



Okaloosa County Infrastructure Surtax Advisory Committee Project Updates

Date: May 15, 2024
To: Members of the Advisory Committee
From: Carisse LeJeune, Surtax Project Manager
Subject: Surtax Project Status Updates

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

Review of Project Status through April 30, 2024

BACKGROUND:

The following is a list of project updates. Staff is available to discuss questions on the project updates and reconciliation report spreadsheet.

ST000002 Beachview Drive Drainage Improvements

The project includes the design and construction of a stormwater system that will collect, convey, and treat stormwater from the areas of Eglin Parkway and Beachview Drive. Limited preliminary design was performed to identify possible locations for outfalls to Choctawhatchee Bay. However, none of the property owners were willing to grant an easement to County for the construction of an outfall to serve the area. The project will move back into preliminary design to identify the optimal location for an outfall. The design consultant has been tasked with exploring the potential of utilizing an acquired County parcel on the west side of the Eglin Pkwy bridge near Shalimar, across from Eglin Credit Union as a stormwater outfall.

ST000004 John King Road Widening

The project consists of widening the road by creating additional traffic and turn lanes, intersection improvements and stormwater improvements. The design is complete and the project is in the right-of-way acquisition phase. The County is in receipt of a Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) County Incentive Grant Program award agreement in the amount of \$1,114,856 for construction, and the Board of County Commissioners has approved the agreement and the 50/50 local match from Surtax dollars in the amount of \$1,114,856. Acquisition of necessary right-of-way is in progress.

ST000009 Southwest Crestview Bypass

Phase 5 and East-West Connector – The work on Phase 5 and East-West Connector stands at 58% of the contract budget expended vs. 73% of the contract time. The roadwork is ahead of schedule. The bridge construction is proceeding albeit at a slower pace than the roadwork. Nonetheless, the project is expected to end on time in early 2025. Forecast spending remains within budget.

PJ Adams Widening Phases 1-4 – The work is underway with approximately 96% of the time used and 89% of the contract budget expended. Roadway for Phases 1 and 2 (Hwy 85 to Ashley Drive) are open in both directions. All new lanes for Segment 3 and part of Segment 4 will be opened this month and the balance of Segment 4 open in June. Completion of punch list work and late added work will occur throughout the summer months.

PJ Adams at Hwy 85 Turn Lanes - This project is in the right-of-way acquisition phase funded by an FDOT TRIP grant and County TIF (Tax Increment Financing) revenue. Purchase agreements for the parcel acquisitions have been negotiated, approved by the BCC, and should close within about a

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month. Negotiations continue for a single temporary construction easement required to construct the project.

ST000010 Carmel & Beal Intersection Improvements

The Carmel Drive and Beal Parkway proposed improvements will enhance pedestrian and motorist safety. The preliminary design has been returned from Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) with recommendations. Engineering design work continues on the 60% - 90% phase of design. The County is in receipt of a FDOT County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP) award agreement in the amount of \$989,875 for construction, and the Board of County Commissioners has approved the agreement and the 50/50 local match from Surtax dollars in the amount of \$989,875.

ST000011 Overbrook Area Stormwater Improvements

Existing stormwater infrastructure in the Overbrook Subdivision but is woefully inadequate. Moderate rainfall events can cause street and yard flooding. In heavier rainfall events, many homes receive floodwater in their living spaces. The 100% design was completed, but a scope change will require additional design and funding. The scope of work has been expanded to incorporate repair of the existing earthen ditch and a detention pond to help control stormwater flow from two additional neighborhoods which also drain into Gap Creek watershed. A \$750K State appropriation from FDEP was approved for construction in FY 23/24, bringing the total amount of grant funding for the project to \$1M. The additional scope of work will be paid for with Surtax dollars. The County has received the Fair Market Value Report from Eglin AFB for the 25-year easement for construction and maintenance. Permitting in progress.

ST000012 Lloyd Street Stormwater Improvements

This project will include stormwater modeling, pipe inspection, design and construction of stormwater infrastructure in the drainage basin that includes Lloyd Street and Mayflower Avenue and outfalls to Cinco Bayou. RESTORE Act funds will pay for project design. Design is underway and once complete, staff will bring forward to the Surtax Committee a request for construction funding.

ST000013 Millside Road Paving

Millside Road is an unpaved connector between State Road 85 and CR Hwy 2 utilized by local residents, agricultural and silvicultural vehicles with potential for increase traffic volume. The project is 90% designed and staff is working through Right of Way acquisition. Okaloosa County has applied for FY 24-25 state appropriation funding of \$1.5M for construction. If awarded, staff will be bringing forward to the Surtax Committee a request for match funding.

ST000014 County Road 2 Widening and Resurfacing

This project will widen and resurface approximately 9.44 miles of CR Hwy 2 and upgrade two bridges with thrie-beam guardrails. The project is 100% designed and the construction contract was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on 07/18/2023. Construction has begun and work included repairs to the Yellow River (Mack Tyner) Bridge based on FDOT inspection report findings. Those bridge repairs are complete. State appropriation funding for construction in the amount of \$3M were approved and Surtax dollars are funding the required \$4M match.

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ST000015 Northwest Crestview Bypass

The high-level planning study that focuses on feasibility for a west bypass as a continuation of the Southwest Crestview Bypass project is complete. The Alternative Corridor Evaluation Report (ACER) has been received with recommendation of best alternate routing, and the final draft was presented to the Board of County Commissioners at their March 26, 2024 regular meeting where they approved the final corridor selection. County Staff was directed to bring an ordinance to the Board that creates a Crestview Bypass Overlay District that helps organize roadway corridors in the Crestview area, and to work with the City of Crestview to adopt a similar plan. Next steps include a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study, Design, Right-of-Way Acquisition, and Construction which is estimated to begin around the year 2036. Future phases for the project are not yet funded.

ST000018 Communications Services

The Sheriff Office is spearheading a state-of-the-art P25, Phase II, 800Mhz radio communication system. This countywide system has an underlying fully redundant and hardened infrastructure that is designed to maintain emergency communications in a variety of terrain/structures and throughout disaster conditions. The system will support over 30 different law enforcement, fire/rescue, EMS, and emergency response agencies, allowing them to full communicate with each other, their respective dispatchers and the County's 911 center, plus other county, state and federal agencies outside the county. The twelve-tower system is well into the construction phase and is expected to be operational for usage near the summer of 2024.

ST000021 Dirt Road Stabilization

The County maintains a significant number of north County and State Forestry Roads evenly spread between Districts 1 & 3. Staff has evaluated the efforts to maintain both paved surfaces and dirt surfaces and have found the cost to be approximately three times the cost per mile for dirt roads in comparison to traditionally paved roads. A total of \$13,452,000 of Surtax funding has been allocated to dirt road stabilization. Lime-rock stabilization has covered 116.10 miles of dirt roads, and 70.26 miles have been chip-sealed or asphalt stabilized, all using Surtax funding. Approximately 14 additional miles are anticipated to be to lime-rock stabilized by the end of FY24, providing a better driving surface for citizens and visitors and helping to prevent sediment from entering our creeks and streams.

ST000024 Santa Rosa Boulevard Improvements

The design of Santa Rosa Boulevard encompasses the western limits of the US Air Force property, extending east approximately two miles to the adjacent FDOT Brooks Bridge. The project includes roadway reconstruction, turn lane additions, multi-use path, bike lanes, pedestrian crossings, and landscaping improvements. The survey and data collection portion of the project is complete. Plans for 30% design is complete and 60% design plans are underway. Staff has had preliminary discussions with FPL for the potential of undergrounding the utilities along the Santa Rosa Boulevard corridor.

ST000025 West Highway 98 Stormwater Improvements

The West 98 Area Stormwater Improvements project consists of numerous scattered stormwater issues in several neighborhoods. Active projects are listed below:

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Al Hammett Road Stormwater Improvements – The project is 90% designed and the County is in the process to potentially acquire the final easement as the property owner is selling the property and the potential new owner has tentatively indicated being amenable to granting an easement. A task order has been Board approved to re-design the routing if needed.

Wynnehaven Beach Road Stormwater Upgrades – The existing stormwater system is not sufficient for collecting and discharging stormwater runoff in the area. Realigning the road will provide opportunity for stormwater retention to alleviate flooding. A conceptual drawing has been developed and the final design for the project is on hold until additional acquisition of ROW access can be secured. A FDOT TRIP grant application has been submitted to Florida Department of Transportation in the amount of \$1,900,000. This project will be coordinated with the widening of Highway 98 by the FDOT.

County Pond 314 – This project has the potential to improve stormwater issues reported in surrounding residential areas by fixing the conveyance of stormwater to a nearby retention pond, adding an additional pond, and connecting the two stormwater ponds. Design is 90% complete.

ST000028 Live Oak Church Road Intersection Improvements

Project improvements include bridge widening on Live Oak Church Road and additional turn lanes at the intersection of Highway 85. The bridge construction is complete and road construction has begun with an anticipated completion date by the end of 2024. This project is being funded by developer contribution, legislative appropriation, and County Surtax.

ST000029 Willow Bend/Greenacres Area Stormwater Improvements

The Willow Bend/Greenacres Area Stormwater Improvements project consists of numerous scattered stormwater issues in several neighborhoods:

Brittany Woods Ditch Repair – This project will include rehabilitation of approximately 4,000 linear feet of stormwater drainage infrastructure which runs parallel with Green Acres Road, between Beal Pkwy and MLK Blvd. in Fort Walton Beach. The project is at 100% design and has been submitted for final review. Development of the Invitation to Bid (ITB) is in progress and obtaining necessary easements are continuing. Surtax money will be requested for allocation once bids are received.

Willow Grove Lane Stormwater Improvements – This project will provide installation of a concrete lined ditch to mitigate stormwater flooding conditions in the cul-de-sac at the end of Willow Grove Lane. The existing primary drainage ditch will need to be extended to the north to accept the new drain outfall from Willow Grove Lane. A task order has been issued for survey and design. The survey will help support a request to Eglin AFB for right-of-entry to the ditch extension (all of the drainage ditch is on Eglin property).

ST000030 College Blvd/Forest Road Multi-Use Path and Safety Improvements

This project is to improve safety at intersections into and around the Northwest Florida State College and to construct a safe, two-way, multi-use path along College Boulevard and Forest Road in the Niceville area. A traffic study along College Blvd from Cedar Street to Partin Dr. (Hwy 285) has been completed. Preliminary design of the multi-use sidewalk along College Blvd. and down Forest Rd. is complete. 60% - 100% design plans are underway. The sidewalk along College Blvd. is within the buffer zone of Eglin AFB and the County continues to work with Eglin to acquire necessary easements. Okaloosa County has received a State appropriation grant through FDOT for \$1.5M for construction and

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a \$1.5M match in Surtax funding has been approved. The County received a time extension for the grant with a new project completion date estimated for 12/21/2025.

ST000031 Echo Circle Stormwater Improvements

This project is to alleviate flooding in the Echo Circle neighborhood and surrounding area. The County has recently purchased property in the project area that is contiguous with several other County owned properties with the intent to develop a wetland/stormwater park that doubles as a stormwater pond during heavy rainstorms. A consultant has been engaged for Design Services and the intent is to request RESTORE grant funding for design and task the consultant to research additional grant opportunities for construction to leverage Surtax funding.

ST000032 CR 393 Phase-3 Reconstruction

CR 393 Phase 3 Reconstruction project requires mitigation of the cracking of the road surface. The cracking allows water to penetrate and saturate the base of the road, creating base failures. Preliminary engineering design is underway to determine the extent of the current damage and if other mitigation efforts are needed in addition to mill and overlay, and to include studying the appropriateness of posted speed limits and evaluating curves and no-passing zones. The intent is to outsource construction.

ST000033 Old River Road Improvements

Old River Road Roadway Improvements requires road and ditch stabilization and replacement. The project will include asphalt stabilizing the road base, replacing the wooden bridge over Polly Creek, and stabilizing the ditches with concrete and rip rap. This will result in improved driving surface, cleaner stormwater runoff, and replacement of an obsolete wooden bridge. No engineering design is anticipated for this project, which will be done in-house by the Public Works department. Surtax funding in the amount of \$1,000,000 has been approved for this project and work is anticipated to begin by the end of summer 2024.

ST000034 OCSO Data Management System

The OCSO Data Management System will be designed to increase the overall operational efficiency and quality of service to the public by integrating Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD), Records Management Service (RMS), and Corrections Management Service (CMS), as well as the necessary interfaces to enable interoperability between criminal justice participants serving Okaloosa County. An amount of \$1,414,186.40 has been allocated from Surtax revenues for this project. The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office procured a contract for services and work is continuing. Okaloosa County Jail is still in the process of procuring a contract for services.

ST000035 Union Avenue Stormwater Improvements

The Union Avenue Stormwater Improvements project is a targeted effort to address stormwater flooding and mitigation along Union Avenue and Hasty Lane in Niceville by improving stormwater structures in the area to reduce flooding and erosion and improve water quality of surrounding bayou. A consultant has been engaged to develop a scope of work, and the intent is for Design to be paid by RESTORE grant funding. Request for allocation of Surtax funding for construction will come before the ISAC once 90% Design Plans are submitted.

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ST000036 West 98 Collector Transportation Improvements

The West 98 Collector Transportation Improvement project is for the development of a PD&E study that will assist in providing an environmental assessment for a collector road. The County is attempting to implement a collector road as a new system that will run parallel to SR 30 (US 98) to support and alleviate traffic off US 98. The proposed overall study consists of constructing an approximate 3-mile roadway that runs parallel to highway 98, west of Hurlburt Field and north of Florosa Elementary, and the Florosa Fire Station to alleviate traffic along US 98, minimize flooding, and enhance mission readiness of Hurlburt Field. An allocation of FY24 Surtax funding in the amount of \$1,000,000 was approved for a 50/50 FDOT grant local match in the amount of \$375,000 and an additional \$650,000 for preliminary design, design, and permitting. The consultant agreement for the PD&E study was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on May 7, 2024 and the initial scope of work is pending.

ST000037 EOC Technology Upgrades

This project is for the purchase and implementation of critical technological upgrades to the Sheriff Larry E. Gilbert Emergency Operations Center (Okaloosa County Emergency Operations Center), serving as the centralized all-hazards disaster response hub for Okaloosa County as well as the regional training hub for local, state, and federal partners. A Surtax funding allocation of \$650,000 was approved for this project. A vendor contract was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on April 18, 2024 and the vendor kick-off meeting was held on May 6, 2024. The project will begin June 3, 2024.

ST000038 Okaloosa Lane Realignment and Improvements

Okaloosa Lane is a collector road north of I-10 that parallels SR85 to the east, connecting E. Redstone Avenue to E. James Lee Blvd. (Hwy 90). Currently Okaloosa Lane terminates at the intersection with Chestnut Ave E. and later continues on again, off of Chestnut Ave E. To travel north on Okaloosa Lane from Redstone Avenue a harsh turn (greater than 90 degrees) is required at Chestnut Ave E. This configuration introduces safety issues as well as multiple stops at intersections. Shoal River Middle School and Elementary School are located at the intersection of E. Redstone Ave and Okaloosa Lane. In addition to the realignment of the road, two stormwater culverts just north of the railroad crossing on Okaloosa Lane needed rehabilitation to help stabilize that portion of Okaloosa Lane. The culverts are now complete and a consultant has been engaged to submit a scope of work for design. The ISAC recommended allocation of funding at their January 3, 2024 meeting. On January 16, 2024 the Board of County Commissioners approved an allocation of \$1,600,000 from Surtax Reserves for design, permitting, CEI, construction and necessary right-of-way, and for culvert rehabilitation, plus contingency.

ST000039 SR 85 Crestview Evening Relief

The SR 85 Crestview Evening Relief project will address the delay of northbound traffic on SR 85 at the intersection with Live Oak Church Road, and increase vehicle capacity on SR 85 into Crestview by adding a 3rd northbound through lane to SR85 from Live Oak Church Road to the Southwest Crestview Bypass currently under construction. The ISAC recommended allocation of \$2.5M from Surtax Reserves at their January 3, 2024 meeting, and the Board of County Commissioners approved the allocation on January 16, 2024 as the local match for a FDOT TRIP grant in the amount of \$1.6M. The allocated Surtax funding will cover right-of-way acquisition, design, and construction. The TRIP grant has been submitted and award of grant is pending.

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ST000040 Public Safety Driving Pad and Pole Barn

This project is for a driving pad located next to the OCSO Training Facility in Crestview. The driving pad will service the drive training needs for all County law enforcement, first responders, and Public Works. The paved area for the driving pad would be approximately 300' x 600' (4 acres) and a new 40' x 60' x 14' pole barn and concrete pad will provide training participants a shaded debrief area and allow for vehicle storage. The ISAC recommended allocation of Surtax funding in the amount of \$850,000 on January 3, 2024 and the allocation was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on January 16, 2024. The project will be done in-house by County staff, and is currently in design.

OPTIONS:

This is an informational item. No action is required by the committee

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an informational item. No action is required by the committee