



City of Vero Beach

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**OFFICE OF THE
CITY MANAGER**

November 19, 2024

VIA EMAIL

John A. Titkanich, Jr., ICMA-CM
County Administrator
Indian River County
County Administration Office
1801 27th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960-3365
jtitkanich@indianriver.gov

RE: Humiston Boardwalk

Dear John:

On November 9, 2022, Hurricane Nicole made landfall as a Category One Hurricane south of Vero Beach. The storm caused beach erosion and damages to the Humiston Boardwalk which was last constructed as a concrete boardwalk over 50 years ago. The post-hurricane condition of the boardwalk was unsafe for public access and it was subsequently demolished.

The City engaged Coastal Technology Corporation to provide alternatives for replacement as provided below.

Alternative No.	Boardwalk Type	Facility Location	Estimated Cost
Alternative 1	Concrete Boardwalk	Face of Dune	\$1,991,059
Alternative 2	Wood Boardwalk	Back of Dune	\$1,594,008
Alternative 3	Concrete Sidewalk	Back of Dune	\$ 709,097

In addition to the boardwalk alternatives, we propose adding two pavilions (\pm \$40,000 each) and a new lifeguard tower (\pm \$150,000).

On June 11, 2024, the City Council selected Alternative 3, the concrete sidewalk option, because it was the most cost effective. A total project cost, including the lifeguard tower and pavilions, would be \$1,024,000 for the selected alternate.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency had initially committed \$403,000 to this project (03/12/2024) but subsequently reduced that amount to \$83,000 (08/08/2024).

After the June 11, 2024 City Council meeting, concerns were expressed from the public that a boardwalk and not a sidewalk should be constructed. If a concrete boardwalk was constructed in the same location as the previous boardwalk (Alternative 1), the all-in cost including the lifeguard tower and two pavilions, would be \$2,314,000.

A wood boardwalk located landward of the previous boardwalk (Alternative 2), with the lifeguard tower and two pavilions, would result in a cost of \$1,917,000.

As Humiston Park is one of the most visited beach parks in the entire County by residents and tourists, the City of Vero Beach requests funding from the Tourist Development Tax in the amount of:

Alternative No.	Boardwalk Type	Amount Requested From Tourist Development Tax
Alternative 1	Concrete Boardwalk	\$2,314,000
Alternative 2	Wood Boardwalk	\$1,917,000
Alternative 3	Concrete Sidewalk	\$1,024,000

This project is extremely time sensitive as construction can only be done on the beach between November 1st and February 28th. We are attempting to begin construction on November 1, 2025.

Sincerely,



Monte K. Falls, P.E.
City Manager

cc: The Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
Matthew T. Mitts, P.E., Public Works Director
John S. Turner, City Attorney

Attachment: Alternatives