



April 28, 2026

The Honorable J.Alex Kelly, Secretary  
Florida Department of Commerce (FloridaCommerce)  
107 East Madison Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Reference: Community Planning and Technical Assistance Grants,  
State Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Dear Secretary J. Alex Kelly:

Charlotte County values inter-governmental cooperation and efficient use of resources to address community needs. We have a long term relationship with the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council ("SWFRPC") and have been involved with the Burnt Store Corridor Coalition since its inception six years ago.

The Burnt Store Corridor is a 20 mile stretch of roadway that connects south Charlotte County to north Lee County. The distance is shared nearly equally by each County and includes the municipalities of Punta Gorda and Cape Coral.

We are aware of challenges and concerns over the exploding development along this stretch of highway and the absence of an interjurisdictional plan for balancing the needs of long time residents who own properties in the more rural areas of the corridor with expectations of residents owning properties in newly developed communities and subdivisions. The proposed goals of this grant are consistent with the County's long term vision for this area, which include the following:

- 1) Ensure the integrity of this 20-mile corridor to handle natural disaster evacuations of residents living in unincorporated Lee and Charlotte Counties and within the city limits of Punta Gorda and Cape Coral.
- 2) Manage road safety concerns, including traffic congestion, speed, access from feeder roads, and consideration of wildlife preservation.
- 3) Provide access prior to, during, and after natural disasters to needed medical services, as well as fuel, water, food, and other necessities.

#### **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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- 4) Establish protocols to ensure the viability of existing and future watersheds that impact drainage and reduce the instances of flooding.

We understand that as a result of the State's investment in this project, interlocal agreements will be modified and created to facilitate cross-jurisdictional concurrence on mutually agreed upon guidelines to manage roadway improvements, drainage, commercial development, and safety. This may include conformity with respect to ingress and egress from feeder roads and neighborhood commercial areas, agreement on methods and placement of traffic calming strategies, and pursuit of funding opportunities to support the common good of the corridor.

The Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners concurs with the intent of this submission and will encourage engagement by key staff with the project. The SWFRPC with its BSCC partner can be assured of our willingness to cooperate and coordinate on this important regional effort.

We hope this application is looked on favorably by the State.

Sincerely,

Joseph Tiseo, Chairman  
Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners