

**William D. Beasley**  
County Manager

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March 3, 2023

The Honorable Daniel Webster  
2184 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Polk County FY24 Community Project Requests

Dear Representative Webster:

On behalf of Polk County, I respectfully request FY24 Community Project funding for the following priorities:

**FDC Grove Road/ North Ridge Trail Flyover**

**Purpose and Need:** To alleviate traffic congestion at the Interstate 4/US Highway 27 interchange, Polk County will construct a bridge flyover. This project will allow local traffic to bypass that interchange by moving local north/south traffic on a route parallel to US Highway 27. Moving local traffic to an alternative roadway creates more capacity on US Highway 27 for the movement of commerce through this area. This project is included in the Polk County Transportation Planning Organization's Long Range Transportation Plan and the Florida Department of Transportation US Highway 27 Mobility Study. The funding will finalize design and permitting for the project.

**Subcommittee:** Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD)  
**Account:** Local Transportation Priorities  
**Total Project Cost:** \$64,000,000  
**FY24 Request:** \$4,000,000

**Polk County Regional Public Safety Radio System Resiliency Project**

**Purpose and Need:** Polk County operates and maintains a Public Safety Radio System supporting critical radio communications for the Polk County Sheriff's Office, Polk County Fire Rescue, Municipal Police and Fire Departments, Polk County Public Schools, School Guardians and other State and Federal agencies. This radio system not only serves Polk County, but is the central hub allowing interoperability with Hardee, Highlands and DeSoto counties. This regional radio system averages over 1 million radio transmissions per month and supports over 100 agencies. This project will enhance resiliency and redundancy of the Public Safety Radio System. The project adds redundant radio system infrastructure, which helps to eliminate single points of failure. The budget includes purchase of hardware, installation, system integration, and testing. As one of the most rapidly growing communities in the United States, the

communications infrastructure serving critical public safety response must not be disrupted to ensure Public Safety calls for service are answered and ensure safety of Public Safety responders. The Public Safety Radio System has a single core which serves as the “brain” of the four-county system. The core allows wide area trunking and connects dispatch consoles in Emergency Communications Centers to the radio system. If the single core fails, dispatch consoles lose connection to the system requiring dispatchers to use backup radios with no advanced features they use every day. Also, if the single core fails first responders in the field lose advanced features and reduces interoperability between agencies in all four counties. Dynamic System Resilience ensures the radio system is seamlessly switched to a redundant core in case of primary core failure.

**Subcommittee:** Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies  
**Account:** COPS- Police Technology  
**Total Project Cost:** \$1,000,000  
**FY24 Request:** \$1,000,000

**Polk County (FL) Behavioral Health Improvement Project**

**Purpose and Need:** Polk County’s Behavioral Health Improvement Project will provide the structural framework and organizational support necessary to break down silos, enhance and align crisis calls, navigation, and response, build capacity, and remove barriers to increase access to services for high-need and high-risk populations. Polk County will contract with Polk Vision to onboard a project manager to deploy five core strategies and focus on prioritized needs that will address current and future behavioral health needs more efficiently. The five core strategies that will be implemented are:

- Expanding crisis services, mobile health care and centralized care coordination, focusing on prevention and early intervention;
- Organizing stakeholders to coordinate diverse activities designed to address area behavioral health initiatives;
- Expanding the capacity of behavioral health services;
- Expanding criminal justice system services to reduce jail recidivism and address the needs of highly acute inmates; and
- Engaging diverse community groups to improve community health and wellness and to support efforts to enact behavioral health initiatives.

More than 60 diverse sectors across Polk County, including engaged citizens, public, private and nonprofit organizations are aligned to move forward to restructure the behavioral health landscape in Polk County.

**Subcommittee:** Labor-Health and Human Services  
**Account:** SAMHSA  
**Total Project Cost:** \$2,400,000  
**FY24 Request:** \$1,400,000

Each of these projects has strong public support, is in advanced planning, has a federal nexus, and has the required nonfederal cost share in-hand. Growth in Polk County, which is near the highest in the state, has resulted in the need to plan for and improve a number of key services and infrastructure systems. Federal funding is necessary to continue to leverage state and local funding sources to maximize the delivery of vital projects. As in the past, the County will continue to contribute significant financial resources to match those funds provided by the federal government and public-private partnerships.

Thank you for your attention to these requests and for your continued leadership in Congress on issues of importance to the Polk County.

Sincerely,



William D. Beasley  
County Manager



March 20, 2023

The Honorable Daniel Webster  
United States Senate  
502 Hatt Senate Office Building  
Washington DC, 20510

**Re: FDC Grove Road/Northridge Trail Flyover Project**

Dear Senator Webster:

I write to you in my role as Executive Director for the Polk TPO to request that you support the above referenced project.

To alleviate traffic congestion at the Interstate 4/US Highway 17 interchange, Polk County will construct a bridge flyover. This project will allow local traffic to bypass that interchange by moving local north/south traffic on a route parallel to US Highway 27 for the movement of commerce through this area. This project is included in the Polk County Transportation Planning Organization's Long Range Transportation Plan and the Florida Department of Transportation US Highway 27 Mobility Study. The funding will go towards design, permitting, and some ROW acquisition for the project.

Thank you for your positive consideration of this funding request.

Parag Agrawal  
Executive Director