

Alligator Creek Pedestrian Bridge Update



CHARLOTTE COUNTY
FLORIDA

Alligator Creek Pedestrian Bridge

- In 2021, the City of Punta Gorda applied for a Transportation Alternatives grant for a bicycle/pedestrian bridge on US41 over the south fork of Alligator Creek
- The money is budgeted for design in FY25



Background

- The City decided to not move forward with the project due to it being just outside of City limits
- MPO asked the County to take the lead on the project



Background

- The County stated that the project was not listed as a priority and has no funding for the project
- It was discussed that the grant is a fully funded grant with no match requirements
- The County agreed to move forward with the project, however, it was stated again that if any additional funds were required, the project would have to be pulled

Additional Information

- The funding for the project (design) includes Federal dollars
 - Federal funding requires much more stringent requirements that also come at a higher cost

Additional Information

- There is a provision in the proposed agreement that states:
 - The recipient agrees to bear all expenses in excess of the total cost of the Project and any deficits incurred in connection with the completion of the project.
 - Staff thinks the budget for design is a good estimate; however, has concerns with this language as there is no funding budgeted if the cost comes in higher.

Additional Information

- There is a provision in the proposed agreement that states:
 - If the Recipient constructs any improvement on Department right-of-way, the Recipient shall maintain the improvements.
 - Staff does not anticipate that the maintenance on the bridge will be significant for several years; however, it is a high-priced structure where the maintenance long term could be significant.

Additional Information

- There is currently no grant funding available for construction or CEI services
 - Staff can continue to apply for additional funds for construction and CEI services in future years; however, it is not guaranteed
 - There is nothing in the proposed agreement that holds us to construction if future grants are not available

Additional Information

- Due to the funding being used, FDOT states they cannot fully execute the agreement until the letting month
 - November has been chosen as the letting month
- Once the contract is fully executed, staff has 30 days to advertise the project to be in compliance with the agreement
- Unless staff starts the procurement process prior to having the fully executed document, timing could be an issue.
 - FDOT must review and approve the full RFP document prior to advertisement

Options

1. Start the procurement process prior to the execution of the agreement with the risk of not having the funds secured.
2. Wait until the fully executed agreement is in place before starting the procurement process, knowing that timing may be an issue to get it advertised in 30 days.
3. Do not move forward with the project and the execution of the grant agreement.

A stylized graphic featuring a yellow sun with pointed rays on the left and two large, light green leaves on the right. A light blue curved shape is positioned at the bottom, resembling a wave or a path. The word "Questions?" is centered over this graphic in a blue, sans-serif font.

Questions?



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