

Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) Front Beach Road - Stormwater

A. General Information

Organization: Panama City Beach – Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA)
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B. Project Information

Project Name: Front Beach Road - Stormwater
Location: Panama City Beach – Front Beach Road, US 98 – 1.2 of 8 miles
State: FL County: Bay
Watershed/Basin: Choctawhatchee River and Bay Watershed – 03140101
Lat/Longitude: 30° 10.747'N Affected Seg - 2: 1.2 miles, 60 acres
85°48.690'W Affected future: 8 miles, 300 acres

C. Project Description

The Front Beach Road Stormwater project will capture and treat stormwater where there is currently no treatment. The existing roadway was constructed many years ago and does not have a means to collect the stormwater that falls onto the roadway. The Front Beach Road corridor parallels the Gulf of Mexico beach front and in many locations within the project limits, the stormwater that falls on the existing road outfalls directly to the Gulf dunes. The Front Beach Road Segment 2 Project will reconstruct the entire roadway to collect all stormwater that falls onto the road and sidewalk and direct it to two large stormwater treatment facilities where the water will be retained and treated effectively eliminating untreated stormwater outfall to the Gulf dunes and the Gulf of Mexico. This project will capture, attenuate and treat all stormwater for a 1.2 mile section of US 98 adjacent to the Gulf of Mexico. The CRA has completed 1.1 miles and is currently 50% complete on another 1.3 mile section. The existing direct outfall structures removed will also reduce pollutants and beach shoreline erosion. The stormwater ponds will also provide reuse-water for the landscape irrigation.

Additional project benefits include the provisions for undergrounding of all overhead utilities benefiting both birds and wildlife. All lighting will be turtle friendly. Kiosks placed on transit stops will include dune, bird, wildlife, shoreline, turtle and water quality educational information. Alternate efficient modes of travel such as 8' wide sidewalks, bike lanes and mass transit system will reduce the vehicular traffic along with added efficiency from the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) all to help reduce CO2 emissions. The main land acquisition will be for stormwater conveyance and stormwater ponds. Refer to attached plans for more details on the overall project.

The project has performed a PD&E study, reviewing agency comments are included below as support for the stormwater system design and construction documents:

- a. NMFS recommends best management practices be employed during construction and stormwater treatment system should prevent degraded water from reaching marine habits within the Gulf of Mexico; both of which are adhered to in the project.
- b. USFWS noted that the beaches along this stretch of coastline highway provide important nesting habitat for sea turtles and the waters adjacent to Panama City Beach have been designated as Unit 11- Florida Nearshore Gulf of Mexico Critical Habitat Unit for the threatened Gulf Sturgeon. Therefore the stormwater improvements are an important safeguard for the habitat that benefits both species.
- c. The proposed stormwater facility design will include, at a minimum, the water quality requirements for water quality impacts as required by the NFWFMD in Chapter 62-346 F.A.C. Therefore, no further water quality mitigation measures will be needed.
- d. The FDEP – State Clearinghouse has determined, through the AN process and a letter dated August 7, 2009, the proposed project is consistent with the Florida Coastal Zone Management Program (FCMP) as provided in 15 CFR 930.95.
- e. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission noted that the shoreline along Panama City Beach provides an important nesting habitat for loggerhead sea turtles and their hatchlings. In response, a commitment will be made to avoid and minimize harm to nesting sea turtles by utilizing turtle-friendly lighting as proposed in the Coastal Roadway Lighting Manual and in accordance with the Bay County Beachfront Lighting Ordinance 1138.
- f. In addition to providing stormwater treatment, exfiltration systems also reduce the volume of discharge from the project. These systems capture at least the first ½ inch of runoff as required by 32-346, FAC. This runoff will not be discharged to surface waters and percolates into the ground. As a result, the project will reduce the runoff volumes across the beach dune system. A preliminary evaluation showed that average annual runoff from Front Beach Road (SR 30/US 98A) ROW is reduced by approximately 40% with the proposed improvements.

D. Project Type(s)

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| ✓ Restoration | ✓ Protection |
| ✓ Debris Removal | ✓ Land Acquisition |
| ✓ Maintenance/Management | ✓ Education |

E. Project Habitat(s)

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ✓ Upland | Riverine |
| Marine/Estuarine Wetlands | Freshwater Wetlands |
| ✓ Beach/Dune | Subtidal (Nearshore/Offshore) |

F. Resource Benefit(s)

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ✓ Marine Mammals | Corals |
| ✓ Shellfish | ✓ Shoreline |
| ✓ Water Column | ✓ Fish |
| ✓ Birds | ✓ Vegetation |
| ✓ Terrestrial Wildlife | ✓ Human Use (Recreational, Cultural) |
| ✓ Sediment/Benthos | ✓ The project will directly benefit: |
| ✓ Reptiles/Amphibians | ✓ Sea Turtles and Dune Nesting Birds |

G. Project Status

Project/Resource Acquisition: Right of way and temporary easements have been identified, notifications have been sent to owners and parcels have been appraised.

Time to implement: Construction could start within 6 months of funding

Project Planning/Design: 99% Construction Documents are complete with DOT/FHWA departments review input.

Time to Project Completion: 24 month construction duration

The project is part of the Community Redevelopment Agency Plan, Panama City Beach Comprehensive Plan, Florida Department of Transportation Regional Plan, the Bay County Transportation Improvement Projects, the State Transportation Improvement Projects and the Bay County Transportation Planning Organization Long Range Transportation Plan, along with support from North West Florida Water Management District, Panama City Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau and Bay County.

H. Project Costs

Estimated Cost:	Segment 2: 1.2 Miles	Funding Available:	\$2,000,000 TIF 2011
	\$5,847,500 for SW.		\$2,000,000 TIF 2012
	\$23,390,000: Total S-2		\$2,000,000 TIF 2013
	All Segments 8 miles		\$2,000,000 TIF 2014
	\$29,199,906 for SW.		\$2,000,000 TIF 2015
	\$144,000,000 Total		