

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 Mexico Beach

Brief Description of Background of Individual/Entity/Organization: Local Government

Contact Information:

Primary Contact Information: Mell Smigielski

Title: City Administrator

Mailing Address: PO Box 13425, Mexico Beach, FL 32410

Telephone Number: (850) 648-5700 x 203

Email Address: mell@mexicobeachgov.com

Website: www.mexicobeachgov.com

Names of co-applicants, partners or other entities, organizations that will have a role in the proposed project or program: We will be seeking funding participation from FEMA, Mexico Beach Community Development Council, House and Senate Appropriations and ½ cent infrastructure surtax.

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.



P.O. Box 13425 · Mexico Beach, Florida · 32410

Phone: 850-648-5700 · Fax: 850-648-8768

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TRIUMPH GULF COAST, INC.

When you first see a child catch their first fish, a couple begin a new life with "I do's" or seniors enjoying a magnificent sunset, you begin to understand the value of a pier to a small seaside community. Such experiences at our pier have been part of the culture of Mexico Beach for decades. Regretfully, our pier needs replacement since it's no longer serviceable and prohibitively not repairable. The loss of our pier directly affects the economy and tourism of our town. We recently made a number of improvements that benefited residents and tourists alike; we increased the number of rentable city boat slips, improved the public boat ramp and replaced wooden seawalls at our canal with metal seawalls. Our pier operates in harmony with our canal and beach to attract tourists. Unfortunately, the pier has suffered the ravages of time and weather. It needs to be replaced if we are to continue to increase our tourism and enhance our charm and laid-back character as part of Bay County - which attracts a special type of tourist.

Approval of support from 'Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc' will enhance economic growth while maintaining an environmental haven that attracts visitors who want to enjoy pure nature along with protecting native species of sandpipers, pelicans and specifically turtles. Our Community Development Council has been expanding our tourism efforts to advertisements in specific environmental publications such as 'Birders.' Our continued shift to environmental groups and seniors has resulted in greater care being taken of our environment including keeping our beaches clean and uncluttered, protecting endangered groups and keeping a focus to maintaining Mexico Beach as an active and positive part of Bay County.

Executive Summary:

- (i). The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$7,400,000.00 which includes soft costs of \$800,000.00. Mexico Beach is requesting \$3,700,000.00.
- (ii). The City has started a Pier Fund with an initial infusion of \$300,000.00. We are also seeking funding from FEMA, Mexico Beach Community Development Council, House and Senate Appropriations and ½ cent infrastructure surtax.
- (iii). The proposed pier will replace the current pier at 37th Street.
- (iv). This pier replacement fits the award criteria, 'Public infrastructure projects for construction, expansion, or maintenance which are shown to enhance economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties'. The current wooden pier is not sustainable over the long term. We constantly worry the next big storm will totally devastate the pier. Potential repair costs prove to be a burden for City with the reality that any fix is temporary. In fact, the latest storms have caused structural damage that will require the pier to be closed during times of rough sea conditions.

This project will 'Generate maximum estimated economic benefits', 'Leverage or further enhance key regional assets' and 'Partner with local governments to provide funds, infrastructure, land, or other assistance for the project'. The pier draws tourists to the area and the money they spend helps Bay County as well as Mexico Beach. Though a family may spend the night in Mexico Beach, it is common for them to venture into other Bay County venues to enjoy additional shopping and restaurants.

Bay County has a strong economic engine that is rich and diverse in offering tourism, retail and business. There are individual pockets of the Bay County economy that contribute to the overall diversity of the economy, yet individually seem somewhat one-sided. Mexico Beach has grown into a tourism-related economy boasting tourism as our single economic engine. The lack of available land, transportation and technological resources points to Tourism as our only economy for years to come. And quite frankly, most of us are satisfied with the slower pace. Our assets are simple: 1. The beach. Our 3.5 miles of sugary-white sand provides a largely sparse atmosphere to enjoy the sand, sun and sea. 2. The canal. The manmade canal provides an opportunity for sea access unmatched in our area. 3. The pier. Our 810 foot long

wooden pier has been replaced and extended many times over the years. The current health of the pier is marginal at best. Recent damage from Hurricane Nate saw handrails, decking and cross-members being lost to the waves. A concrete pier is a strong investment for the future of our area. Quantifying the economic impact to the region is difficult to ascertain. But the fact remains that many Bay County residents come to Mexico Beach to enjoy the quieter beach and free pier. Many residents of neighboring states do the same. Can't tell you how many times we talk to local visitors who say they came down just for the day to enjoy our friendly, low-key environment. Those visiting provides an opportunity to fill our retail shops and restaurants.

Mexico Beach is unique to Bay County. Our needs are simple. We don't have the transportation requirements others have. Spending millions of dollars in Mexico Beach may appear to benefit our full-time population of 1,197. But the tourist season brings in a population of nearly 10,000, so the benefit directly impacts many more people than just our full-time population. The importance of the pier is bigger than us. Nowhere else can you go in Bay County where you can charter a boat out of the canal in the morning, enjoy the beach in the afternoon and fish on the pier later in the day—all within a few hundred feet of one another. The benches on the pier are filled each day as tourists and locals watch the sunset in a relaxed atmosphere.

We tried to show this project to be transformational in the sense that we are protecting the way 'Old Florida' used to be and keeping 'Old Florida' close to home. Replacing our pier benefits the whole region by allowing Mexico Beach to keep our identity.

(v). The project can be completed one year after the notice to proceed is issued.