

# **THE 2017 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

OF THE  
HENDRY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



ADOPTED BY THE  
**HENDRY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Emma Byrd- District 1  
Commissioner Darrell Harris-District 2  
Commissioner Mitchell Wills-District 3  
Commissioner Michael Swindle-District 4  
Commissioner Karson Turner- District 5

**THE HENDRY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION**

Senator Kathleen Passidomo, District 28  
Representative Byron Donalds, District 80

## Preface

The issues and comments reflected in the 2017 Legislative Program for Hendry County are intended to protect, promote and benefit programs and areas of funding that are important to providing services to the citizens of Hendry County.

The members of the Hendry County Board of County Commissioners acknowledge the outstanding support that our community has and continues to receive from the State of Florida. The Hendry County Board of County Commissioners is appreciative of all of the hard work the Hendry County Legislative Delegation performs in support of our community.

**MAJOR LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES** – Hendry County supports the Florida Association of Counties and the Small County Coalition’s Legislative Program and Guiding Principles. Below you will find our specific requests, more in depth background and data materials are provided on our website [priorities.hendryfla.net](http://priorities.hendryfla.net).

- **Wastewater Infrastructure on US27/SR80 - Phase II**

Phase I was funded in the 2015 Legislative session which is for the due diligence and design phase of this project. Phase I is currently underway by the County's engineering consultant Tetra Tech. The due diligence portion of the work will be completed at the end of November 2016 with a Due Diligence Report of the findings being produced. The design and permitting of the force main will commence in December 2016 and be finished by June 30, 2016. Phase II which is for the construction and construction engineering inspection services associated with this project is anticipated to cost **\$5,400,000**.
- **Fund Hendry County’s infrastructure and water quality project that will support the combined four (4) Counties: Lee, Charlotte, Glades & Hendry:**
  - **Four Corners Stormwater/Water Quality Project:** Hendry County requests funding to construct storm water improvements in the Four Corners Area (Lee/Charlotte/Glades/Hendry Counties) to the County Line Ditch in order to reduce flooding and to provide water quality. The proposed improvements to the County Line Ditch are shovel ready as they have already been designed and permitted. The estimated construction cost is **\$4,000,000**.
- **Provide Support for Key Projects.**
  - Security enhancements to the Harlem Library and Daycare Facilities - **\$600,000**.
  - Support for the Glades Regional Vocational Training Center
  - FDACS Grant Hendry County Fair and Livestock Show-Arena and Pavilion Upgrade - **\$1,200,000**.
  - FRDAP Grants for Hendry-LaBelle Regional Sports Park Complex (2) - **\$50,000** each.

### **Transportation – Local Roads and Bridges:**

- **Increase Funding for Small County Road Programs - Hendry County requests that funding for the Small County Road Programs be a priority of the Florida Legislature.**
- **County Road CR835**  
Fund the design, permitting, construction and construction engineering inspection services for CR835 from 21.6-miles south of US27 to 24.1-miles south of US27 (2.5 miles) is a farm to market road and rural collector. This road is in need of resurfacing due to cracking and some settlement and the drainage pipe ends need to be extend outside the clear zone. Improvements needed to this segment of CR835 are cold in place recycling or milling, installation of a geo-textile mat to prevent cracking, resurfacing, striping, signage upgrades, drainage improvements, and shoulder work. The estimated cost is **\$3,000,000.**
- **Hendry Isles Boulevard**  
Fund the design, permitting, construction and construction engineering inspection services for Hendry Isles Blvd from SR80 to Arcadia Avenue which is a farm to market road and the only point of ingress and egress for Pioneer Plantation. Required improvements consist of some milling and resurfacing along with some isolated base repairs and replacing culverts underneath the road way. The estimated cost is **\$900,000.**
- **Ft. Denaud Bridge**  
Fund the rehabilitation of the historic Ft. Denaud Swing Bridge. This bridge is one of two crossings over the Caloosahatchee River in Hendry County and serves as a vital commuter route for residents in both Hendry and Glades Counties. This bridge is heavily utilized by motorists when the State Road 29 Bridge (a bascule bridge) is down for repairs. Estimated cost is **\$1,000,000.**

### **Transportation – State Roads:**

- Fund the construction for the widening of SR29 from just south of Spencer Lane to Cowboy Way. Design and permitting is underway and the required right-of-way acquisition is funded in Fiscal Year 2015/16.

### **Public Transportation Enhancement**

- Transportation Grants for Rural Counties- remove language that creates three year restriction for grants in rural counties. Create same language as urban area grants allow.
- Increased funding resources for the Transportation Disadvantaged Programs
- Improve routes to schools, training centers, health care and employment centers by expanding the Good Wheels transportation program with additional buses and recurring funding for drivers, support staff and overhead expenses.
- **Support Rural Job Creation and Protection of Rural Economic Base:** Hendry County requests a clear rural job creation strategy within the state economic development job creation plan. This strategy should include -

- Legislative Flexibility and Regulatory Predictability.
  - Florida’s Heartland Economic Region of Opportunity Marketing Funding
  - Organizational realignment of resources in support of rural job creation.
  - Identify and support Emerging Market Opportunities in rural areas.
  - Protect Against Actions that impact local economic stability.
- **Rural Health Care:** Hendry County is aware of the important role that local health departments play in providing critical primary care services in rural areas. The current structure needs to be protected.
  - **Housing:** Increased funding for the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) program.

### **Rural Economic Development**

- Fund the Rural Infrastructure Fund at \$\_\_million to enable rural communities to invest in needed infrastructure projects to be more competitive in economic development strategies.
- Fund the Rural Area of Opportunities marketing plans
- **PILT:** Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) should be paid at the highest and best use of the land. The PILT should be required to be adjusted at the same rate that property values of surrounding property values. PILT should be part of legislation and funded in perpetuity and not a budget line item.
- **Revise the 2015 Amendments to Section 163.3245 Florida Statutes - Sector Plans**

In 2015 SB 1216 changed the process for Detailed Specific Area Plans (DSAP) to require them to be reviewed pursuant to the State Coordinated Review Process. This process includes the review and comments by all State reviewing agencies that cost more time and money for both the County and the Applicant. In addition the same reviewing agencies are the permitting agencies that the project would be required to obtain prior to development, basically creating a redundancy in the development review and permitting process.

Prior to this amendment a DSAP was approved by a local development order and sent to DEO to only determine if consistent with the Sector Plan’s Long Term Plan with no other State Agency having a role in this review. Essentially the amendment in 2015 usurps the legislative and policy making powers of counties to regulate and implement local land development controls. We ask for a carve out for fiscally constrained counties so Sector Planning may be used to encourage sound development and smart growth principles without state coordinated reviews for each DSAP.

## **HENDRY COUNTY CONTACT INFORMATION**

**For more information regarding the items with the Hendry County 2016 Legislative Priorities please find the available contacts below:**

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**FOR MORE IN DEPTH INFORMATION ON THE ABOVE PROJECTS, PLEASE VISIT OUR  
WEBSITE AT [PROIRITIES.HENDRYFLA.NET](http://PROIRITIES.HENDRYFLA.NET)**