



Hernando/Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization

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December 5, 2024

N. Karla Brown, FCCM, Grant Manager
Bureau of Mitigation, Non-Disaster Programs
Florida Division of Emergency Management
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Re: Letter of Support for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant Application by Hernando County, Pasco County, and the Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative

Ms. Brown,

The Hernando/Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization strongly supports Hernando County's proposal to construct the Adventure Coast Electric Transmission Line Improvements through the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant Program. This project will replace obsolete transmission line infrastructure and increase electric resiliency. Hernando County and its partners, Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative and Pasco County, have been leaders in infrastructure resiliency and are well-positioned to carry out this feasible and very important project.

The Hernando/Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization is excited to support the Adventure Coast Electric Transmission Line Improvement project as it aligns with our mission to establish goals, objectives and policies related to transportation for Hernando and Citrus Counties. Specifically, in October 2023, the MPO completed its Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Study that identified vulnerable transportation infrastructure assets and developed recommendations and mitigation strategies that promote system resilience. This study acknowledged that the US 19 corridor, a State-designated Strategic Intermodal System facility, from the Hernando/Pasco County Line to State Road 50, is moderately/high vulnerable to storm surge and flooding, and is highly critical to the region due to its role in transportation management, including Emergency Services and Utility Services; its Roadway Size, Traffic Volumes, and serving as an Evacuation Route. We recognize that environmental sustainability is a collaborative mission, and that Hernando County is committed to increasing storm protection for the coastal Hernando and Pasco County communities. In addition, this project is multi-jurisdictional and regional, and provides access for significant system of critical assets, hurricane evacuation corridors, utilities, and residents.

To demonstrate its support, The Hernando/Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization is committed to providing vulnerability data and planning expertise to support this critical initiative. We look forward to supporting Hernando County in its initiative to improve electrical resiliency and support the Adventure Coast Electric Transmission Line Improvements.

Sincerely,

Jerry Campbell
Hernando/Citrus MPO Board Chairman