/>

For the Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction click on the "Specifications" link at the following web site:
<http://www.dot.state.fl.us/specificationsoffice/>

PROJECT LENGTH IS BASED ON Q OF CONSTRUCTION

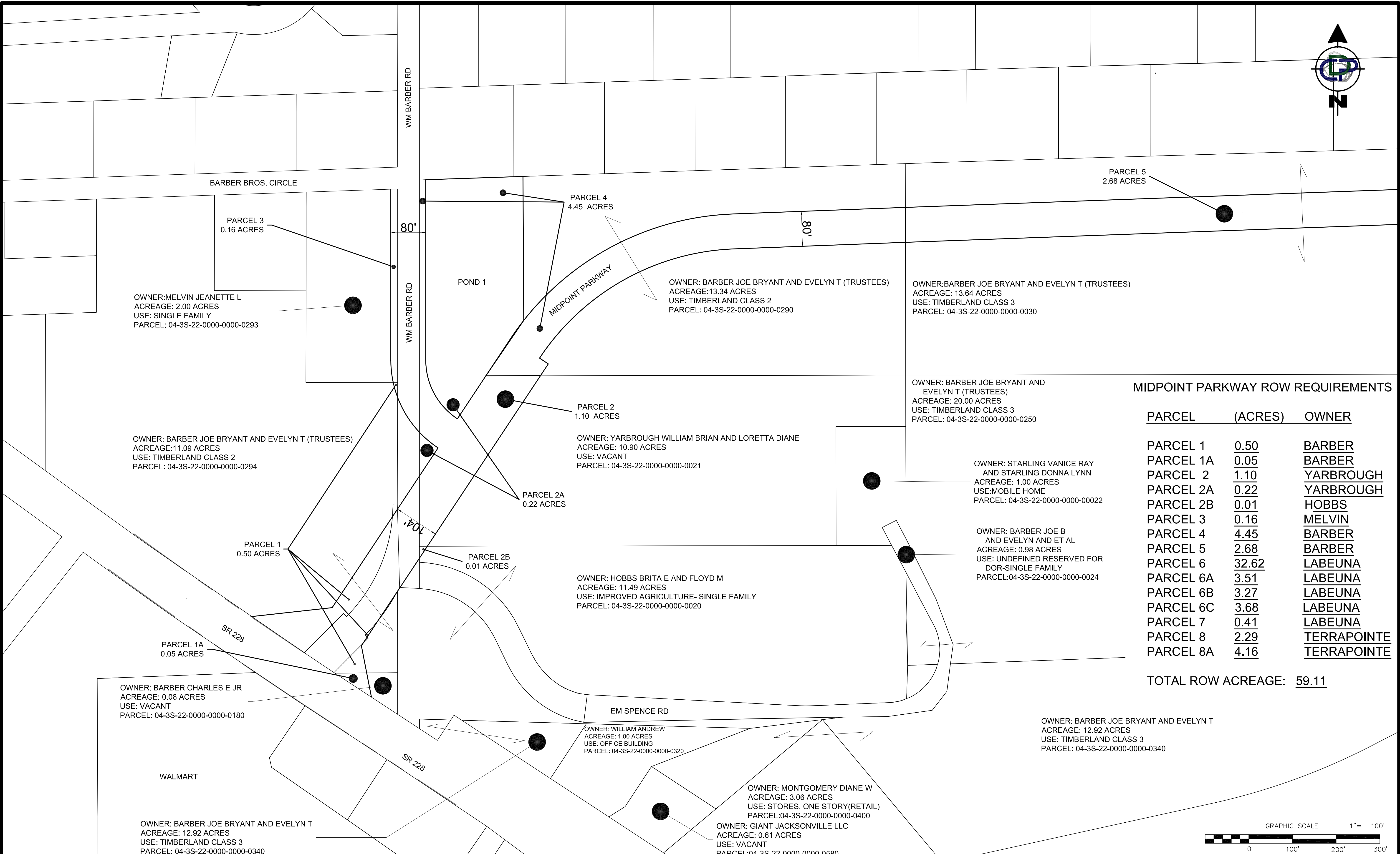
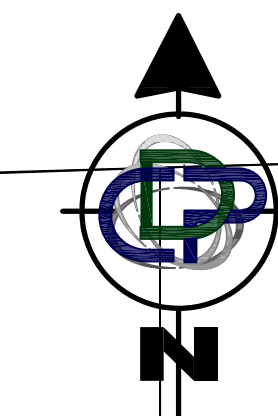
LENGTH OF PROJECT		
	LINEAR FEET	MILES
ROADWAY	16237.87	3.075
BRIDGES	180.00	0.034
NET LENGTH OF PROJECT	16417.87	3.109
EXCEPTIONS	0.00	0.000
GROSS LENGTH OF PROJECT	16417.87	3.109

FDOT PROJECT MANAGER: C.J. THOMPSON



Florida Job Growth Grant Fund
Public Infrastructure Grant Proposal
"MIDPOINT PARKWAY PROJECT"

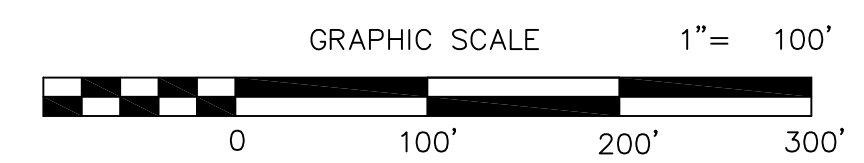
Midpoint Parkway Citizen Acquired & Donated ROW



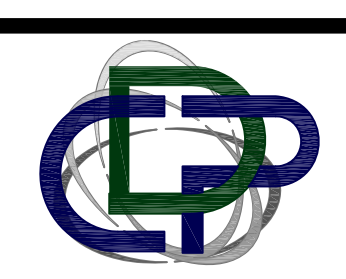
MIDPOINT PARKWAY ROW REQUIREMENTS

PARCEL	(ACRES)	OWNER
PARCEL 1	0.50	BARBER
PARCEL 1A	0.05	BARBER
PARCEL 2	1.10	YARBROUGH
PARCEL 2A	0.22	YARBROUGH
PARCEL 2B	0.01	HOBBS
PARCEL 3	0.16	MELVIN
PARCEL 4	4.45	BARBER
PARCEL 5	2.68	BARBER
PARCEL 6	32.62	LABEUNA
PARCEL 6A	3.51	LABEUNA
PARCEL 6B	3.27	LABEUNA
PARCEL 6C	3.68	LABEUNA
PARCEL 7	0.41	LABEUNA
PARCEL 8	2.29	TERRAPOINTE
PARCEL 8A	4.16	TERRAPOINTE

TOTAL ROW ACREAGE: 59.11



INITIAL	DATE	NO.	BY	REVISIONS
CHD				
RL				



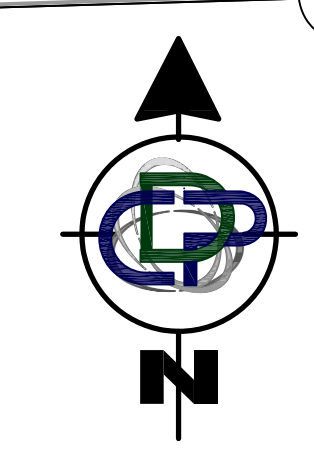
Consolidated Design Professionals
 Atlanta Tallahassee Jacksonville
 2108 Delta Way Tallahassee, Florida 32303
 office : 850-391-7800
 cell: 904-955-6302

CLIENT
Baker County, Fl
 55 North 3rd Street
 Macclenny, Florida 32063

PROJECT
Midpoint Parkway

SHEET TITLE
RIGHT-OF-WAY MAP
 SCALE: 1"=100'
 COMPUTER FILE - 12501.DWG
 PROJECT NO. 12501.01

SHEET
1



OWNER: THE LABEUNA FARMS INC.
 ACREAGE: 640.00 ACRES
 USE: TIMBERLAND CLASS 2
 PARCEL: 03-3S-22-0000-0000-0010

PARCEL 6A
 3.51 ACRES

POND 2

PARCEL 6
 32.62 ACRES

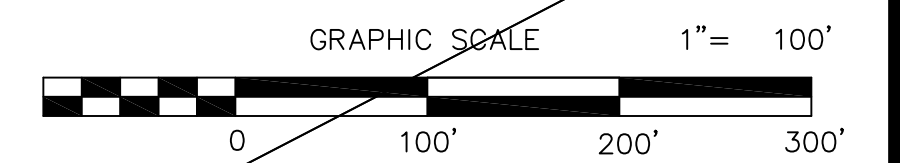
OWNER: BARBER JOE AND EVELYN T (TRUSTEES)
 ACREAGE: 12.92 ACRES
 USE: TIMBERLAND CLASS 3
 PARCEL: 04-3S-22-0000-0000-0030

80'
 MIDPOINT PARKWAY

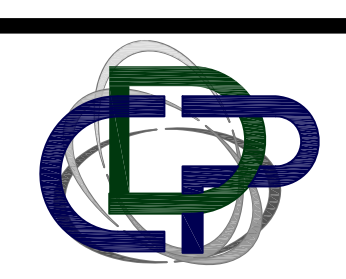
125'

125'

MIDPOINT PARKWAY



	INITIAL	DATE	NO.	BY	REVISIONS
DRAWN BY	CHD				
SURVEYED BY					
CHECKED BY	RL				



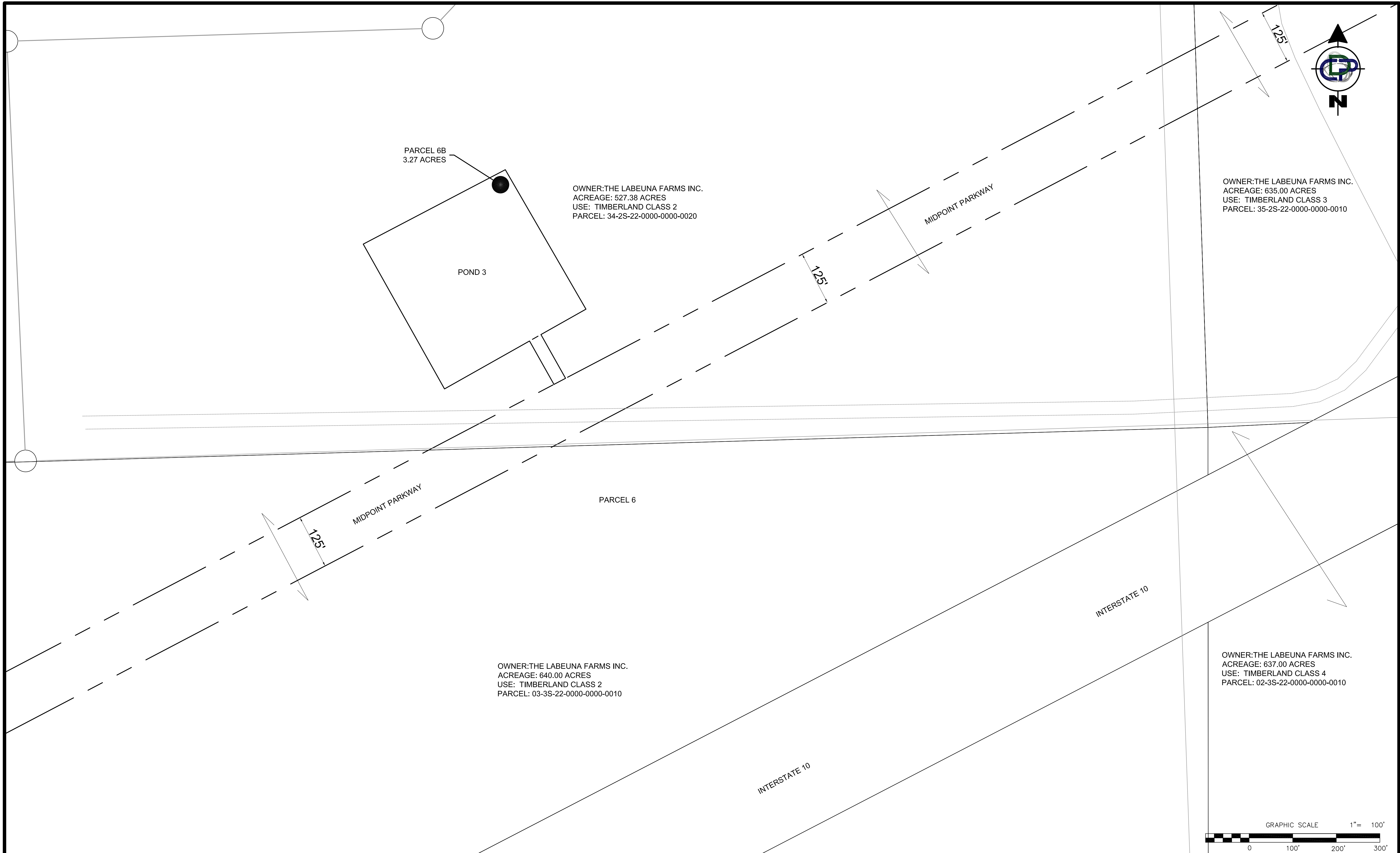
Consolidated Design Professionals
 Atlanta Tallahassee Jacksonville
 2108 Delta Way
 Tallahassee, Florida 32303
 office : 850-391-7800
 cell: 904-955-6302

CLIENT
Baker County, Fl
 55 North 3rd Street
 Macclenny, Florida 32063

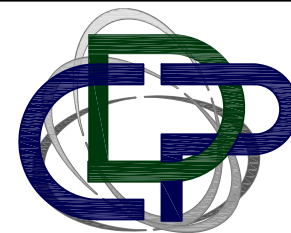
PROJECT
Midpoint Parkway

SHEET TITLE
RIGHT-OF-WAY MAP
 SCALE: 1"=100'
 COMPUTER FILE - 12501.DWG
 PROJECT NO. 12501.01

SHEET
2



INITIAL	DATE	NO.	BY	REVISIONS
CHD				
RL				



**Consolidated
Design
Professionals**
Atlanta Tallahassee
Jacksonville

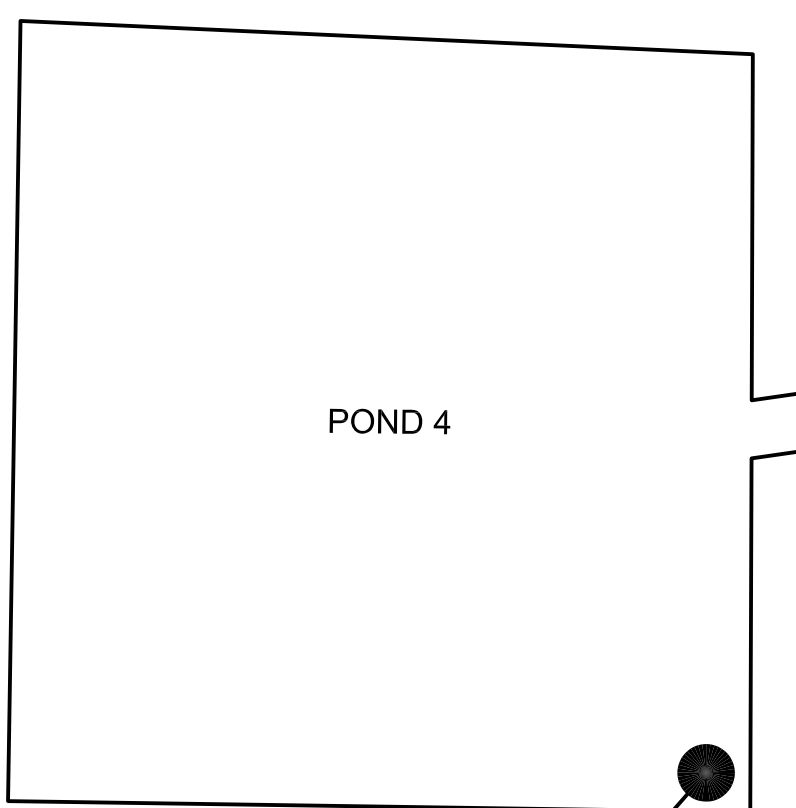
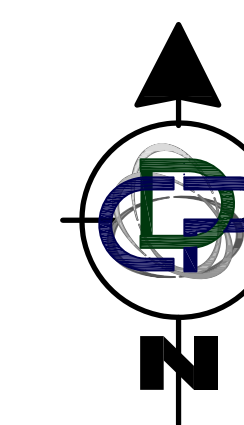
2108 Delta Way
Tallahassee, Florida 32303
office : 850-391-7800
cell: 904-955-6302

CLIENT
Baker County, Fl
55 North 3rd Street
Macclenny, Florida 32063

PROJECT
Midpoint Parkway

SHEET TITLE
RIGHT-OF-WAY MAP
SCALE: 1"=100'
COMPUTER FILE - 12501.DWG
PROJECT NO. 12501.01

SHEET
3



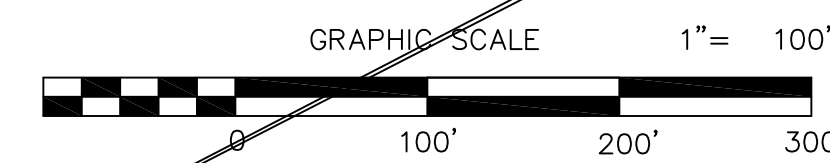
PARCEL 6C
3.68 ACRES

OWNER: THE LABEUNA FARMS INC.
ACREAGE: 635.00 ACRES
USE: TIMBERLAND CLASS 3
PARCEL: 35-2S-22-0000-0000-0010

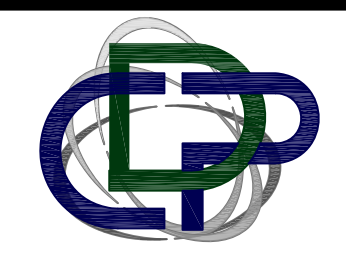
PARCEL 6

125'
MIDPOINT PARKWAY

125'
MIDPOINT PARKWAY



	INITIAL	DATE	NO.	BY	REVISIONS
DRAWN BY	CHD				
SURVEYED BY					
CHECKED BY	RL				



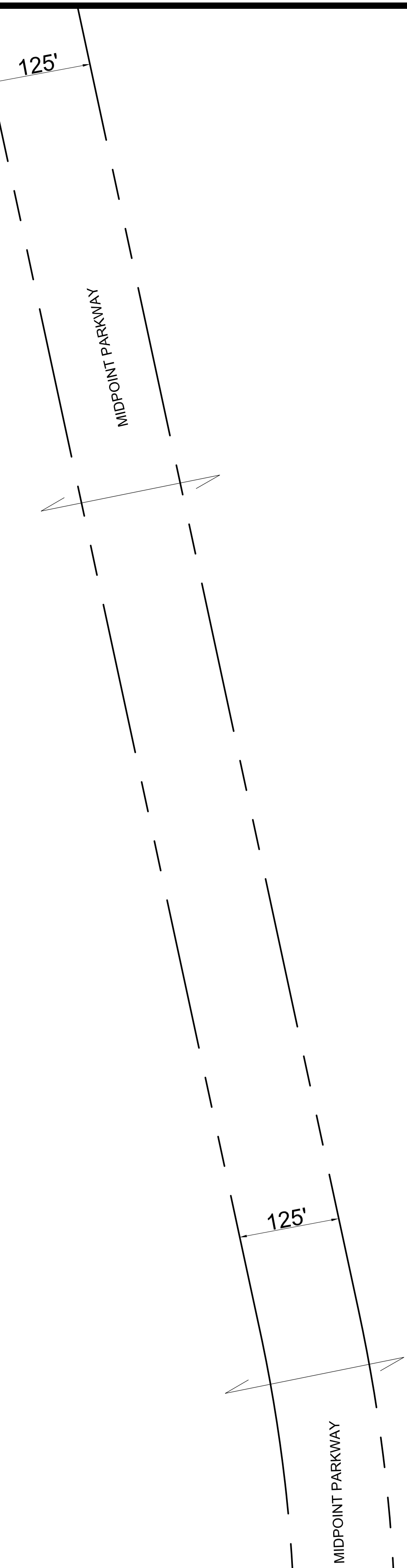
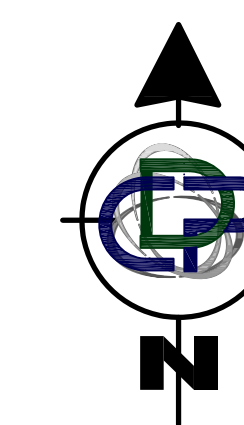
Consolidated Design Professionals
Atlanta Tallahassee Jacksonville
2108 Delta Way
Tallahassee, Florida 32303
office : 850-391-7800
cell: 904-955-6302

CLIENT
Baker County, Fl
55 North 3rd Street
Macclenny, Florida 32063

PROJECT
Midpoint Parkway

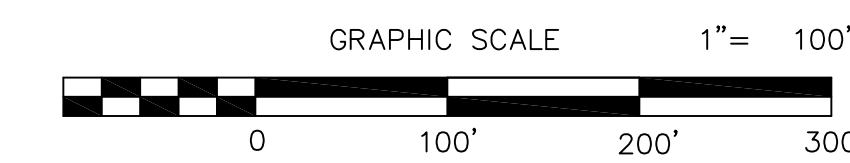
SHEET TITLE
RIGHT-OF-WAY MAP
SCALE: 1"=100'
COMPUTER FILE - 12501.DWG
PROJECT NO. 12501.01

SHEET
4



OWNER: THE LABEUNA FARMS INC.
ACREAGE: 635.00 ACRES
USE: TIMBERLAND CLASS 3
PARCEL: 35-2S-22-0000-0000-0010

PARCEL 6



INITIAL	DATE	NO.	BY	REVISIONS
CHD				
RL				



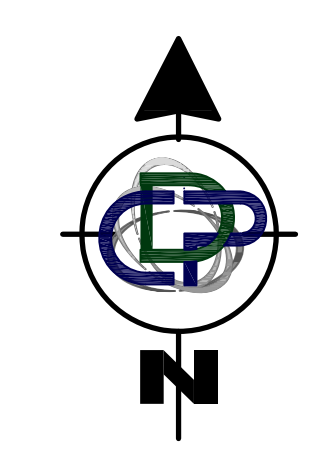
Consolidated Design Professionals
Atlanta Tallahassee Jacksonville
2108 Delta Way
Tallahassee, Florida 32303
office : 850-391-7800
cell: 904-955-6302

CLIENT
Baker County, Fl
55 North 3rd Street
Macclenny, Florida 32063

PROJECT
Midpoint Parkway

SHEET TITLE
RIGHT-OF-WAY MAP
SCALE: 1"=100'
COMPUTER FILE - 12501.DWG
PROJECT NO. 12501.01

SHEET
5



OWNER:WAL-MART STORES EAST INC.
 ACREAGE: 123.04 ACRES
 USE: WAREHOUSING, DISTRIBUTION
 PARCEL: 27-2S-22-0000-0000-0040

PARCEL 8A
 4.16 ACRES

OWNER:TERRAPOINTE LLC.
 ACREAGE: 287.22 ACRES
 USE: TIMBERLAND CLASS 2
 PARCEL: 26-2S-22-0000-0000-0060

PARCEL 8
 2.29 ACRES

OWNER:BAKER COUNTY DEVELOPMENT
 ACREAGE: 51.57 ACRES
 USE: COUNTIES INCLUDING NON-MUNICIPAL
 PARCEL: 27-2S-22-0000-0000-0030

POND 5

PARCEL 7
 0.41 ACRES

U.S. HIGHWAY 90

U.S. HIGHWAY 90

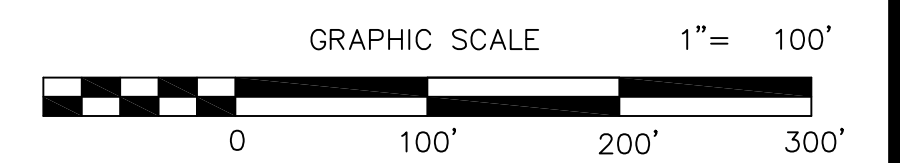
CSX ROW

CSX ROW

OWNER:THE LABEUNA FARMS INC.
 ACREAGE: 100.00 ACRES
 USE: TIMBERLAND CLASS 4
 PARCEL: 26-2S-22-0000-0000-0040

OWNER:THE LABEUNA FARMS INC.
 ACREAGE: 635.00 ACRES
 USE: TIMBERLAND CLASS 3
 PARCEL: 35-2S-22-0000-0000-0010

PARCEL 6



INITIAL	DATE	NO.	BY	REVISIONS
CHD				
RL				

Consolidated Design Professionals
 Atlanta Tallahassee Jacksonville
 2108 Delta Way
 Tallahassee, Florida 32303
 office : 850-391-7800
 cell: 904-955-6302

CLIENT
Baker County, Fl
 55 North 3rd Street
 Macclenny, Florida 32063

PROJECT
Midpoint Parkway

SHEET TITLE
RIGHT-OF-WAY MAP
 SCALE: 1"=100'
 COMPUTER FILE - 12501.DWG
 PROJECT NO. 12501.01

SHEET
6



Florida Job Growth Grant Fund
Public Infrastructure Grant Proposal
"MIDPOINT PARKWAY PROJECT"

Baker County Press News Articles Concerning the Design of Midpoint Parkway



BCHS' Melody Coggin touted for support of female athletics

See page 6



Cats vs. Stanton for district crown after 4-3 victory over Kenny

See page 10

THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

84th Year, Vol. 52 | Winner of 11 state awards for journalism including General Excellence in 2012

75¢

APRIL 24, 2014 THURSDAY

Two deputies jump in court clerk race Field numbers four so far

Four candidates are in the race so far to replace Clerk of Courts Al Fraser, who announced two weeks ago he's leaving office after 20 years and mid-way through his current term.

The list is expected to expand before the May 19 deadline to qualify by petition to be on the November ballot. The recently-increased annual salary of \$99,222 is likely to guarantee a crowded field.

Among the candidates so far are two long-time deputy clerks already on Mr. Fraser's 11-person staff.

The first to pick up papers at the election supervisor's office was Stacie Harvey of Macclenny, a 19-year veteran deputy and the first replacement hired by Mr. Fraser shortly after he was elected.

The mother of three, including 2-year-old twins, has been assigned to varied departments including child support, criminal traffic and a dozen years on both criminal felony and misdemeanors. She currently is deputy for family law, probate and guardianship.

The other deputy,

Julie Combs of Sanderson, initially indicated she would not be a candidate but changed her mind.

The former county commissioner (2000-2008) has been in a deputy job 11 years in two stages and is currently assigned to official records. She has mainly worked in the county and circuit civil departments.

Ms. Combs is married with three grown children.

Sally Register of Macclenny is the third hopeful and a political newcomer. Her experience spans 36 years in the customer service departments of the former Citizens Bank and Mercantile Bank, and she is currently employed at TD Bank in Macclenny.

Ms. Register, who also has bachelor's degree in education, worked for one decade between bank positions for NEFCOM, the local phone company. She has two grown sons, and she and her husband have 14 grandchildren between them.

Joey Johnson is the fourth candidate to pick up qualifying papers, but did not respond this week to an



Stacie Harvey



Julie Combs



Sally Register

See page 2

'Midpoint Parkway' design plan signed

MIKE ANDERSON
PRESS STAFF

A much-anticipated western loop for truckers to travel from US 90 just east of Macclenny directly to CR 228 at Interstate 10, instead of driving through narrow downtown streets, could be under construction by this time in 2016.

The engineering and design work is expected to begin within about four months and be completed by the end of 2015 on what has been labeled the "Midpoint Parkway" in a joint agreement between Baker

County and the Florida Department of Transportation.

County commissioners on April 15 authorized the execution of an agreement with DOT for a \$650,000 grant to fund the project's engineering and design.

The grant deal was sealed a couple of months ago by the project's insertion as a "regionally significant project" in the Northeast Florida Transportation Planning Organization encompassing Jacksonville and surrounding counties, including Baker.

The truck bypass route, a two-lane corridor, will extend from near the Walmart Distribution Center on US 90 to the intersection at Barber Road in front of Walmart SuperCenter on CR 228 and I-10.

Macclenny and county officials have been pushing for the bypass for years to reduce the

See page 4

Suspect begs cop to place him in jail

See page 5

bakercountypress.com

ONLINE POLL RESULTS
Who are you most likely to support in the District 4 county commission race?

70% Adam Giddens
20% James Bennett
10% Undecided

Visit our website and vote each week in our online poll.



PHOTO BY KERI JARVIS

Lady Wildcats are 'four-peat' district champs

(Back row, l-r) Ashley Houston, Vanessa Roberts, Kylie Holton, Kylee Canaday, Hayleigh Mulkey, Genie Taylor, Mackenzie Wingard, Delicia Washington, Callie Paine, Payton Parker, Franklin Griffis, John Holton, (front) Branda Jarvis, Jennifer Hodges, Ashton Alford, Macy Jackson, Corley Sweat, Madison Kennedy, Brandie Callway and Kellie Lawler. See page 11 for full coverage.

Tenacity is paying off for beekeeper

Parlayed his passion for insects into an enterprise

JON SHUMAKE
PRESS FEATURES
jonshu@live.com

Growing up, Baxter resident John David Peterson was always fascinated with insects. Now, at 22, he's turned that lifelong passion into a career as a beekeeper with the World Honey Market.

Mr. Peterson became interested in bees at a young age after seeing an episode of "The Magic School Bus" that focused on the insect. He was drawn to bees because they are the only insect that produces something edible and he re-watched the episode countless times.

"I annoyed the heck out of my parents for a VHS so I could record it," Mr. Peterson said. "I annoyed them again by watching it over and over again. I was enthralled by it."

The interest continued into middle school when he and his younger brother sold candy at school to earn money to buy bee hives. They eventually saved up enough and Mr. Peterson was allowed to take a half-day off school in eighth grade to purchase the first four hives for \$125 each.

Although only one of the four initial hives survived the first year, he wasn't discouraged. Instead, he used it as a learning experience as he continued to grow as a beekeeper.



PHOTOS BY JON SHUMAKE

World Honey Market produced 29,000 pounds of honey in 2013.

"I was tenacious about it," Mr. Peterson said. "I didn't want it to whip me. It's a difficult endeavor. I got an education in agriculture from the school of hard knocks."

The foundation for his current business was laid during high school when he was a member of the Future Farmers of America. With the encouragement of his agriculture teacher Greg Johnson, Mr. Peterson won the FFA State Proficiency Award for Agro Entrepreneurship in 2010. He competed against other students who specialized in cows, chickens and hogs with only one other entrant working with bees.

"Being No. 1 in the state is

pretty big," Mr. Peterson said. "It got me a lot of recognition." He won more than \$500 with the FFA award, which he was determined to apply to his business.

Mr. Peterson conducted a series of trades and transactions, including trading a motorcycle for a piece of property in Waycross, Ga., to get the money to start World Honey Market.

Now, his business has grown and he produced more than 29,000 pounds of honey in 2013 and he plans to produce even more this year. His honey can be found in Smart Market and Hagan Ace Hardware in Macclenny and all Ace Hard-

See page 2

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The county's most professional and extensive source for news, classified, display and real estate listings



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www.bakercountypress.com

bcpress@nefcom.net



Midpoint Parkway: design plan signed

From page 1

volume of heavy truck traffic, including 18-wheelers serving Walmart, at the crowded intersections of US 90 at SR 121 and SR 228.

Numerous repairs have been required to fix damaged curbs run over by the big rigs that routinely travel from Interstate 10 through Macclenny's commercial core to reach the distribution center.

In addition to easing local traffic congestion, the Midpoint Parkway will open up opportunities for economic development and the creation of hundreds of new jobs on more than 700 acres of woodland that have been bypassed by developers.

The grant money will come from the state's Transportation Regional Incentive Program, referred to simply as "TRIP." It is one of many grants the state will be awarding totaling \$5.7 million throughout DOT's 18-county District 2.

Ordinarily, local participating governments are required to fund half the cost of such grants but Baker County was granted a Rural Economic Development Initiative waiver. Local officials have said the county could not afford to fund \$325,000 for its share of the grant.

The funding agreement was presented to the county commission last week by James Bennett, DOT's urban transportation development manager in Jacksonville.

While roads and highways remain DOT's primary transportation concerns, Mr. Bennett noted that spinoff benefits from TRIP grants expand the scope.

"TRIP is an economic development program," said Mr. Bennett, a Baker County native who recently announced his candidacy this year for the seat now held by Commissioner Adam Giddens.

The county will be responsible for obtaining right-of-way for the route and hiring a contractor to conduct the design

work. Because raw land in the proposed corridor will become accessible to developers, Mr. Bennett said he "would expect" those land owners to donate some or all of the land necessary to build the road.

The area, which is served by a CSX rail line that runs east and west in front of the Walmart warehouse, is viewed as prime land for an industrial park and major employment center.

After the engineering and design is completed the county can apply for construction funds from TRIP, or other grant programs available for economic development in rural counties, Mr. Bennett said.

In other business commissioners:

- Reviewed a list of county-owned properties prepared by County Manager C.J. Thompson at the request of Commissioner James Croft, who said he wanted the information to see if the county had any surplus property that could be sold to help balance the budget.

The list contained 75 separate parcels totaling 2,987.49 acres, including 2,631.49 acres at St. Mary's River Shoals Park. The lengthy list makes it seem as though the county owns a

lot of land, the county manager said, "but it includes every right-of-way and ditch the county owns."

The number of properties also appear to be more numerous than they actually are, he said, because many separate parcels make up one single entity, such as Shoals Park, which comprises 13 individual parcels on Odis Yarborough Road, Crews Road and CR 125 North.

The only piece of land the county owns that is "truly surplus," Mr. Thompson told commissioners, is a 20-acre parcel the county obtained with recreational grant money a number of years ago on the north side of US 90 west of Glen St. Mary.

"It's more valuable as timberland than anything else," he said, adding that after the county acquired the land for adult softball fields a survey showed it had "too much wetland" to be useful for recreational purposes.

He said it's possible the county could "try to do some horse trading" and exchange the property for a more suitable site somewhere else. But it won't be easy, he said.

"We know there's going to be limited interest in the property,

given its location," Mr. Thompson said.

- Joined thousands of local governments nationwide in approving a proclamation endorsing a Congressional declaration of May 1 and the week of May 11-17 National Law Enforcement Memorial Day and National Law Enforcement Week.

The proclamation notes that every 53 hours a law enforcement officer is killed in the line of duty somewhere in the United States and 97 others are injured performing their duties.

Baker County citizens are urged in the document to "make every effort to express their thanks to our men (presumably women cops as well) who make it possible for us to leave our homes and family in safety each day and to return to our homes knowing they are protected by men willing to sacrifice their lives if necessary to guard our loved ones, property and government against all who would violate the law."

- Proclaimed April Water Conservation Month and implored all residents, businesses and schools to do their part to conserve the precious life-sustaining resource by practicing water saving measures.

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The Macclenny Moose Lodge is having a benefit for Amarely Garcia-Diaz, Amarely is a precious five month old who was diagnosed with stage 4 neuroblastoma. The benefit goes to help the family with the increased medical expenses, food, gas, etc.

For information call Annette Barton 626-3173 or Candy Smith 507-1455.

NOTICE: The Loyal Order of Moose is a private organization. All activities and events referred to are available to members in good standing and their qualified guests only.



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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Member SIPC



Turned her childhood pain into passion for animals

See page 11



Swim posts top 3 finishes in loss

See page 18

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SEPTEMBER 25, 2014 THURSDAY

BAKER COUNTY COMMISSION

Capitol engineers to design 90 bypass

MIKE ANDERSON
PRESS STAFF

Consolidated Design Professionals, a Tallahassee-based engineering firm with offices throughout the Southeastern United States, has been selected to design a new road east of Macclenny that will open up woodlands for future industrial/commercial development and provide an alternative truck route between Interstate 10 and U.S. 90.

With final plans due by mid-October 2015, the long-awaited and greatly-anticipated eastern

Of the nine respondents only one firm was ranked in the top three by each scorer and was the number one overall.

—County Manager C.J. Thompson

bypass, labeled the Midpoint Parkway, could be well under construction in 2016 at an estimated cost of around \$10 million.

Consolidated Design Professionals, or CDP, was the unanimous choice of the Baker County Commission at a board meeting on September 16 after receiving the endorsement of County Manager C.J. Thompson over eight other engineering firms vying for the contract.

Mr. Thompson said that he, County Planner Ed Preston and Robert Fletcher, the county's road and bridge supervisor, had reviewed all proposals and evaluated each firm on numerous criteria, including experience, qualifications, ability to meet contract schedule and familiarity with preparing projects for Florida Department of Transportation.

"Of the nine respondents," the county manager said, "only one firm was ranked in the top three by each scorer and was

See page 7

Plan hatched to make meth in Georgia

See page 6



The FAIR is here

Purchase this photo at www.bakercountypress.com

Photo by Jim McGauley

State fair ride inspector John Galean gives the once-over inspection of a kiddie ride at the fairgrounds.

With new attractions

JOEL ADDINGTON | MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

The county fair will start its 2014 run on Friday with more midway rides, new activities and some new music performers.

Cathy Rhoden of the Baker County Fair Association said last year the midway vendor, Premium Concessions of Hubbard, OH, was brought in on short notice when the previous vendor opted not to renew its contract with the association and had

only half its rides in place for the 2013 event.

This year, she says, there will be 20 midway rides plus two new attractions — helicopter rides and laser tag games every night of the 10-day fair run.

The laser tag vendor is Red Dragon Laser Tag of Hammersville, OH.

"They contacted us about coming," said Mrs. Rhoden said of the laser tag and helicopter ven-

See page 2



The preschool's Penny Combs (right) and her husband Clayton Combs put finishing touches on the school's fair booth Monday. Photo by Joel Addington

Inmate costs exceed BCDC's 'daily rate'

Officials: feds drive rate, not us

JOEL ADDINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

For at least the last two years, the Baker County Commission has been getting a steep discount for the housing and care of local inmates at the county jail.

Not only has the owner of the jail, the Baker Correctional Development Corporation, or BCDC, been giving the county a small discount for prepaying the bill for county prisoners, but the base amount the county has been doling out for each of its inmates for each day they're locked up, the so-called "daily rate," has also been significantly less than the actual costs being born by the corporation, an

See page 4



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How should've the county budget been trimmed?

- 27% Board of county commissioners
- 27% Sheriff's office
- 19% All of the above
- 11% Building, planning, zoning, & code enforcement

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Midpoint Parkway: design firm selected

From page 1

the number one overall respondent when the scores were combined. Based on that, it is staff's recommendation that Baker County enter into negotiation with Consolidated Design Professionals."

Midpoint Parkway, so named because of its location between I-75 in Lake City and I-95 in Jacksonville, will begin on SR 228 at the Barber Road intersection in front of the Walmart SuperCenter.

It will extend through hundreds of acres of undeveloped property in two parcels owned by William Barber and the Knabb family, ending at U.S. 90 in front of the Walmart Distribution Center.

Mr. Thompson said all nine of the responding firms were capable of performing the work, but that the review committee favored CDP partly because "they have done work for LaBuena Farms in the past."

LaBuena Farms Inc., the Knabb family's Macclenny-based real estate corporation, owns roughly 750 acres in the vicinity of the proposed truck route where plans to build a massive industrial park failed to materialize in the wake of the economic recession.

The new truck bypass route is expected to renew interest in developing the area, according to CDP's project proposal, which stated:

"Midpoint Parkway is destined to be a catalyst for economic growth and development within Baker County. Midpoint Business Park has an opportunity to provide over 4,100 jobs ... The strategic location ... gives industrial users access to major travel routes and railroad service to users that will find this a valuable location for their operations."

The project also will open up an area designated for residential development, called the Baker Commons subdivision, between SR 228 and the Knabb property. Baker Commons, owned by William Bar-

ber, has been approved but no construction has started.

Alleviating heavy truck traffic and congestion in downtown Macclenny also is a major goal of the project.

"The new route will allow the majority of truck traffic along U.S. 90 to have an alternate route to I-10," the CDP proposal said. "The city has experienced an increase in truck traffic that is generated by the Walmart Distribution Center. The center can have as many as 100 trucks per day.

"The city has experienced a number of accidents and in some cases actual building damage from truck collisions that have occurred on the current truck route through town."

Plans for the Midpoint Parkway call for a three-lane roadway: two lanes each 12 feet wide and a center lane 14 feet in width to allow for the wider turning movements required by 18-wheelers.

Right-of-way needs include a corridor 120 feet wide along the entire 3.3 mile length of Midpoint Parkway, as well as additional lands for at least two retention ponds, utility easements and a "flyover" bridge across U.S. 90 and the CSX railroad tracks in front of the Walmart Distribution Center.

"Ramps will be added along the north side of U.S. 90 to access the roadway which will require additional right-of-way," the CDP proposal states.

Local officials are optimistic that the future development potential along the new corridor could provide hundreds of new jobs, as well as opportunities for the City of Macclenny to cash in by extending water and sewer utilities to the site.

"There are multiple aspects to the benefits," City Manager Phil Rhoden said Monday. "The biggest benefit, without a doubt, will be commercial growth. Secondary to that will be the rerouting of truck traffic, which is problematic to us at (U.S.) 90 and (SR) 121 and (SR) 228."

Large trucks making 90-degree turns at those intersections have damaged sidewalks and at least one traffic signal control box owned by the Florida DOT, Mr. Rhoden said.

Usually, the cracked sidewalks go unrepaired because nobody reports the incident,

he said. But a truck that struck a signal control box one day at the corner of SR 228 and U.S. 90 was witnessed by a business owner and the driver's insurance company had to pay for repairs.

County commissioners entered into an agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation in April for a \$650,000 grant to fund engineering and design work on the project, which has been declared a "regionally significant project" by the Northeast Florida Transportation Planning Organization.

The grant was awarded by DOT's Transportation Regional Incentive Program, or TRIP, which ordinarily requires local governments to help fund the project. But Baker County received a Rural Economic Development Initiative waiver.

EDUCATION

- Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice - University of Florida
 - President's Award for Outstanding Contributions to the University of Florida
 - Justice of Student Traffic Court - Twice awarded for outstanding service to the court
 - Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity
 - Inter-fraternity Council Greek Week Staff
 - Block and Bridle Club - Southeastern U.S. President
 - Intercollegiate Livestock Judging Team
- Associate of Arts - Lake City Community College
 - Magna Cum Laude
 - Phi Theta Kappa
 - President's and Dean's List
- Florida Police Standards
 - Graduate Diploma (360 hours) - First in class
 - Over 1700 continuing education hours in the criminal justice system
- Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Academy
 - Graduate - Inaugural Class

I've worked hard my entire life. I was raised on a farm where our family cared for a 25,000 poultry layer operation, a small herd of cattle, and hay and corn crops. I also worked in my father's store where we sold groceries, gas, and farm supplies. I worked summers in road construction on a lime-rock crew during high school and college. These jobs taught me the value of labor and helped to pay for my criminal justice education at Lake City Community College and later the University of Florida. At the University of Florida, I was elected by the student body to serve as Justice of the Student Traffic Court where I heard and helped resolve student appeals on traffic citations written by University Police. This was my first exposure to a court system. I was later selected by the University Chief of Police to serve as the student liaison between Student Traffic Court and University Police to further resolve student traffic issues on campus. I was also active on campus in my fraternity and in several student organizations while maintaining my studies. Throughout my life, I have always drawn upon my early education, student government, and campus court-related experiences to help me in my later law enforcement and county, state, and federal court-related career. Your vote and support will allow me to continue to put my education and experience to work for you as your next Clerk of Courts.

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OPINION

Supports bypass and gas tax hike

Dear Editor:

For many years, Macclenny has had to deal with trucks turning to and from Fifth and Sixth Street without much room to maneuver. Many times cars or trucks have to move back on those streets for those semis to make those sharp turns. Eventually a major accident will occur if the problem is not fixed, or even a death.

It has been proposed for the last two years with county commissioner James Bennett at the helm to build a bypass to the Walmart Distribution Center that diverts trucks away from Macclenny. The total cost of the project is \$7.2 million, but first the county must come up with \$500,000 or the project will be considered dead. Midpoint Parkway plans to connect U.S. 90 to South Fifth Street (SR 228) near I-10 and the Walmart Supercenter, which will serve a three-fold purpose (according to Commissioner Bennett). First, it will provide semi-tractor trailers a more direct route to the interstate. Second, it will reduce heavy traffic on narrow downtown streets. Third, it will spark commercial, industrial and residential developments.

We need the Midpoint Parkway now as if in the "Field of Dreams," the saying was "If you will build it, they will come." If they do not build it, Baker County will remain the same and will never grow. I do like the "Mayberry" atmosphere, but a little bit of commer-

cial and industrial development will bring jobs to our areas and maybe a few franchise restaurants that would have decided not to come here before. We do not want Baker County to be like Orange Park or Mandarin, but a little bit of growth would help us overall as a county.

Some considerations:

- Money needs to be funded for this project. As I understand it, it will be a three-phase project and the state will not dish out the money unless we do our part.

- Commissioner Bennett is proposing a 5-cent sales tax on gas per gallon. I do not really want to pay more, but if we want to bring revenue into the county, you must produce revenue. Say that 50,000 vehicles (both county and from the interstate) filled up their vehicles with 20 gallons of gas twice a week for a whole year, then that will be \$520,000 in additional income that could be applied to the building of the Midpoint Parkway.

- Commercial, industrial and residential development will add jobs to Baker County and bring new residents into our community. Wouldn't it be nice to have a Cracker Barrel (it has been discussed many times), a Texas Roadhouse, a Chick-Fil-A, or even a Popeyes' in Baker County? We only can do that if we have the revenue to support it.

- Offer tax incentives for the first few years to bring these commercial businesses and restaurants in here and they might decide to take the chance.

- It has been said that businesses or franchise companies will not come to Baker County because we could not support the businesses. If they build close to the highway and the new proposed Midpoint Parkway, then I believe it will be a win-win for all.

- I am not completely for alcohol sales, but people are going to drink anyway. I do not believe if restaurants sold alcohol on Sundays that most of their sales will come from alcohol, but from food. Yes, we are a dry county, but people are going to seek their vices no matter what it is if it is alcohol, drugs or anything else.

- If landowners as Commissioner Bennett suggested will give up the land close to the highway to build part of the project and once the project is completed, then it will be the highway to commercial, industrial and residential development. More businesses, more economic growth, more jobs.

Should Baker County remain stagnant and not have growth? The choice is up to you. A little growth never hurt anybody, but large growth can strangle a community. Don't you agree?

Robert Demers

Macclenny

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on recycled paper.**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters are welcome, but must contain city of residence. Letters must be confined to the general public. The news which in the newspaper's judgement



Florida Job Growth Grant Fund
Public Infrastructure Grant Proposal
"MIDPOINT PARKWAY PROJECT"

Minutes from August 1, 2017 detailing
BOCC support and authority to commence
with the submittal of applications on behalf
of Baker County for the Florida Job Growth
Grant Fund

BAKER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES

August 1, 2017

The Baker County Board of Commissioners met in a scheduled meeting with the following members present:

Chairman, Jimmy Anderson
Commissioner, James Croft
Commissioner, Cathy Rhoden
Commissioner, James G. Bennett
Commissioner, Bobby Steele

Also Present:
County Attorney, Rich Komando
Clerk, Stacie D. Harvey
County Manager, Kennie Downing

Note: These meeting minutes are a summarized version of the actual discussions at the meeting. These are not verbatim transcripts. For a complete audio recording of the discussion please visit www.bakercountyfl.org/board or contact Sara Little at sara.little@bakercountyfl.org

REGULAR SESSION

Chairman Anderson welcomed everyone in attendance and called the meeting to order. Commissioner Bobby Steele led in the invocation and pledge.

Commissioner James Bennett moved to approve the regular agenda. Commissioner Cathy Rhoden seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous.

Chairman Anderson requested approval of the consent agenda which consisted of:

1. Expense Report
2. Minutes- July 18, 2017 – Regular Session
3. Minutes – July 18, 2017 – Public Hearing

Commissioner Cathy Rhoden moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Bobby Steele seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous.

Chairman Anderson called for public comment. There were no public comments.

Kennie Downing presented a request to award the employee benefits as reviewed in the workshop earlier in the day (can be heard on audio file). Mrs. Downing stated that the insurance committee had reviewed and ranked the responses received and recommended two options to the Board. Both options were plans presented by Florida Blue, with similar offers to the current health coverage offered by United Healthcare. Options 32 and 33 came in with a 15.3% and 9.7% increase respectively. Commissioner Bobby Steele moved to select Option 33 with Florida Blue with a 9.7% increase. Commissioner Cathy Rhoden seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous.

Megan Carter representing North Florida Professional Services presented two grant applications for consideration. Ms. Carter stated that the State will accept applications until the money runs out. The applications will be submitted for the construction of Midpoint Parkway and paving of Nursery Boulevard. Commissioner Bennett suggested the Board move forward with

Page 2
MINUTES- Regular Session
August 1, 2017

the application but requested a few changes be made to the grant application first. The Board agreed to allow Commissioner Bennett change the language in the application given his background with road projects. Commissioner Bennett moved to approve applications with changes and allow the Chairman to sign. Commissioner Cathy Rhoden seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous. Chairman Bennett moved to approve the task order associated with the grant application for Nursery Boulevard. Commissioner Bobby Steele seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous. Commission Bennett moved to approve the task order associated with the grant application for Midpoint Parkway. Commissioner Cathy Rhoden seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous.

Kennie Downing recognized Alicia Lamborn, Interim Extension Director for an Achievement Award by the National Association of County Agriculture Agents. The Achievement Award is awarded to Agents with less than 10 years of service in Cooperative Extension Service who have exhibited excellence in the field of professional Extension. The Board thanked Alicia for her hard work and efforts representing Baker County across the Nation.

Kennie Downing gave a presentation of the new St. Mary's Shoals Park website to the Board. The website allowed users to pay for park passes, access trail maps, view pictures and location information as well as many other options. The website will be officially open to the public in the next few weeks.

Sieglinde Campbell, Acting Director of the Baker County Health Department, presented a request to sell the surplus dental bus that is no longer in use. Mrs. Campbell stated the intent would be to sell the bus to Duval County Health Department for \$165,000. Those funds will then be used in the Baker County Health Department Dental Office. Commissioner James Bennett moved to approve the request. Commissioner Bobby Steele seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous.

Kennie Downing presented the pending business report as follows:

PENDING BUSINESS ITEM	PRIORITY	STATUS	START DATE	% COMPLETE	COMMENTS
Johnson Controls HVAC audit	High	In Progress	3/7/2017	100%	BOCC to decide on proceeding with audit 8/1/17
LDR Revisions	High	In Progress	05/06/2014	75%	LPA finishing biosolids report for August 2017 BOCC mtg.
Bee Keeping at Shoals Park	Low	In Progress	07/05/2016	75%	Staff is drafting policies in companion with draft beekeeping contract.
Olustee Park- electricity, parks equipment	Normal	In Progress	09/23/2016	50%	RAB recommends any improvements be put on hold until the RAB can schedule a community meeting.
Honor Box, Fees, Online pay at Shoals Park	Normal	In Progress	09/23/2016	75%	Honor boxes are being installed, fee envelopes ordered on-line pay website being developed. Est completion of all: 2 weeks.
Poles and Gate at Shoals Park	Normal	In Progress	11/01/2016	75%	Gate and fence has been installed. The FPL poles should be available in June.
Status of Jonesville Community Center	Normal	In Progress	11/15/2016	75%	Chairman Anderson is leading the rebuild efforts.
Fire & EMS Department Vision committee	Normal	In Progress	02/07/2017	75%	Meeting held on 7/25/17.
COA Senior Center/community center	Normal	In Progress	02/21/2017	0%	Setting up meeting with grantwriters to discuss grant funding.
Infrastructure funding for Transportation	Normal	New	07/18/2017	0%	Meeting with Grantwriters 7/20/17
Tax Collector Roof	High	In Progress	07/06/2017	25%	Contractors have been selected. Work begins soon.

Page 3
MINUTES- Regular Session
August 1, 2017

Kennie Downing presented a review of the animal control fees. Mrs. Downing stated this was prompted by extreme backlash on social media towards Officer Georgia Monfort for a citation that was issued that the public felt was unfair. The Board thanked Mrs. Monfort for her efforts in complying with the fines and fees established by the Board. The Board also expressed that the public understand that Mrs. Monfort has been simply doing her job by enforcing the fines and fees that were established years ago. The Board agreed that the fines and fees should be reviewed since they have not changed in 17 years. The Board requested the newly formed Animal Advisory Committee take this as their first project and report back to the Board once a recommendation has been made.

Chairman Anderson stated that he received a speaker card and would allow public comment again.

Charles Lantz requested the Board look at the drainage ditch near his home located at 9138 Pinetop Road. Mr. Lantz stated that he believe the ditch has been filled in due to the increase in standing water on his property in recent months. The Board requested staff notify Robert Fletcher, Road Superintendent, and have him address the issue.

Kennie Downing presented the tentative millage to the Board. Mrs. Downing explained the current millage is 7.2916 and the Board could set the tentative millage today at their desire. Chairman Anderson stated that the Board cannot exceed a millage rate higher than what is set today as a tentative millage rate. Commissioner James Bennett moved to approve the tentative millage rate at current, 7.2916 without any increase. Commissioner James Croft seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous.

Meeting adjourned.

Stacie D. Harvey, Clerk

Oliver J. Anderson, Chairman

BAKER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES

August 1, 2017

The Baker County Board of Commissioners met in a scheduled meeting with the following members present:

Chairman, Jimmy Anderson
Commissioner, Bobby Steele
Commissioner, James Croft
Commissioner, Cathy Rhoden
Commissioner, James G. Bennett

Also Present: Clerk, Stacie D. Harvey
County Manager, Kennie Downing

Absent: County Attorney, Rich Komando

Note: These meeting minutes are a summarized version of the actual discussions at the meeting. These are not verbatim transcripts. For a complete audio recording of the discussion please visit www.bakercountyfl.org/board or contact Sara Little at sara.little@bakercountyfl.org

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Anderson welcomed everyone in attendance and opened the public hearing.

Kennie Downing presented Ordinance 2017-09 for final hearing. This Ordinance established rules and regulations for all County owned parks by approving Administration Policy 2017-01.

Chairman Anderson called for public comment. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson closed the public hearing and reopened the regular session.

Commissioner James Bennett moved to approve Ordinance 2017-09 and read by title. Commissioner Cathy Rhoden seconded the motion.

Kennie Downing read Ordinance 2017-09 by title which states:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 28 – PARKS AND RECREATION, SPECIFICALLY SECTION 28-1; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS, FEES AND ENFORCEMENT; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING DIRECTION TO STAFF; PROVIDING DIRECTION TO THE CODIFIER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Page 2
MINUTES- Public Hearing
August 1, 2017

Chairman Anderson called for any additional comments. Hearing none, the motion carried unanimous.

Meeting adjourned.

Staci D. Harvey, Clerk

Oliver J. Anderson, Chairman