



# Manatee Board of County Commissioners

## 2025 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



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# MANATEE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



**Commissioner  
Carol Ann Felts  
District 1**



**Commissioner  
Amanda Ballard  
District 2**



**Commissioner  
Tal Siddique  
District 3**



**Commissioner  
Mike Rahn  
District 4**



**Commissioner  
Dr. Bob McCann  
District 5**



**Commissioner  
Jason Bearden  
District 6 - At Large**



**Commissioner  
George Kruse, Chair  
District 7 - At Large**

## CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

**Representative Vern Buchanan (District 16)**

**Senator Rick Scott**

**Senator Ashley Moody**

## MEMBERSHIPS IN LEGISLATIVE ALLIANCES

**Florida Association of Counties**

**National Association of Counties**

**Sarasota-Manatee Metropolitan  
Planning Association**

**Florida Department of Transportation**

**Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council**

**Florida Gulf Consortium**

**Manasota League of Cities**





## Bowlees and Pearce Drain Physical Map Revision

These watersheds were studied back in August 2017 when we had significant flooding from an unnamed storm. We now need to update the areas that were left with lesser or approximate methods to satisfy FEMA requirements. The updated studies will provide the public with a much more accurate picture of 100-year flooding in the watershed as the current study is over 30 years old. Manatee County is seeking Federal support to update floodplain studies for the Bowlees and Pearce Drain watersheds. These updates might also support continued eligibility for FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS), which helps reduce flood insurance costs for local residents.

### FUNDING REQUEST

■ **\$300 Thousand appropriation** in Fiscal Year 2026 to conduct necessary updates to map revisions.



## Obtaining Bathymetric and LiDAR to Update FEMA Flood Maps

Manatee County applied for a Brennan Grant but was denied this year due to it not being considered coastal enough. Hurricane Debby and subsequent water releases have highlighted areas of concern in the region and the need for updated mapping to reflect current conditions and hydrologic data, offering a more accurate understanding of flood risk. This information is essential for effective mitigation planning, public safety and long-term community resilience. Manatee County seeks federal support for updated floodplain mapping along the Manatee River to provide the public with a more accurate picture of flooding potential.

### FUNDING REQUEST

■ **\$1 Million appropriation** in Fiscal Year 2026 to obtain these systems to update the FEMA flood maps of the Manatee River.







## Veteran Connections Hub

Manatee County is seeking funding to construct the Veteran Connections Hub, a comprehensive resource center in Manatee County to support veterans and their families. Guided by principles of holistic support, community unity and veteran empowerment, the Hub will provide a wide range of services, such as career counseling, mental health support, entrepreneurial training and community engagement. This initiative is a step towards ensuring veterans have the tools and support they need to thrive, while honoring their service and commitment to our nation.

### FUNDING REQUEST

■ **\$2.8 Million appropriation** in Fiscal Year 2026 to construct the Veteran Connections Hub.



## Gateway Greenway Trails

Manatee County is seeking federal funding to support the planning, design, permitting and construction of the Gateway Greenway Trail. This multi-use trail will connect Lincoln Park in Palmetto to Parrish, utilizing County road rights-of-way, Florida Power & Light utility corridors and railroad right-of-way. In a HUD-designated area where approximately 1 in 3 residents lack access to a personal vehicle, the project will expand safe and efficient access to jobs, schools, service and other essential resources. This trail segment is a vital step in enhancing regional mobility and promoting accessible transportation options. Once completed, it will provide a dedicated, off-road connection between Lincoln Park and Ola Mae Sims Park, with direct access to Parrish Community High School, the State College of Florida (Parrish Campus) and the Florida Railroad Museum. The Gateway Greenway Trail reflects Manatee County's broader commitment to building strong communities, improving transportation infrastructure and supporting local economic development.

### FUNDING REQUEST

■ **\$2.9 Million appropriation** in Fiscal Year 2026 to complete planning, design, permitting and construction of Gateway Greenway Trail segments connecting Lincoln Park in Palmetto to Parrish.







## 51st Street Project

Manatee County is seeking federal funding to support the construction of at least two lanes of a future four-lane roadway extension of 51st Street West, from 53rd Avenue West to El Conquistador Parkway. This will include a minimum of two general-purpose lanes, street lighting and bicycle/pedestrian facilities to tie key corridors in order to enhance economic development and revitalization goals for the Southwest District of Manatee County.

### FUNDING REQUEST

■ **\$1.5 Million appropriation** in Fiscal Year 2026 for construction of \$15 million project on 15th Street East from 63rd Avenue East to 59th Avenue East.


### ***SUPPORT***

- Affordable housing initiatives
- Affordable childcare initiatives
- Broadband expansion initiatives
- Increased funding for Public Safety
- Economic development initiatives
- Filling gaps in funding for non-profit organizations
- Federal transportation funding legislation that includes formula fund allocations and reduces reliance on discretionary grant programs

### ***OPPOSE***

- Local government preemption
- Regulatory burdens
- Increased taxes and fees





Manatee County Government's mission is to provide efficient, effective and responsible government that is always mindful of our sensitive natural environment while achieving the Commission's vision for the County:

*A premier place in which  
to live, work & play.*

The Board's 2025 platform reflects the legislative priorities that will help Manatee County better achieve its mission and serve our residents and visitors.







# MANATEE COUNTY IN ACTION







# FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



MANATEE COUNTY  
Florida

1112 Manatee Avenue West  
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