



Office of the
**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
ADMINISTRATOR**

John A. Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator

Michael C. Zito, Deputy County Administrator
Nancy A. Bunt, Assistant County Administrator

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Board of County Commissioners

FROM: John A. Titkanich, Jr., ICMA-CM, County Administrator

DATE: January 22, 2025

SUBJECT: City of Vero Beach – Revised request for County Funding for the Humiston Beach Boardwalk project.

Background & Discussion

At the December 3rd BOCC regular meeting the Board unanimously agreed to participate in the Humiston Beach project, more specifically Alternative 3 (Concrete Sidewalk) as selected by the City of Vero Beach City Council. At the December 17th BOCC regular meeting the Board approved the County participation; more specifically, the County will contribute up to \$400,000 or 50% of the Humiston project (Alternative 3) less federal, state, or private grant reimbursement, or appropriation, whichever is less.

Based on community support and private pledges for a boardwalk to be reconstructed on January 14th, the City of Vero Beach City Council met and rescinded its selection of the concrete sidewalk and approved a concrete boardwalk project. It should also be noted the Indian River Community Foundation working with the City launched a campaign to raise private donations to rebuild Humiston Beach Boardwalk. City Manager Monte Falls informed me of City Council's action and an associated request for the County to modify its funding commitment from the sidewalk alternative to a boardwalk alternative. On January 22, 2025, Chairman Joseph Flescher, Mayor John Contugno, City Manager Monte Falls and I met to discuss the City's request.

As mentioned above, the City is requesting the County modify its funding commitment from the sidewalk alternative to the boardwalk alternative. The boardwalk project is preliminarily estimated at \$2.3 million. Additionally, clarification is necessary so that funds raised through private donations to

the Indian River Community Foundation Concerns are excluded from the stipulation concerning private grants expressed in the currently approved funding commitment.

The City's preference is there be no stipulations concerning the County's commitment, to which this was discussed during our meeting. I would be remiss to not note Mayor Contugno inquired if there would be any consideration by the County to increase the amount of the County contribution to the project.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, I recommend the Board revise its commitment to clarify its participation in a manner that still defines an up to maximum contribution toward the project and allows the City to proceed with the boardwalk project.

Mayor Contugno's request for the County to increase its funding commitment emanates from the recently approved Humiston Beach Boardwalk project is estimated to cost \$2.3 million. I'll remind the Board funding for this project would come from the County's General Fund undesignated fund balance (cash or reserves).

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board consider and determine their level of funding participation for the Humiston Beach Boardwalk project and approve the revised funding commitment.

Indian River County Board of County Commissioners will contribute up to [amount] toward the Humiston Beach Boardwalk project with the County's contribution not to be more than the City's portion of funding for the project, excluding federal or state grants or appropriations received toward the project.

Direct the County Attorney to draft a project participation agreement outlining the Board of County Commissioners' commitment and participation in the Humiston Beach Boardwalk project.