

July 14, 2022  
Infrastructure Surtax Advisory Committee  
Meeting

The regular meeting of the Okaloosa County Infrastructure Surtax Advisory Committee was called to order at 10:00 A.M. in the Okaloosa County Administration Building, Board Chambers. Members present were: Matthew Turpin, Chairman and District 4 representative; Hannah Wilbur, District 3 representative; Jim Foreman, District 1 representative; and Brig. General (Retired) Robert Buhrow, District 2 representative. Also present were: John Hofstad, County Administrator, Craig Coffey, Deputy County Administrator; Jason Autrey, Public Works Director; Scott Bitterman, County Engineer; and J. D. Peacock, Clerk of Court, Carisse LeJeune, Surtax Project Manager; Patty Cook, Public Works Administrative Manager.

**Opening Remarks and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was opened by Chairman Turpin and John Hofstad stated that the meeting had been properly noticed in accordance with section 286.011, Florida Statutes on May 16, 2022.

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Foreman made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Hannah Wilbur. Approved unanimously 4-0.

It was announced that Greg Gaddis representing District 1 has resigned effective immediately. Commissioner Mixon has asked Larry Ward to serve on the committee and he is in the process of being vetted per County policy.

**Public Comments**

None.

**Presentations**

None.

**Project Updates**

A. Project Update List-

1. Work continues on all phases of the Southwest Crestview Bypass (ST000009). Significant progress has been made on Phase 5 and the East-West Connector with completion of all clearing and grubbing and the start of moving earth. Construction of the bridge foundations continue but at a slower pace due to difficult subsoil materials. Overall these phases are on schedule standing at 26.8% complete versus 19.8% utilization of contract time. The work on PJ Adams Segments 1-4 should complete in about 12-14 months.
2. The 6<sup>th</sup> Street Area Stormwater Improvements Project (ST000001) has progressed and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Change Order will soon be completed. In the north County, a second round of substantial placements of lime rock stabilization and chip seal treatment is anticipated for the Dirt Road Stabilization Project (ST000021) in FY 2022. As of June 20, 2022, the Old Bethel Sidewalk Project (ST000027) design was 60% complete with final design plans expected soon. An Invitation to Bid (ITB) for construction is currently being processed for advertisement. The Lake Lorraine Stormwater Project (ST000022) is moving forward. JNB Contracting was awarded the construction bid on June 21, 2022. A Notice to Proceed was issued for July 5, 2022 and the contractor has since mobilized on-site. Task Orders have been issued for both

limited Construction Phase Services and Construction, Engineering and Inspection (CEI).

3. In June 2022, Gov. DeSantis approved State Appropriations for three (3) County Surtax Projects; Overbrook Area Stormwater Improvements Project (ST000011), Hwy 2 Bridge and Roadway Improvements Project (ST000014), and College Boulevard Improvements (College Boulevard/Forest Road Multi-Use Pathway Project). The Highway 2 Bridge and Roadway Improvements Project (ST000014) ITB will be advertised once funds are released from the State. County staff is currently working with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) on the agreement.
4. The ITB for the Bob White Drive Project, which falls under the West 98 Area Stormwater Project (ST000025) has been submitted to Purchasing and has been advertised. Another stormwater project within the West 98 Area is coming on-line; County Pond 314, which will improve stormwater infrastructure for residential areas adjacent to US 98, west of the Hurlburt Interchange.
5. Staff has recently reviewed 90% plan submittals for both the Millside Road Dirt to Pave Project (ST000013) and the John King Road Project (ST000004), and is actively pursuing property acquisitions, easements and/or right of entry for numerous projects, including Beachview Drive Drainage (ST000002), John King Road Improvements (ST000004), Overbrook Stormwater Improvements (ST000011), Millside Roadway Improvements (ST000013), and West 98 Stormwater Improvements (ST000025) at both Al Hammett Road and Wynnehaven Beach Road. The Hurlburt Field 1<sup>st</sup> Special Ops Civil Engineer Squadron (1 SOCES) supported access to the Overbrook area to complete survey and soils testing. Once 30% plans have been received, staff will begin working with Eglin AFB for an easement for the project (this is a 12-month process).

Chairman Turpin asked if there were any concerns on any projects. Mr. Autrey stated as previously discussed P. J. Adams widening has had a hard time securing workers for the project and weather is coming into play at this time. Scott Bitterman said 6<sup>th</sup> Street running behind due to the infrastructure being old causing the breakage of pipes during the construction which is having to be replaced.

#### B. Legislative Appropriations

In this round of FY 2022 Legislative Appropriations, Governor Ron DeSantis used his veto authority to cut a record \$3.1 billion out of the budget approved by the Legislature in March. Six of the County's projects were approved and two were vetoed. Three of the six approved Legislative Appropriations projects are Surtax Projects:

- Overbrook Area Flooding - \$750,000
- County Road 2 Road Safety and Bridge Upgrades - \$3 million (we will be doing a match)
- Niceville Area Multi-Use Pathway - \$1.5 million (We will be doing a match)

Chairman Turpin asked if any Surtax dollars will be needed in addition to these funds. Mr. Autrey stated he anticipates the need to use Surtax dollars to assist for construction costs which are rising at 25% this year alone.

C. Annualized funding projection-

This document has been updated to show the additional Legislative Appropriations for 2022. This report is used to forecast proposed project timing and funding for the 10 year life of the Surtax.

Craig Coffey, said there was a couple of things he sees that need to be updated as “debt service” and not tied to a contract.

D. SW Crestview Bypass Funding Summary

Jason Autrey stated that we are moving right along. Hoping to have a new video soon, will just have to schedule with Nick Tomecek. Jason spoke with the contractor last week and he stated you will not believe what we have accomplished in the last month from the railroad tracks to Arena Road. Great progress, one concern is bridge progress to the driving of the piling. Jason explained the process of pile driving to the committee and how we are overcoming this obstacle.

**Agenda Items and Discussion**

A. Design, Traffic Study and Construction Funding for College Boulevard

The purpose of the project is to improve safety at intersections into and around the Northwest Florida State College and to enable a safe, two-way, multi-use path along College Boulevard and along Forest Road in the Niceville area. The path would provide connectivity between the Northwest Florida State College Campus and residential areas.

The intersection safety improvements and College Blvd/Forest Rd. Multi- Purpose Pathway have been identified in the Surtax Annualized Funding Projection under Transportation Capacity for College Boulevard Improvements. The estimated total cost from Surtax funding was originally \$3,700,000 beginning in year (6) 2024 through year (10) 2028. Okaloosa County will receive \$1,500,000 of State Legislative Appropriation funding to help pay for the Multi-Use Path. The total allocation required for this project is \$1,500,000 as a match for State funds.

Staff is requesting to move this project forward with an initial allocation of \$550,000 to be used for project Design, an area Traffic Study to include a potential traffic signal or roundabout at Cedar Street and College Boulevard, and administration. Project design and traffic study will run concurrently and provide a final construction cost estimate.

Administration	\$150,000.00	(entire project)
Design of Multi-Use Path (County Match)	\$150,000.00	
Traffic Study	\$ 50,000.00	
Design of intersection safety improvements	<u>\$ 200,000.00</u>	
	\$550,000.00	

This path will be 10’-12’ wide and used for joggers, pedestrians, and bicycles, not golf carts. Mr. Autrey said that the neighborhood is in support of this project as he has received correspondence from a Niceville Councilman and Commissioner Ponder supporting the project. There will not be additional funding from the City of Niceville as this is not entirely in their jurisdiction and College Blvd is entirely ours and some areas are on Federal land. The path will be located on the south side of the road.

Motion by Hannah Wilburn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Foreman, approved 4-0.

B. Allocate Funding for FY2023 Dirt Road Stabilization project

Chairman Turpin recused himself from this vote as he is sponsoring this item.

Based on its current success and momentum, staff is seeking a recommendation to continue the “Fifty-in-Five” Dirt Road Stabilization plan through the next Fiscal Year 2023 with funding in the amount of \$2,000,000.

In addition to staff’s request of \$2,000,000 for FY 2023, Infrastructure Surtax Advisory Committee Chairman Matt Turpin is sponsoring a request to consider an additional \$2,000,000 in surtax funding for a total of \$4,000,000 to complete 24 miles of dirt road stabilization in FY 2023.

Every million dollars we get 6-7 miles of paved road. Last year we were able to do 35 miles of road. Started the program with 200 miles and after 3 years we are down to 115 miles of dirt roads. We started with 8 grader leases we are down to 7 and hopefully next year we will be down to 5-6 that is a savings of \$150,000 per year per grader. We can do about 2 million dollars work in 6 months.

Jason explained that the value to this project is that: we can reduce grader cost, we are not getting as many citizen phone calls, if crews aren’t grading they can be doing other projects. This project is outsourced so we don’t lose momentum on other projects.

As originally agreed upon we will come back every year to make this ask. If the funds are not there we stop this project.

Motion to approve the allocation of FY23 funding in the total amount of \$2million to continue the “Fifty-in-Five” Dirt Road Stabilization plan and increase the amount by \$2million make the FY23 a total of \$4 million made by Brig General (Retired) Buhrow, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hannah Wilbur motion approved 3-0.

Office of Management and Budget

No report

Clerk of Court and Comptroller

We are in the business of protecting not investing the Surtax funds. Reserves- Actual is 61.441million, the EOY Prediction is 70 million.

County Administrator

John Hofstad stated that the County is in the middle of the Budget process and the County budget for FY23 is \$564 million. Perspective when he started as County Administrator in 2014 the annual budget was \$335 million.

Public Comments

None.

Schedule Next Meeting-

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 15th at 10am in the Okaloosa County Administration Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Training Room.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:56 A. M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Cook

Public Works Administrative Manager