

# Pasco County

## 2016 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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### Preparing Pasco's Infrastructure for Smart Growth and Development

- **Water and Stormwater Project Funding**

Seek funding for the following water projects:

1. Central Pasco County Beneficial Water Reuse \$1.7M (Attachment A)
2. Crews Lake Natural System Enhancement \$1.2M (Attachment B)
3. Timber Oaks \$3.3M (Attachment C)

- **Transportation Funding**

Seek funding for the top 4 priorities on the MPO Priority List through the FDOT, District 7, Adopted Work Program for FY 15/16. (Attachment D)

- **Solid Waste Management Trust Fund Program**

**RESTORE** funding to the Solid Waste Management Grant Program (403.7095, F.S.), for activities relating to recycling and waste reduction, including waste tires requiring final disposal.

- **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. (Attachment E)

### Diversifying Pasco's Economy and Growing Jobs

- **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.

- **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..



### Enhancing the Quality of Life for Pasco County Residents

- **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.

- **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.

- **Parks and Trails**

**SUPPORT** funding incentives for development, expansion, and improvement of parks and recreational facilities. The funds provided to the various state programs offer matching assistance to expand and enhance the County's park system. Pasco has the following projects that would benefit:

1. S.R. 54 and Suncoast Trail Amenities
2. Werner Boyce State Park Amenities
3. SunWest Park Amenities
4. **SUPPORT** funding for the Coast to Coast Connector (C2C) – The C2C will provide a safe and continuous multi-use trail system extending west from the Gulf to the Atlantic. The portion of the C2C in southwest Pasco County that is not funded is the "Starkey Gap," and extends generally 2.0 miles from the S.R. 54/Starkey Boulevard intersection in Pasco County to the Pasco/Pinellas County Line. The ROW is being donated. **SUPPORT** for a 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 Lacochee 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.

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Utilizing both routes would deliver economic benefit to towns along both alignments and provide an approximately 50 mile loop for local and regional bicyclists.

- **Performing Arts/Convention Center**

**SUPPORT** continued funding of the Pasco Hernando State College (PHSC) CAPITAL OUTLAY for their Performing Arts Center, a joint use facility partnership between PHSC, Pasco County, and the Pasco County School Board.

### 2016 LOCAL BILLS

- **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 F)
- **DISOLVE** the Highlands Road and Bridge District (Attachment G)

## Central Pasco County Beneficial Water Reuse Project

**Summary:** Historic, permitted, withdrawals of groundwater, as well as land-use changes, and other factors have contributed to significant environmental degradation in Pasco County. Many of the county's natural aquatic features were impacted as lakes and wetlands in and around regional wellfields dried and lost their ecological function. The continuation of wellfield activities, to satisfy regional demand for water, makes recovery of those water bodies unlikely without a mitigation strategy. Pasco County Utilities and the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners have a plan, and the will, to recover and enhance the water resources of our community.

**General Scope:** The objective of the project is to deliver highly treated reclaimed water to the area between the two most productive regional wellfields, the Cypress Creek Wellfield and the Cross Bar Wellfields, located on north-central Pasco County. The county solicited local landowners to embark on a public-private partnership to rehydrate those impacted water bodies. The Phillips family, owners of the 4G Ranch, witnessed firsthand the severe dehydration of natural systems in the area. Many of the lakes and wetlands on their property disappeared. They expressed interest in the project and we quickly began exploring the feasibility of the site to host a project to rehydrate the site with up to 5 million gallons of water daily. Early feasibility studies suggest that 5 million gallons daily will create enough lift in the surficial aquifer to support the recovery of the aquatic systems in the area.

We've conducted site-specific analysis on the 4G Ranch and have determined that the site exhibits geologic characteristics that make the site an ideal location for the project. We're working closely with the landowners and the project team to identify specific parameters and details as we commence design of the system.

We expect that this public-private partnership will glean significant cost savings and incredible value for all parties. The property owners have agreed in principal to not only make the land available, but to construct the project as well. The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) has realized the importance of this project and has decided to cooperatively fund the work. In fact, the SWFWMD gave it a ranking of *High* through the Cooperative Funding Initiative program. We're currently estimating the cost of the project to be approximately \$13.5 million. We are asking for \$1.7 million for Construction.

The County and the Water Management District would equally share that cost. This collaborative effort, along with other restoration projects, are expected to be a significant component of the North Tampa Bay watershed recovery effort and bolster the recovery of the water resources of Pasco County.

### Contact Information

Jeff Harris - Project Manager - Environmental Biologist  
Pasco County Utilities - 727-847-8145 [jharris@pascocountyfl.net](mailto:jharris@pascocountyfl.net)

## Attachment B

# Crews Lake Natural System Enhancement

**Summary:** Crews Lake was a pristine 700-acre lake enjoyed by the citizens of the county and visitors alike for its excellent fishing and birding opportunities. So much so that the County established the 113-acre Crews Lake Wilderness Park along its shoreline that featured a fishing pier, canoe launch and boat ramp. Unfortunately, decades of permitted groundwater withdrawals, along with a series of other contributory factors, led to the nearly complete dehydration of the lake.

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) acknowledged the problem as far back as 1984, when they adopted management levels for the lake. In 1992, Crews Lake made its first appearance on the regional "Stressed Lake" list; and remains on the list to this day and has been identified as a feature that exhibits *unacceptable adverse impacts* and that is not expected to recover without a mitigation strategy. Continued recognition of the problem prompted the District to develop proposed minimum and guidance levels for the lake in 2006. Although recent rainfall has temporarily raised the lake's water level, it is a short term phenomenon not expected to be maintained for long.

**General  
Scope:**

Pasco County Utilities has a plan-of-action to more-permanently restore lake levels. Unprecedented rainfall has helped the lake's water levels this year, but these current lake levels are expected to recede quickly to levels that we've been accustomed to seeing in the lake for the last 20 to 30 years. We intend to deliver highly-treated reclaimed water northward through a 24" ductile iron pipe along the west shoreline of the lake for approximately 2 miles to 200 acres of county-owned, hydrologically dilapidated wetlands. The delivery of 2-3 million gallons of water daily is expected to revitalize that system and recover the ecological value that was lost when the area dried out. Those recovered wetlands will biologically cleanse the water before the water spills over a control weir to the north basin of Crews Lake. Successful implementation of the plan would improve the environmental health of the lake and surrounding wetlands. It would restore and improve wildlife habitat and increase wildlife abundance. It will enhance the adjacent lands already in conservation status through the Environmental Lands Acquisition and Management Program initiative. It would help Pasco County Utilities manage its reclaimed water supply and maximize the benefit derived from a resource that is too often mismanaged. Finally, it would promote community pride, and benefit the local economy.

Since we'll be constructing the project on publicly-owned property, we'll avoid costly land acquisition. We estimate the total cost of the project to be roughly \$8 million to complete with the Water Management District expected to partner in half of the total of the \$6.8 million for construction. We are asking for \$1.2 million for Construction.

What does it all mean? It means that recovery of the lake will help repair impacts of the past, promote better stewardship of Crews Lake in the future, and offer lasting benefits to area residents, the environment and the County.

We have evaluated the feasibility to restoring lake levels. We have determined a technical strategy and acceptable permitting pathways to accomplish that goal. We have vetted the concept with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Recovery of the lake is a win-win. It benefits several County departments, it aligns with the Water Management District's core mission and it's good for the community. It's simply the right thing to do.

### Contact Information

Jeff Harris - Project Manager - Environmental Biologist

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Figure 1 Dry lake bed.



Figure 2 End of pier, small water pond remains.



Figure 3 Water Table Level

## Attachment C

# Timber Oaks

The Timber Oaks area has experienced flooding for many years. Formerly a golf course in the center of the subdivision contained pumps that could be used to distribute water among various ponds on the course. While helpful in small storm events it could not handle moderate to large events which resulted in extensive flooding in the subdivision. While few homes flooded, some of the access roads flooded to depths making travel impossible thus isolating many residents. The residents have taken it upon themselves to install a small pump system that moves excess water to an active sinkhole off the property. Again, while helpful is it inadequate and potentially causes water quality issues in the aquifer due to the introduction of untreated stormwater runoff.

Approximately 10 years ago the County conducted a study of the potential benefit from excavating the golf course for stormwater storage. This project did not go forward due to lack of funding and the fact that the golf course was still operating. Several years ago the golf course became insolvent and ceased operations. The residents have agreed to assist in funding the acquisition of the course and the design and construction of a regional stormwater system on the course. The estimated total cost of the project is \$10,000,000.00 and financial support is needed to reduce the financial burden to the residents. \$3,300,000.00 funding is requested for construction.



## Attachment D

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

BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS                      RESOLUTION NO. CAO

RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA, URGING THE FLORIDA STATE LEGISLATURE TO UPHOLD THE CURRENT FLORIDA STATUTE PROVIDING FOR PAYMENT OF EXPENSES CAUSED BY THE INTERFERENCE OF UTILITY FACILITIES WITH TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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WHEREAS, local government relies heavily on its statutorily-authorized police powers to best serve the interests of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, one of the essential functions of local government is to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens, particularly in the area of physical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, local government can and must address the critical needs of its citizens by providing safe roadways and transportation corridors for pedestrians and vehicles; and

WHEREAS, under Florida common law, established over 100 years ago, and under statutory law particularly Section 337.403, Florida Statutes, Florida counties have utilized their authority to conduct local transportation projects and to require electric and other utilities to relocate utility equipment when necessary for the completion of such projects and to require utilities to pay for such relocations; and

WHEREAS, recent Florida case law directly on the issue of local government's exercise of its authority under Section 337.403, Florida Statutes, upheld that authority and resulted in a judgment in favor of local government and against a utility's distinctions based on equipment locations within right of way and public utility easements; and

WHEREAS, HB391 and SB 896, currently before the State Legislature, would dramatically and negatively affect local government's ability to fulfill its obligations to its citizens in the area of transportation projects by transferring the costs of utility relocations to local government and its constituent taxpayers, thereby further burdening local government and its taxpayers with heretofore non-existent costs; and

WHEREAS, in particular, HB 391 and SB 896 would prevent local government from requiring utilities to pay the costs of relocation unless the utilities are in a "right-of-way" as opposed to the current common sense requirement for utility relocations occurring "upon, over, under, or along" a roadway; and

WHEREAS, additionally, HB 391 and SB 896 would require local government, and not the utility, to bear the cost of relocating a utility's equipment if such equipment is located within a utility easement, regardless of the private or public nature of the easement; and

WHEREAS, additionally, HB 391 and SB 896 contains language placing the burden for

payment of utility relocation on entities other than the state and local governments (private developers) when these entities are working on public improvement projects requiring utility relocation, even in circumstances when the private developer is constructing a collector or arterial roadway for the state or local government, and even if the state or local government is reimbursing the private developer for the construction costs. The result of the addition of said language could serve to discourage public-private partnerships between local governments and developers to construct needed roadway facilities and impede the economic development that results from these public-private partnerships; and

WHEREAS, the expense of relocating a utility's equipment in the public easement / right of way will greatly increase the costs of completing transportation projects at a time when local governments continue to struggle with funding for such projects; and

WHEREAS, local transportation projects often are the catalyst for economic development and the result of growth within a community, which benefit the utility in terms of expanded customer base.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That Pasco County does hereby encourage the Florida State Legislature to preserve Florida common law by rejecting HB 391 and SB 896 and any further attempts to limit local government's ability to serve its citizens.

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

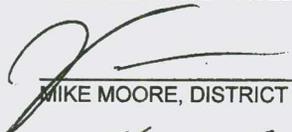
DONE AND RESOLVED with a quorum present and voting this 8 day of April, 2015.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA

  
PAULA S. O'NEIL, Ph.D.  
CLERK and COMPTROLLER

  
THEODORE J. SCHRADER, CHAIRMAN

  
MIKE MOORE, DISTRICT 2

  
KATHRYN STARKEY, VICE CHAIRMAN

  
MIKE WELLS, DISTRICT 4

  
JACK MARIANO, DISTRICT 5

APPROVED  
IN SESSION

APR 08 2015  
PASCO COUNTY  
BCC

Attachment F

~~HB 901~~

~~2015~~

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to Pasco County; repealing chapter 99-  
3           166, Laws of Florida, relating to sewage treatment  
4           facility discharges into coastal waters within the  
5           county or waters tributary thereto; providing an  
6           effective date.

7

8   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

9

10           Section 1. Chapter 99-166, Laws of Florida, is repealed.

11           Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Attachment G

BILL

ORIGINAL

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to Pasco County; dissolving the  
Highlands Road and Bridge District; providing for  
disposition of any assets and liabilities of the  
dissolved district; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. The Highlands Road and Bridge District is  
hereby dissolved.

Section 2. All property owned by the Highlands Road and  
Bridge District as of the effective date of this act shall be  
transferred to the Board of County Commissioners of Pasco  
County, Florida.

Section 3. All liabilities owed by the Highlands Road and  
Bridge District as of the effective date of this act shall be  
assumed by the Board of County Commissioners of Pasco County,  
Florida.

Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming law.