

**SEMINOLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
AGENDA MEMORANDUM****SUBJECT:** Legislative Program**DEPARTMENT:** County Manager Office**DIVISION:****AUTHORIZED BY:****CONTACT:** Lisa Spriggs / Susan Dietrich**EXT:** 7172**MOTION/RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff is seeking Board approval on federal funding requests for the federal fiscal year 2008.

County-wide

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**BACKGROUND:**

Staff is seeking Board direction on the federal legislative priorities to guide the County's lobbying activities for the federal fiscal year 2008. Attached is a draft of suggested federal funding requests and top legislative priorities. Staff, in consultation with our lobbyist is recommending the same four projects that were pursued for funding in the previous year.

Upon approval of the listing by the Board a federal funding request letters will be executed to our congressional delegation, which includes Representatives Mica, Feeney and Brown, and Senators Martinez and Nelson. In addition our lobbyist will complete any required appropriations forms for both House Members and Senators.

***Federal Funding Requests***

Pedestrian Overpass (Howell Branch Road & SR 426) - \$3,500,000

Cross Fl Greenways Trail – Seminole County/Winter Springs - \$2,000,000

State Road 46 – Regional Evacuation Route (SR 415 to US 1) - \$3,500,000

Jetta Point Park- \$1,000,000

Computer Aided Dispatch System - \$1,250,000

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. 2008 Federal Funding Requests

<b>Additionally Reviewed By:</b> No additional reviews
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**Seminole County Government**  
**Federal - Funding Requests**

**A. Pedestrian Overpass (Howell Branch Road & SR 426)**

**Request - \$3.5 million** toward the construction of a pedestrian overpass at the intersection of Howell Branch Road and State Road 426. The project serves as a regional trail/pedestrian link between Seminole and Orange Counties. It was approved by the Metro Plan Orlando Board in 2004 as part of the Long Range Plan 2025.

The County completed the south link of the Cross Seminole Trail, which terminates at the Orange County Line. Orange County will be tying into this section of the trail which will provide a connection to the downtown Orlando Area. The trail serves both recreational and commuter users. In Seminole County it intersects with SR 426 and Howell Branch Road. Approximately 50,000 cars a day pass through this intersection. The pedestrian overpass will enhance the safety at this intersection. **The total cost of the project is \$7.0 million for design, right-of-way and construction.** Neither the County nor the State has funds at this time.

**B. Cross FI Greenways Trail–Seminole County/Winter Springs**

**Request - \$2.0 million** to develop the Cross Florida Greenways Trail in Seminole County/Winter Springs. The Cross Florida Greenways Trail is part of a planned connection to Orange County and a regional trail system connection to the Seminole County trail system and eventually part of the Florida National Scenic Trail System. The section of the trail in which the County is seeking funds is in Winter Springs between Layer Elementary School and Old Sanford/Oviedo Road. The project was approved by the Metro Plan Orlando Board in 2004 as part of the Long Range Plan 2025.

The County and City of Winter Springs are working with a property owner in this area to develop another alternative that may only cost \$1.5 million to construct.

The trail serves work, recreational and school access purposes. It also is a “missing link” for a multi-county trail and; therefore, is significant in terms of need and importance. **The total cost of the project is \$3.5 million.**

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**C. State Road 46 – Regional Evacuation Route (SR 415 to US 1)**

**Request - \$3.5 million** to develop State Road 46 from SR 415 to US Highway 1. The funds sought would cover a portion of the project development and environment phase of this project (estimated at a **total cost of \$8.0 million**), which expands State Road 46 to 4-lanes from SR 415 to US Highway 1 in Brevard County. Widening State Road 46 would significantly improve travel on a regional basis and provide an upgraded hurricane evacuation route. The total cost of the project is \$120.0 million. The project in Seminole County was approved and adopted by the Metro Plan Orlando Board in 2004 as part of the Long Range Plan 2025.

The County expects the funds to be provided by the Florida Department of Transportation which would be the agency to implement the project since it is a State roadway and serves traffic on a regional basis. As an evacuation route, it directly serves Orange, Seminole, Volusia and Brevard Counties. Indirectly, it would serve as a primary or secondary route for other coastal Counties along the east coast of Florida.

**D. Jetta Point Park**

**Request \$1.0 million** toward the development of Jetta Point Park. This is a 43-acre site with parcels purchased by Seminole County in 2002 and 2005 which borders the Seminole Expressway/Greenway to the east, SR 434 to the north and the Cross Seminole Trail to the south. The property is adjacent to a trailhead with a 40 space parking lot and restroom that leads to Seminole County's Cross Seminole Trail which opened in 1998. The property is in the planning stage of development as a park. Economic impact is largely related to tourism, though the project may encourage further development in the area.

Planned facilities include:

- 4 Lighted Multipurpose Athletic Fields
- 4 Lighted Softball Fields
- Destination Playground & Tot Lot
- Pavilions and Restrooms
- Boardwalk

In addition to these facilities, the park will also include several connections to the Cross Seminole Trail and an equestrian facility. The park is also located adjacent to various multimodal transportation facilities so that residents may

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**D. Jetta Point Park – continued**

access the park as cyclists, pedestrians, or drivers as appropriate to their recreation activities (softball, soccer, cycling, hiking, etc.).

**The total cost of the project is estimated at \$9.9M.** The County has been awarded state grant funding of \$200,000 to support the project.

**E. Computer Aided Dispatch System**

**Request \$1.25 Million** to fund a portion of the replacement of the County's Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System in support of first response for fire rescue and emergency management services. **The total cost of the replacement is estimated at \$2.5 Million.** The County utilizes the current CAD system to provide the Public Safety Emergency Communications Center with an automated process to dispatch resources to fire/rescue emergencies in unincorporated Seminole County, all municipalities and the airport property. The CAD receives pertinent location information from the 911 phone data or caller and recommends the appropriate resource response to the emergency. The CAD has provided a fundamental adequacy in its performance, but the system is aging and has not met the integral needs of a system as complex as Seminole County.

The vision is to replace the current CAD system with a product that is compatible with the Seminole County Sheriff's Office CAD, will have a life span of approximately 10 years and will continue to serve all fire jurisdictions in Seminole County. The new CAD will be a resource, more than a dispatch tool. It will be a conduit from other sources to provide a wealth of information to all first responders regardless of geo-political boundary. With this vision in mind the new CAD will provide instantaneous data to the responders and be able to share data with other responding agencies.

The current CAD system does not fully interface with other applications. With jurisdictional issues and the changing demographics of our community, a CAD programmed with current technology will be both efficient and technically sound, demanding accuracy in dispatching to improve emergency response times. Public Safety operates with one CAD to dispatch fire/rescue responses to all Seminole County and municipal addresses. The Sheriff's Office also provides emergency communications services for the County and all local municipalities, culminating with 100% participation.

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**E. Computer Aided Dispatch System - continued**

It is imperative to maintain a CAD system with the ability to interface with the Sheriff's Office. Since the event of 9/11, interoperability has been identified as a leading focus to bring communication centers together to improve system efficiency. Barriers are eliminated if both CAD's communicate effortlessly. Public Safety maintains information such as hazardous materials and occupancy, whereas the Sheriff's Office may maintain law enforcement information on the same address, currently this is not shared. With the ease of data transmissions, this information can be shared. The goal is, "When you access an address you will know everything the County knows about it." The CAD's will share information for a common and efficient response.