



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: Gilchrist County Board of County Commissioners

Government Federal Employer Identification Number: [REDACTED]

Contact Information:

Primary Contact Name: Bobby Crosby

Title: County Administrator

Mailing Address: 209 Southeast First Street
Trenton, Florida 32693

Phone Number: 352-463-3198

Email: bcrosby@gilchrist.fl.us

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.

"Gilchrist County Right-of-Way Acquisition"

Acquisition of private property for the widening and resurfacing State Road 26 from Newberry, Fl. to State Road 19 in Fanning Springs, Fl.

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.

State Road 26 is the primary East-West route connecting our rural county with Gainesville to the East and US Hwy 19 to the West. This route also connects the Tri-County area (Dixie, Levy, Gilchrist) and our residents to the employment, access to healthcare, and commerce that surrounds the Gainesville area. With the ability to provide a 4 lane traffic system, there will be a more effective movement of transportation of products and services. This would also encourage development of new businesses or relocation of existing businesses that want to call Gilchrist County home. Gilchrist County struggles to entice commercial business activity, primarily due to our outdated transportation routes (2-lane roadway) connecting to the larger roadway system. We have one of the top rated public school systems in the state, and we continue to ship our outstanding graduates off to larger cities as there are very limited career opportunities in our communities. This funding will allow us to begin the early steps of changing this trend.



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.

Gilchrist County is a "Rural Area of Opportunity" and "Economically Distressed" as designated by Governor Scott. Gilchrist County is mainly an agriculture community looking to grow into different Industries. Cleantech and Infotech are two areas that would be targeted industries for the area. Within these two industries the job growth could easily be in the hundreds with multiple pay scales. In a community where there are very few jobs, all jobs are valuable. Also due to our proximity to the Suwannee and Santa Fe Rivers and the Nature Coast Trail, Gilchrist County has been promoting "nature based tourism" for many years. Improving the access to Gilchrist County will only help promote growth in this industry further.

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



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.

Not available

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

State Road 26 from Newberry, Fl. to State Road 19 in Fanning Springs, Fl.

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?

FDOT, FDEP

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?

No permits have been secured. There are no local level permits needed.

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?

no change in use



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

There would need to be collaboration between FDOT and Gilchrist County for project.

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.

Please see attached:

2. K

The FDOT has completed studies for the widening and resurfacing of SR 26. The funding and ROW acquisition seems to always get in the way of this project. With this grant funding, we are hopeful the FDOT will move forward with the planning of this project.

RESOLUTION NO: 2013-39

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GILCHRIST COUNTY, FLORIDA EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR, AND REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM, THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION REPRESENTING GILCHRIST COUNTY, TO PRIORITIZE AND IMPROVE THE CURRENT TIME-FRAME, AND SUPPORT THE FOUR-LANING AND FUNDING OF STATE ROAD NUMBER 26 FROM THE ALACHUA COUNTY LINE TO U.S. HIGHWAY 19 IN FANNING SPRINGS, FLORIDA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, State Road Number 26, hereafter SR 26, is presently a heavily traveled two-lane roadway running generally East and West thru the Southern portion of Gilchrist County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, SR 26 is the primary route to Gainesville for most of Gilchrist County, the Northern portion of Levy County, and a majority of Dixie County; and

WHEREAS, the widening of SR 26 has been discussed and planned for many years, with several public meetings held and attended by various public officials and citizens of Gilchrist County and is currently listed on the Florida Department of Transportation 5-year plan for design; however, the immediate undertaking of the project remains at a standstill; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Gilchrist County believes that the four-laning of SR 26 is vital to the health, safety, and welfare of not only the citizens of Gilchrist County, but also to the citizens of Levy and Dixie Counties, and the citizens of the State of Florida as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Gilchrist County intends to join with its municipalities and with neighboring counties in support of these efforts for the benefit of the entire Tri-County area of Gilchrist, Levy, and Dixie Counties, and

WHEREAS, some of the primary reasons for consideration of prioritizing this request for prompt consideration and action are:

- **Access to Emergency and Healthcare Services** – Rural areas must be able to access emergency healthcare facilities in a timely and safe manner. Many of our residents also frequent Gainesville, Florida for in-patient, out-patient, and emergency medical services. The distance traveled by our citizens to receive such services is considerable and the two-lane roadway through Gilchrist County hinders and delays the travel time for our citizens to receive prompt medical services.
- **Vehicular Safety** – The current two-lane road has led to many fatalities over the years. With high traffic volumes concentrated in the morning and evenings, many people tend to pass slower moving vehicles, usually at a high rate of speed, which creates an unsafe situation on the roadway.
- **Hurricane Evacuation Route** – SR 26 is the only major East-West route connecting Gainesville, Florida and Interstate Number 75 with the Gulf-Coast counties lying to the West. In the event of an ordered emergency evacuation of this area, Gainesville is the

first most likely evacuation destination for citizens fleeing from a storm approaching from the Gulf of Mexico.

- **Economic Growth** – There is a tremendous amount of business and commercial traffic that currently utilizes SR 26. It is believed that most of the business and commercial traffic is generated either from businesses which are based in Gainesville, Florida, or are exiting Interstate No. 75 at the Gainesville/Newberry Road exit, and who either offer a service or sell a product, and deliver it to the Tri-County area. Any improvement of the roadway by four-laning it, will invite small businesses to locate facilities along this major corridor, and will improve delivery of products and services to this area from other locations. Additionally, there presently is limited capacity and concurrency on SR 26 to support increased economic business growth opportunity which has hampered business growth in our area in recent years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Gilchrist County, Florida as follows:

Section 1. That the foregoing recitals are ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are incorporated and made a specific part of this resolution as if more fully written below.

Section 2. That the Board of County Commissioners of Gilchrist County, Florida hereby expresses its support for, and requests assistance from the Florida Department of Transportation and the legislative delegation representing Gilchrist County, to prioritize and improve the current time-frame, and support the four-laning and funding of State Road Number 26 from the Alachua County line to U.S. Highway Number 19 in Fanning Springs, Florida, as soon as possible.

Section 3. That the County Administrator is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Honorable Governor Rick Scott, Honorable Senator Charles S. Dean, Sr., Honorable Representative W. Keith Perry, and Honorable Ananth Prasad, Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation.

Section 4. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

DULY ADOPTED this 7th day of October, 2013.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
GILCHRIST COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Sharon A. Langford
Sharon A. Langford, Chair

ATTEST:

Todd Newton
Todd Newton
Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners



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	\$ _____
Reconstruction	\$ _____
Design & Engineering	\$ _____
Land Acquisition	\$ 2,000,000.00
Land Improvement	\$ _____

Other	\$ _____
Total Project Costs	\$ 2,000,000.00

Please Specify: _____

B. Other Public Infrastructure Project Funding Sources:

City/County	\$ 0.00
Private Sources	\$ 0.00

Other (grants, etc.)	\$ 0.00
Total Other Funding	\$ 0.00

Please Specify: _____

Total Amount Requested	\$ 2,000,000.00
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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.

This would have to be coordinated with the FDOT.



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)?

Approval of the Board of County Commissioners and the Florida Department of Transportation.

- 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.

The 1st and 3rd Monday of each month.

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

Yes, 48 hour 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.

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE GILCHRIST COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD NOVEMBER 21, 2016

The Gilchrist County Board of County Commissioners, in and for Gilchrist County, Florida, convened in a **Regular Meeting** on **Monday, November 21, 2016**, at **4:00 p.m.**, in the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Facility, located at 210 South Main Street, Trenton, Florida, with the following members' present to-wit:

<i>District I</i>	<i>Commissioner Sharon A. Langford</i>
<i>District II</i>	<i>Commissioner D. Ray Harrison, Jr.</i>
<i>District III</i>	<i>Commissioner Todd Gray, Chairman</i>
<i>District IV</i>	<i>Commissioner Marion Poitevint</i>
<i>District V</i>	<i>Commissioner Kenrick Thomas, Vice Chairman</i>

Others in Attendance

Todd Newton, Clerk of Court; Richard Romans, Finance Director; Patty McCagh, Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk; David Lang, County Attorney; Bobby Crosby, County Administrator; Donna Creamer, Administrative Assistant; John Ayers, Gilchrist County Journal; Lou Leone, Road Department Superintendent; Laura Dedenbach, County Planner; Ralph Smith, EM Director; Tim Powell, GC Building Inspector/Code Enforcement; Chief James Campbell, Fire/Rescue; Bobby Rush, Solid Waste Superintendent; Sheriff Bobby Schultz and Kieran Bryan, GCSO; Mitchell Gentry, Hart Springs Manager; Mark Litherland, Beard Equipment; Ray & Jane Rauscher; Katherine LaBarca; Greg Baily, NFPS, Inc.; and Lowell Chesborough.

Call to Order

Chairman Todd Gray called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Pastor Kent Zimmerman, Turning Point Ministry delivered the invocation and Commissioner Kenrick Thomas led the pledge of allegiance.

Agenda

The Agenda was presented for the Boards' approval, with NO changes.

Motion made by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas, seconded by Commissioner D. Ray Harrison, Jr., to approve the Agenda, as presented, with NO changes. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Request for Payment Approval

SREC/SHIP Down Payment and Closing Costs

Austin Craven	\$29,000.00
Carrie Avery	\$21,500.00
Robin Norris	\$40,000.00

Resolution Number 2016-51: Mr. Lang presented a request for the Board to approve a resolution in support of National Water Trail Designation of the Suwannee River in Gilchrist County, Florida.

Ms. Donna Creamer, Staff Assistant, explained the purpose of the resolution that it endorses the Office of Greenways & Trails application for designation of the Suwannee River in Gilchrist County as a National Water Trail by the United States Department of the Interior. Discussion took place.

Motion made by Commissioner D. Ray Harrison, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Sharon A. Langford to approve Resolution 2016-51. Mr. Lang read the short title for the record. Chairman Gray then called for a vote. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Clerk's Report

Mr. Todd Newton, Clerk of Court, presented the following documents, and/or addressed the following issues:

EMS Grant Award: Mr. Newton presented for the Boards' approval, the acceptance of the EMS Grant, in the amount of \$1,607.00; the purpose of grant is to improve and expand prehospital EMS.

Motion made by Commissioner Sharon A. Langford, seconded by Commissioner Marion Poitevint, to approve and accept the EMS Grant award, in the amount of \$1,607.00, to improve and expand prehospital EMS. Motion carried unanimously.

For the Boards' information, Mr. Newton provide and reviewed a Hart Springs Analysis, a Budget Recap for FY 2016, Period Ending 09-30-2016 and a Budget Recap for FY 2017, Period Ending 11-18-2016. Discussion took place. No action needed.

Old Business: None

New Business

Chairman Gray relinquished the gavel to the Clerk in order to proceed with the nominations and appointment of the new 2016/2017 Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Mr. Newton called for nominations for Chairman. **There was a nomination and a second to appoint Commissioner D. Ray Harrison, Jr. as Chairman.** Mr. Newton asked if anyone opposed, none noted.

Commissioner D. Ray Harrison, Jr. will serve as Chairman of the Gilchrist County Board of County Commissioners for 2016-2017.

The Clerk called for nominations for Vice Chairman. There was a nomination and a second to appoint Commissioner Todd Gray as Vice Chairman. Mr. Newton asked if anyone opposed, none noted.



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

Name of Entity: Gilchrist County Board of County Commissioners

Name and Title of Authorized Representative: D. Ray Harrison Jr., Chairman

Representative Signature: *D. Ray Harrison Jr.*

Signature Date: OCTOBER 4, 2017