

St. Lucie Inlet Management Plan

Category	Non-concurrency
Project Number	2026
Location	St. Lucie Inlet
District	Countywide
Project Limits	St. Lucie Inlet, flood shoals and county coastal beaches
Related Projects	
Lead Dept/Division	Public Works/Coastal Division



DESCRIPTION

This federal navigation project provides maintenance of the St. Lucie Inlet and associated infrastructure, along with state mandated sand bypassing to adjacent beaches in compliance with the 2016 St. Lucie Inlet Management Plan. Maintenance projects remove sand from the navigation channel, impoundment basin and interior shoals and provide for safe navigation through the Inlet. Cost for bypassing the required volumes to the adjacent eroding beaches, both north and south, is shown here.

BACKGROUND

In 1978 the County entered into a Project Cooperation Agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers regarding their responsibility to maintain the St. Lucie Inlet. Despite this agreement, federal funds allocated by Congress to the US Army Corps of Engineers for Inlet maintenance has become unpredictable. As a result, the County proactively developed a dedicated local funding source capable of fully funding the project in the absence of state and federal funds. Some level of continued federal participation is expected, and this federal designation qualifies the project for a higher ranking in the state's grant program. Funding from this state program is expected to cover up to 50% of local project costs, however this funding is not guaranteed. In 2016 the St. Lucie Inlet Management plan was revised along with changes to state statute and a subsequent update is expected. Under the new guidelines, sand bypassing to mitigate inlet induced erosion is required to address impacts both north and south of the inlet. Sand may be either pumped directly to the beach, or for the Town of Jupiter Island, may be transported to an temporary offshore holding area and moved to the beach under the Town's direction at a later date. All costs of bypassing are borne by the county. The County has also purchased and placed additional sand on the Town's beach to maintain compliance with the Inlet Management Plan. Future joint beach placement projects with the Town of Jupiter Island are scheduled at 5-7 year intervals and projects placing sand on beaches north of the inlet are planned on a 2-3 year cycle. Inlet maintenance projects are planned on a 3 year recurring cycle. Annual costs for permit required monitoring, data analysis and reports is \$810,000.

PROJECT ORIGINATION JUSTIFICATION

Strategic Planning

This project restores a county recreational facility. The St. Lucie Inlet Management Plan mandates the inlet maintenance and location of material placement. Safely navigating the St. Lucie Inlet is a top priority for boaters.

Expenditures	Total	To Date		Funded					Unfunded
				FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27-FY31
Design/Permitting	750,000			300,000	150,000	0	300,000	0	0
Construction	70,792,500			10,000,000	12,850,000	0	6,850,000	10,000,000	31,092,500
CEI	3,250,000			500,000	500,000	0	500,000		1,750,000
Monitoring	8,100,000			810,000	810,000	810,000	810,000	810,000	4,050,000
Expenditure Total	82,892,500	0		11,610,000	14,310,000	810,000	8,460,000	10,810,000	36,892,500

Revenues	Total	To Date	Carryover	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27-FY31
Ad Valorem	51,500,000		6,500,000	4,500,000	4,500,000	4,500,000	4,500,000	4,500,000	22,500,000
Tourist Development	6,000,000		1,000,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	2,500,000
Federal	9,500,000			0	2,500,000		2,000,000		5,000,000
Grants	14,242,500			5,805,000	405,000	405,000	405,000	5,000,000	2,222,500
Vessel Registration Fees	1,650,000		550,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	550,000
Revenue Total	82,892,500	0	8,050,000	10,915,000	8,015,000	5,515,000	7,515,000	10,110,000	32,772,500

Total Unfunded 0

OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT

Permit required monitoring.