

TRIUMPH GULF COAST, INC. PRE-APPLICATION FORM

Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. (“Triumph Gulf Coast”) has created a pre-application process to provide initial consideration of potential ideas for projects or programs that may seek an award of funding. Applicants are required to participate in the pre-application process. Notwithstanding the response from Triumph Gulf Coast on the pre-application form, an Applicant may still elect to submit an Application.

APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Name of Individual/Entity/Organization: City of Fort Walton Beach

Brief Description of Background of Individual/Entity/Organization: Municipal Government Entity located in Okaloosa County with a population of just under 21,000 persons. Fort Walton Beach is a full-service city offering Public Safety (Police & Fire), Utilities (Water, Wastewater, Reclaimed Water, Stormwater, & Streets), Public Works (Development Services, Permitting, Inspections, Code Enforcement, & CRA), Recreation & Cultural Services (Recreation, Museum, Library, Golf Club, & Cemetery), Financial Services, and Human Resources. The City employs approximately 300 FTEs and is a great place to live, work, and play.

Contact Information:

Primary Contact Information: Michael Beedie
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Names of co-applicants, partners or other entities, organizations that will have a role in the proposed project or program: Fort Walton Beach Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), Okaloosa County, Okaloosa County Tourist Development Council, Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County, City of Destin, and the Downtown FWB Association, Inc.

REQUIRED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In a maximum of three (3) pages, please describe the proposed project or program, including (i) the amount of funds being sought from Triumph Gulf Coast; (ii) the amount and identity of other sources of funds for the proposed project or program; (iii) the location of the project or program; (iv) summary description of the proposed program, including how the program will be transformational and promote economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties, and (v) a summary timeline for the proposed project or program.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This pre-application process will **not** result in an award of funding by Triumph Gulf Coast. Rather, this process is designed to facilitate submission of ideas for potential projects or programs before the Applicant expends time and/or resources to complete a full Application. All Applicants for funding are required to complete an Application, which will be scored, and then considered for award in the discretion of Triumph Gulf Coast Board.

Project Name: City of Fort Walton Beach Landing Ferry System & Dock Expansion

Project Overview: The #1 asset in Northwest Florida is the waterfront. Each year, during the City of FWB Strategic Planning Session, City Council identifies the need to develop projects to increase the utilization of the waterfront along Santa Rosa Sound. Traffic through Downtown FWB and anywhere along U.S. Highway 98 in Northwest Florida is one of the top issues identified in keeping visitors away from the area. Creating a ferry system between the FWB Landing, Okaloosa Island, and the City of Destin would alleviate traffic on U.S. 98 and provides an easy route for visitors staying along the beaches. There is also potential to expand the ferry system to include Shalimar and Niceville in the future.

Project Benefits: A ferry system between the various beach areas would alleviate traffic on U.S. 98 and would provide an easy way for visitors to move around the area. It would open up Downtown FWB to a wider audience as more and more events occur in the area. This project, in coordination with the Landing Improvement Project, would allow Downtown FWB to host larger events, attracting more visitors to the area, increasing the economic viability of the local businesses. The project would be a partnership between the City of FWB Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), Okaloosa County, the Okaloosa County TDC, the City of Destin, Greater FWB Chamber of Commerce, Downtown FWB Association, and the hotels and condos in the area.

This project complies with the Infrastructure and Quality of Place focus areas discussed in the Northwest Florida Forward Strategy report. It allows for the use of the region's greatest asset, the water, to transport citizens and visitors to various destinations along the Emerald Coast while alleviating traffic along the major east-west corridor in the south end of Okaloosa County. The project also provides a new attraction aimed at drawing visitors to the area to explore and enjoy the scenery of the pristine waters of Choctawhatchee Bay, Santa Rosa Sound and surrounding waterways.

The City and the CRA are currently completing an overall Downtown Fort Walton Beach Master Plan that will be a comprehensive guide in shaping the short- and long-term future of Downtown FWB. The Downtown Master Plan will incorporate the economic benefits of all ongoing and all proposed projects, which includes the Ferry System and improvements to the Landing park area. The initial phase of the Downtown FWB Master Plan was completed in November 2017. The remaining phase of the Master Plan will be completed in April 2018, which will include the full economic analysis of this project.

Funding Request: The estimated amount of funding requested from Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. to complete the ferry system is \$7,500,000. The funding would be used to expand the existing dock at the FWB Landing to accommodate the ferry and to purchase the infrastructure and equipment to begin the ferry service.

The funding would also be used to accommodate the necessary improvements at the Okaloosa Island and Destin stops for the ferry landings.

The City of FWB CRA would provide the funding to complete a master plan for the ferry system and the design of the improvements to accommodate the ferry system at the FWB Landing. To complete the Master Plan is approximately \$250,000.

The City of FWB CRA also invested \$250,000 to complete the Downtown FWB Master Plan which will include the economic analysis of this project.

Project Timeline: The Master Plan for the Ferry System would be completed by October 2018 with design of the Ferry System and Dock Expansion completed by April 2019. Construction would be complete by April 2020.