



June 13, 2022

The Honorable Marco Rubio
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

The Honorable Rick Scott
502 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

The Honorable Greg Steube
2457 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Rubio, Senator Scott, and Congressman Steube,

Thanks to the efforts of Representative Steube, the House of Representatives included \$20 million to widen Harborview Road in Charlotte County in a bill to extend surface transportation programs last year. While that bill and its Member Designated Projects did not become law, we write to alert you to our ongoing need for support for the project.

The Harborview Road project is a critical ongoing project that is unfortunately short of funding for full completion. The project, which is a critical evacuation route and is on the State Transportation Improvement Program and the Transportation Improvement Program, will widen Harborview Road in Charlotte County from two to four lanes between Melbourne Street, near U.S. Highway 41 (Tamiami Trail) and I-75, a distance of 2.3 miles.

Harborview Road is a key major east-west roadway that needs to become a four-lane divided roadway. This improvement is necessary to accommodate future travel demand generated by projected population and economic growth in Port Charlotte and Charlotte County. The project will improve an existing traffic bottleneck along Harborview Road, improve substandard roadway design elements, boost transportation network connectivity, increase operational conditions of the road, bolster the road as a freight distribution route, improve safety conditions, improve local water quality, and accommodate pedestrian and bicycle traffic along the corridor. Currently, Harborview Road is a two-lane undivided roadway classified as an urban minor arterial with 12-foot travel lanes, no paved shoulders, and an open drainage system with no pedestrian or bicycle facilities within the project limits.

A PD&E study for the Harborview project was completed in 2019 and the design phase is on-going. Due to funding limitations, the project has been divided to two segments: Segment I from Melbourne Street to Date Street and Segment II from Date Street to I-75. Segment I, a distance of 1.15 miles is fully funded for design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction. Segment II, a distance of 1.15 miles, is funded for design and right-of-way acquisition; however, the construction phase is not funded. The project received a categorical exclusion in October 2019 and is otherwise ready to construct.

The total project cost estimate for Segments I and II is \$66,147,564, including utility relocation and upgrades. To date, \$21,150,000 in local funding and \$23,974,564 in federal formula funding has been committed to the project, leaving a shortfall of \$21 million.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Thank you for your leadership and support of this project. We look forward to working with you on this important project for Charlotte County.

Sincerely,



William G. Truex, Chair
Charlotte County Board of
County Commissioners

WGT/cp/dw

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