

# Manatee Board of County Commission

## 2017 State Legislative Priority List

### I. Funding requests

Manatee County seeks state funding for a **\$2.8 million** project to construct stormwater and drainage improvements to alleviate flooding conditions in **Rubonia**, a 100-year-old neighborhood built before regulations governing roadways and drainage. Proposed improvements would add curbs, gutters and storm drain piping to alleviate routine flooding conditions throughout the community.

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Manatee County requests **\$246,319** from the Florida Division of Historic Resources to complete interior renovations of the historical **1914 Myakka Schoolhouse**. The Schoolhouse is ranked 34<sup>th</sup> on the Florida Historical Commission's list of 87 recommended Historic Preservation Grants. When complete, the 1914 Myakka Schoolhouse will become a local meeting space and museum exhibiting the story of Myakka's rural heritage and showcasing the importance of agriculture to Manatee County and Florida's west coast.

### II. Policy Priorities

**Opioid Funding:** Manatee County supports providing life-saving interventions, medically-assisted detoxification programs, and diversions from the criminal justice system for those suffering from opioid addiction. Manatee also supports efforts to stop international and interstate opioid trafficking and increased penalties for dealers and traffickers whose actions result in loss of life.

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**TDC use** – Manatee County requests legislation to allow our community to utilize a portion of the Tourist Development Tax for improved public safety services in the same manner as authorized in current law, s. 125.0104.

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**COPCN** – Manatee County SUPPORTS maintaining a countywide regulatory system for EMS through the current Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN) process.

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**Workers Comp** -- Manatee County requests the Florida Legislature to consider the impacts of any modifications to the workers' compensation system on local governments (in addition to the impacts on the private sector) and engage local government leaders in the decision making processes so that the voices of our constituents might be heard in the midst of the debate.

(FAC language) **Worker's Compensation** -- Manatee County SUPPORTS legislation that reforms existing worker's compensation laws that provide predictability and stability to the market respective rates.

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**Economic Development** -- Manatee County SUPPORTS measures that empower local governments and provide resources to work with community partners towards the creation of quality jobs, more vibrant Florida communities, as well as an enhanced level of national and global competitiveness. Florida's Qualified Targeted Industries (QTI) Program has been particularly effective in creating jobs and wealth for Manatee County. Since 2009, the QTI Program has helped more than a dozen companies expand or locate in our community. That investment has helped to create more than 1,000 jobs with a projected capital investment of over \$210 Million. The Quick Action Closing Fund has been utilized to bring two new companies (Feld, Air Products) and expand two more companies, resulting in high skill, high wage jobs in the manufacturing and headquarters sectors.

### III. Partner agency requests

- Manatee County supports the **Sarasota-Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization's** (MPO) funding request to replace the DeSoto Bridge. Expediting replacement of the bridge can facilitate improved north/south capacity on the U.S. 41 corridor. Manatee County also supports state funding for the MPO's Complete Streets Initiative to reconstruct 15<sup>th</sup> Street East/301 Boulevard from Tallevast Road to U.S. 41.
- Manatee County supports **Port Manatee's** legislative priority list, specifically Port Manatee's:
  - Support for the Fish & Wildlife Commission's development of new facilities at Apollo Beach to provide information, research and support for Manatee County's aquaculture industry, including hatchery facilities at Port Manatee;
  - Support for Department of Environmental Protection grant funding opportunities for storm water treatment facilities;
  - Request for funding requests by the Port Security Council for port security grants.
- Manatee County supports the **School District of Manatee County's** request for a state review of current requirements for End of Course (EOC) and Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) exams. The Legislature should carefully review the number, type (online versus paper and pencil) and scope of testing at all grade levels.
- Manatee County supports the **Manasota League of Cities'** request for legislation to repeal the state preemption of the regulation of short-term rental properties to allow local governments to regulate such properties to protect the health and welfare of residents, visitors and businesses. The League also SUPPORTS changes to existing State law relating to short-term rentals that permit grandfathered local governments to modify existing short-term rental regulations.