

Pasco County

2016 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



COUNTY ATTORNEY

- 1 **Amend Section 695.01(3), Florida Statutes to make liens authorized by local governments coequal with the liens of government taxes and special assessments.** This is in response to (1) the recent Florida Supreme Court ruling in City of Palm Bay v. Wells Fargo, which found local County enforcement board liens are inferior to private liens, and (2) the need to have super-priority for liens to recover out-of-pocket costs expended by local governments (including for street lighting, demolition, lot clearing, etc.) to improve property. Currently, such liens are inferior to private liens that are recorded first.
- 2 **Give authority for local governments to post statutorily required legal advertisements on a publicly-accessible website.** The estimated cost to Pasco County taxpayers is \$250,000.00 per year. This does not include the costs incurred by developers for advertising their projects.
- 3 **Amend Section 119.071(4)(d), Florida Statutes to create a public records exemption for the home addresses, telephone numbers, photographs and day care information for county attorneys and their children.** The attorneys that prosecute code enforcement and other actions against property owners are just as likely to be subject to harassing or retribution related public records inquiries from disgruntled defendants as code enforcement officers, state attorneys/prosecutors, and judges, whose information is already exempted in Section 119.071(4)(d).
- 4 **Give authority for local governments to spend public funds on private roads under specific conditions,** such as when emergency vehicles are unable to traverse the road for public safety.
- 5 **Encourage joint use of recreational facilities by local governments and school districts,** create liability limitations and background screening exemptions for local government-school district joint use facilities.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND ADMINISTRATION

- 6 **County Share of Cost for Medicaid Services,** support establishing a cap on growth in the individual county Medicaid costs under s. 409.915, F.S. to address the anticipated cost shifts that result from the transition to a Medicaid enrollee based cost-sharing system. OPPOSE efforts to further shift state Medicaid costs to counties. SUPPORT continued evaluation of the county-state Medicaid cost-share arrangement, taking into consideration the impacts of state policies designed to contain growth in Medicaid costs, including statewide Medicaid managed care and diagnosis related group reimbursement for hospitals..
- 7 **Juvenile Detention Cost-Share,** support the state taking full responsibility for funding and operation of detention facilities serving juveniles, both for pre-disposition and post-disposition days and implementing juvenile justice reform, as recommended by the Detention Cost Share Proviso Workgroup. In the alternative, SUPPORT funding for the secure detention as upheld by Florida's courts. SUPPORT allowing counties to pay actual costs on a monthly reimbursement basis.

8 **Incentivize Businesses Participation in Apprenticeship**, support for fiscal incentives to be provided to school districts, charter schools, counties, community colleges and private companies hosting apprenticeship programs to establish regional career education consortia for purposes of coordinating, delivering, and implementing high-quality and cost-efficient career preparation programs.

9 **RESTORE Act Funding**

- a) **Support** funding for the Regional Reclaimed Water System Interconnection and Ecosystem Restoration which beneficially reuses reclaimed water to recharge the aquifer.
- b) **Support** funding for research and education aimed at coastal restoration via the Coastal Environmental Research Network (CERN), and the Watershed Research Institute (WRI).

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

10 **Real Estate Transfer Tax for Transportation and Schools - Modify Sections 201.031 and 125.0167**, Florida Statutes to allow the local option real estate transfer (documentary stamp) tax to (a) be used by non-charter counties, and (b) be used for transportation and school capital expenditures, or allow counties the option to allocate a portion of the existing real estate transfer (documentary stamp) tax revenue for transportation and school capital expenditures. Pasco County is open to this being established as a pilot program for Pasco County and similarly situated high growth rate counties.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

11 **Non-residential Platting** In light of the inherent differences between residential and non-residential projects, modify the definition of subdivision in Florida Statutes section 177.031(18) to give local governments the discretion to not require the subdivision of land for non-residential uses and to adopt alternative local regulations, while maintaining the authority of local governments to continue to require the subdivision of land for non-residential uses if desired.

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

12 **Amend** Section 468.609 revising the certification examination requirements for building code inspectors. Reduce the number of years' experience in inspection or plan review from five to three years and lowers the hour requirements for the training program from 200 to 100 hours.

STORMWATER

13 **Appropriation and funding for construction of flooding and stormwater related projects.**

- a. Timber Oaks \$3.3M
- b. PACE \$250,000
- c. Forest Hills \$661,754
- d. Iron Bark \$3M
- e. Oaks Park \$4,033,500M

TRANSPORTATION/MPO

- 14 **Support Renewed Funding -School Transportation Infrastructure Program** - Previous funding was received through the State's General Appropriations Act (GAA). This grant program earmarked specific appropriations with the intent of addressing school-related transportation infrastructure improvements for those counties and school districts that met certain specific eligibility criteria. Pasco County applied for and received the following funding: FY08/09 = \$4,200,000.00, FY09/10 = \$3,865,000.00, and FY10/11 = \$4,211,970.00. School transportation needs are unique to each school site location. This program assisted in addressing those special transportation needs tied to schools. Eligibility criteria helped to guide program expenditures throughout the previous three funding cycles.
- 15 **Support the SIB Loan for S.R. 56 four lane extension.** DOT currently has funded S.R. 56 as a two-lane extension from Meadow Pointe Blvd. to U.S. 301. Pasco County has applied for a low-interest loan from the State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) to cover the additional two lanes. SIBs are revolving infrastructure investment funds for surface transportation that are established and administered by states.
- 16 **FDOT Tentative Work Program FY2016/17 - FY2020/21** -Continue funding support to facilitate the implementation of multi-modal transportation projects, including highway, transit, bicycle/pedestrian (sidewalks/trails), etc., in accordance with the Pasco Metropolitan Organization (MPO's) - 2015 List of Priority Projects.

Highway Project Priorities (Top Ten in order) (assumes projects currently shown in the DOT's Adopted Work Program are not subject to change).

2016 MPO Priority List of Highway Projects (Top Ten)					
	Facility	Improvements	Timing	Cost (FDOT WP/LRTP cost est.)	Request
1.	S.R. 52 (E of U.S. 41 to Bellamy Brothers Blvd.)	Add 2 lanes to existing 2 lanes resulting in a total of 4 lanes	FY16/17 - FY20/21	\$12.1M ROW \$70.0M CST	Request to add ROW and construction
2.	U.S. 41 (from Connerton Blvd. to S.R. 52)	Add 2 lanes to existing 2 lanes resulting in a total of 4 lanes	FY16/17 - FY20/21	\$ 3.3M Design \$ 8.1M ROW \$17.4M CST	Design underway, ROW and Construction fully funded.
3.	S.R. 52 - Clinton Ave. Extension (from E of Uradco Place to Ft. King Road)	Add 2 lanes to existing 2 lanes (S.R. 52) and new 4 lanes (Clinton Ave. Ext.) to Ft. King Hwy. Project Development and Environmental Study underway FY2015	FY16/17 - FY20/21	\$ 5.7M Design \$ 22.2M ROW \$ 58M CST	Design, ROW, and Construction fully funded.
4.	S.R. 54 at U.S. 41	Interchange	FY16/17 - FY20/21	\$ 3.4M Design \$ 64.1M ROW \$110.6M CST	Request to add Design, ROW and Construction phases.
5.	I-75 at Overpass Road	Interchange	FY16/17 - FY20/21	\$ 4.5M Design \$ 18.2M ROW \$ 42.9M CST	This project is funded by Pasco County
6.	U.S. 98 at U.S. 301 - Clinton Avenue PD&E	Intersection realignment	FY16/17 - FY20/21	\$ 0.5M PD&E	Request to add PD&E
7.	U.S. 301 -Gall Boulevard / 6th St. and 7th St., One-Way Pairs	One-way pairs in Zephyrhills	FY16/17 - FY20/21	\$ 6.5M Design \$ 22.3M ROW \$ 45.8M CST	Design underway, ROW funded. Request to add construction funding.
8.	S.R. 56 at I-75 / Interchange (Diverging Diamond)	Interchange modification	FY16/17 - FY20/21	\$ 1.3M Design \$ 0 ROW \$ 10.9M CST	Design underway, Request to add construction
9.	U.S. 301 (Gall Boulevard) from S.R. 56 (future) to S.R. 39	Add 2 lanes to existing 2 lanes resulting in 4 lanes total	FY16/17 - FY20/21	\$ 2.5M Design \$ 15M ROW \$ 11.4M CST	PD&E underway, Design funded in FY2018, Request to add ROW and Construction
10	U.S. 301 - Gall Boulevard/Four to Six Lanes (CR 54 to Kossik)	Add 2 lanes to existing 4 lanes resulting in 6 lanes total	FY16/17 - FY20/21	\$ 3.4M Design \$ 15.9M ROW \$ 20.3 CST	Design funded in FY2016, Request to add ROW and Construction

17 **Local Transit System (PCPT) Priorities -Service Expansion/Marketing (FDOT Service Development Program 50/50 match):**

- a) **Land O'Lakes Circulator** - Implementation of local service in the Land O'Lakes area. Request \$800,000 grant to cover FY2016/17 through FY2018/19 (Total request includes purchasing a bus at \$500,000, and \$300,000 operating cost for three years).
- b) **Increase bus operating frequency on routes 14, 21 and 25 to 30 minutes.** Request \$2.9M grant to cover FY2016/17 through FY2018/19 (Total includes purchasing three busses \$1.5M, and \$1.4M operating cost for three years).

18 **Regional Transit Connection Projects (FDOT Public Transit Urban Corridor Program):**

- a. **S.R. 54 Cross-County Connector** -continue funding under the FDOT Urban Corridor Program in accordance with the MPO's adopted Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) including the new FY2020/21.
- b. **U.S. 19 Express Service** - continue funding under the FDOT Urban Corridor Program in accordance with the MPO's adopted Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) including the new FY2019/20.

19 **Support and Funding - Continued Implementation of the Coast to Coast Connector - Tri-County Trail (aka Starkey Gap).** The Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C) will provide a safe and continuous multi-use trail system extending across Florida from the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic Ocean. The portion of the C2C in southwest Pasco County that is not funded for construction is known as the "Starkey Gap," and extends generally 2.4 miles from north of the S.R. 54/Starkey Boulevard intersection in Pasco County to the Pasco/Pinellas County Line. Existing Right-of-Way and easements are being utilized for the trail.

The 2014 State legislature approved a statewide allocation of \$15.5 M to implement the Coast-to-Coast Trail Connection Program. Through FEDOT Pasco County has been awarded approximately \$460,000.00 in FY2014/15 for design. Request \$1,337,000.00 in FY2015/16 for construction funds to complete this project and coordinate actual construction within the same timeframe as the Pinellas Trail Design/Build segment (Pinellas County) that was funded for design and construction in FY2014/15.

Support funding for a trail loop using both the northern and southern proposed routes. Both route alternatives begin in Hernando, at the end of the Good Neighbor Trail, and intersects the Withlacoochee State Trail. The northern route then heads northeast through Sumter, linking the towns of Center Hill and Webster before running south to connect with the Van Fleet State Trail. The southern route runs south down the Withlacoochee State Trail to Trilby, in Pasco County, then runs along County Road 575 through Lacoochee and follows the old Orange Rail Line into the Withlacoochee State Forest and Hernando County on its way to connect to the Van Fleet State Trail and South Lake Trail in eastern Sumter County. Utilizing both routes would deliver economic benefit to towns along both alignments and provide an approximately 50 mile loop for local and regional bicyclists.

20 **Transportation Issues of Statewide Importance**

- a. **Redirect \$100 million annually to the State Transportation Trust Fund from General Revenue** as was passed by the Florida House of Representatives during the 2014 legislative session in HB 5601.

- b. **Expand the Charter County and Regional Transportation System Surtax** to allow municipalities over 150,000 in population (or the largest municipality in a county) and all counties located in MPO areas to enact up to a one-cent local option surtax by referendum.
- c. **Index local option fuel taxes to the consumer price index in a manner similar to the current indexing of state fuel taxes.**
- d. **Direct the Florida Department of Transportation to develop a plan to move Florida toward a Mileage Based User Fee, which protects individual privacy, in lieu of the traditional fuel tax.**

21 **Restore funding for the Transportation Regional Incentive Program in order to promote regional planning and project development. This is a statewide transportation funding issue.** The purpose of the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) is to encourage regional planning by providing state matching funds (up to 50 percent of total project costs) for improvements to regionally significant transportation facilities identified and prioritized by regional partners. TRIP is funded through documentary stamp tax proceeds which have declined substantially over the past several years as a result of the economic decline in Florida's housing and land development industry. This legislative proposal would seek to restore funding for the TRIP so that it can fulfill its intended purpose. Pasco County has captured significant TRIP funds over the past five years. For example, the Ridge Road widening project (Little Road to Moon Lake Road) is being partially funded with TRIP grant funds channeled through FDOT (\$15M).

22 **Support the continued funding of the County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP) to promote successful state-local government partnering on transportation improvement projects.** This is a statewide transportation funding issue. CIGP funding has been used in Pasco County for various county projects that benefit the State Highway System including the intersection improvement (design/ROW/Construction) at C.R. 54 and U.S. 301. Upcoming projects funded under this program include the CR 54 Widening Phase II (from east of U.S 301 to 23rd Street), and S.R. 54/Morris Bridge Road Intersection improvement.

23 **Allow Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) funds to be used on roads and other transportation facilities not designated on the SIS, if the improvement will enhance mobility or support freight transportation on the SIS.** Current state law does not permit SIS funds to be spent on roads or other transportation facilities that are not part of the SIS, even if proposed improvements would directly benefit users of SIS facilities by enhancing mobility options or supporting freight movement in a SIS corridor. This legislative proposal would broaden the State's ability to improve passenger and freight mobility on SIS corridors by making eligible the expenditure of SIS funds on non SIS roads and other transportation facilities where the benefit to users of SIS facilities can be demonstrated. For Pasco County, parallel roadways along Interstate 75 such as Old Pasco Road, Wesley Chapel Boulevard (C.R. 54), and CSX rail line along U.S. 41 relieving U.S. 41/S.R. 54 Intersection (designated facility on SIS) could provide parallel capacity thereby diverting local trips from the interstate mainline. Under this initiative, improvements to parallel roadways that are not SIS facilities would be eligible for SIS funds.

PUBLIC SERVICES

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- 24 **Continue funding the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) funding at the pre-2009 levels.** SHIP is funded by documentary stamps that have a specific tax raised for this program. That money is collected into a Trust Fund. The State did fund SHIP at the highest level in seven years, at \$101 million, but still swept \$75 million into the General Fund. Of that amount, almost \$2 million would have come to Pasco County.

ELDERLY NUTRITION

- 25 **Support to maintain or increase funding of the Older Americans Act-Title III Nutrition.** For Pasco County that means a little over \$1,000,000 to provide Senior Nutrition Programs for both congregate and homebound seniors. For the homebound seniors, that means more than a meal, skilled professionals provide nutrition counseling, education, and at-risk screening. These programs help our elderly age in place and remain in their homes.
- 26 **Support Increase Funding for the Community Care for the Elderly (CCE).** This state grant is administered in Pasco County by CARES. The program provides in home services to our Elderly Population. Programs provided are personal care, light housekeeping, heavy chore and meals. These vital programs allow our seniors to remain independently in their homes.

LIBRARIES

- 27 **State Aid to Public Libraries** - Restore the \$5,110,989 that the Legislature and the Governor had previously approved totaling \$27,409,823 in State Aid to Public Libraries and the increased amount changed from non-recurring to recurring. We would like to eventually get back to the \$33.4 million appropriated in 2004.
- 28 **Public Library Construction** -Allocate \$2.5 million to fund the five projects submitted by the Florida Division of Library and Information Services.
- 29 **Multi Library Consortium (MLC)** -Maintain the \$2 million allocated to the library consortiums. MLCs provide training for our staff, group purchasing opportunities, as well as general guidance.
- 30 **Competitive Grants for Innovative Library Programs** -Requesting \$1 million to go toward project based grant programs to be administered by the Florida Division of Library and Information Services.
- 31 **E-Books** -Support a statewide group purchasing effort through the Florida Division of Library and Information Services to determine the most efficient and cost effective processes for e-book lending delivery.
- 32 **Other Libraries** - Continue to support State College and University libraries, School Library Media Programs, the Bureau of Braille and Talking Book Services, the Department of Corrections Library Services and the Florida Division of Library and Information Services.

Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Department

- 33 **Support grant funding for development, expansion, and improvement of parks and recreational facilities.** Programs such as Florida Forever, Florida Communities Trust (FCT), Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP), and the Greenways and Trails Recreational Trails Program provide up to \$200,000.00 matching assistance to expand and enhance the County's park system.
- 34 **Support for the Water & Land Conservation Amendment (Amendment 1)** – specifically funding for new land acquisition purchases and restoration.
- 35 **Support for the Florida Communities Trust** - specifically funding for new land acquisition, restoration and facility improvements.
- 36 **Support for the Florida Recreational Development Assistance Program** - specifically funding for preservation and park facility improvements.
- 37 **Support for the Florida Forever Program** - If the amendment is not approved in November, the County is requesting funding Florida Forever back to historical funding levels.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

- 38 **Support Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Funding.** Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) funding assist clients who need transportation support especially for medical and employment trips.

UTILITIES

- 39 **REPEAL of Local Bill, Chapter 99-166 Laws of Florida, (H.B. 901, 2015).** Chapter 99-166 Laws of Florida, was adopted to eliminate the direct discharge of wastewater treatment plant effluent, a.k.a. reuse or reclaimed water, to the Coastal waters of Pasco County. Given current FDEP rules for regulating the use of reclaimed water, coupled with recent changes in State water quality standards, Chapter 99-166 is no longer necessary to achieve the same regulatory goals. (Attachment D).
- 40 **Solid Waste Management Trust Fund - use of waste tire fees.**
- a. Restore appropriations and funding for solid waste management grant program pursuant to 403.7095 FS for activities relating to recycling and waste reduction, including waste tires requiring final disposal.
- 41 **Appropriation and funding for water projects related to beneficial use of reclaimed water, stormwater, and excess surface water.**
- a. Central Pasco County Beneficial Water Reuse \$1.7M
b. Crews Lake Natural System Enhancement \$1.2M
- 42 **Appropriations and funding for Investor-Owned Utility acquisitions.**

- 43 **Utility Relocation** oppose legislation requiring counties to pay for the relocation of private utilities when such utilities are located within a county-owned right-of-way and must be moved to accommodate a county project.