

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 Bathtub Beach-Sailfish Point Nourishment/Resilience
Lead Dept/Division Public Works/Coastal Division
Year Project Initiated 1978

Project Life Cycle 3 Years

Resilience Requirements ☒ 2040 Vulnerability ☐ 2070 Vulnerability ☐ 2100 Vulnerability



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 and the 2023 Sediment Budget update. Maintenance projects remove sand from the navigation channel, impoundment basin, and interior shoals to provide safe navigation through the Inlet.

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 had 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 statutes and updated in 2023. 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 a 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 can purchase and place 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 are \$810,000. The cost for the permit required monitoring of the 2024 Bathtub Beach Project and 2024 Inlet maintenance projects is shown here.

PROJECT ORIGATION

Strategic Planning

JUSTIFICATION

Policy 14.1A.10 of the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan has requirements to "(1) identify projects that eliminate public hazards; and (2) repair, remodeling, renovation or replacement of obsolete or worn out facilities that contribute to achieving or maintaining standards for level of service." 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
				FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30-FY34
Design	3,150,000			450,000		450,000		450,000	1,800,000
Construction	70,296,400				11,527,600		10,468,800		48,300,000
CEI	4,100,000			500,000	500,000		500,000		2,600,000
Monitoring	12,455,600			810,000	810,000	810,000	810,000	810,000	8,405,600
Expenditure Total	90,002,000	-		1,760,000	12,837,600	1,260,000	11,778,800	1,260,000	61,105,600
Revenues	Total	To Date	Carryover						FY30-FY34
				FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	
Ad Valorem	45,000,000			4,500,000	4,500,000	4,500,000	4,500,000	4,500,000	22,500,000
Tourist Development (Bed Tax)	5,000,000			500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	2,500,000
Federal	7,000,000						2,000,000		5,000,000
Grant(s)	31,902,000			880,000	6,418,800	630,000	5,889,400	630,000	17,453,800
Vessel Registration	1,100,000		-	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	550,000
Revenue Total	90,002,000	-	-	5,990,000	11,528,800	5,740,000	12,999,400	5,740,000	48,003,800
Total Unfunded									-

OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT

Staff time to administer the program.