

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: Walton County Board of County Commissioners

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

Contact Information:

Primary Contact Information: Bill Williams

Title: RESTORE Act Coordinator

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Website: www.co.walton.fl.us

Names of co-applicants, partners or other entities, organizations that will have a role in the proposed project or program: Cities of DeFuniak Springs and Freeport

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.

US 331 and US Highway 90 Water and Wastewater Expansion Project Executive Summary

1. Amount of funds being sought from Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.

The Walton County Board of County Commissioners in conjunction with the City's of DeFuniak Springs and Freeport are requesting **\$27.1 million over a three (3) year period** from Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. The total cost of the project is approximately \$44.1 million.

2. Amount and Identity of Other Sources of Funds for the Proposed Project.

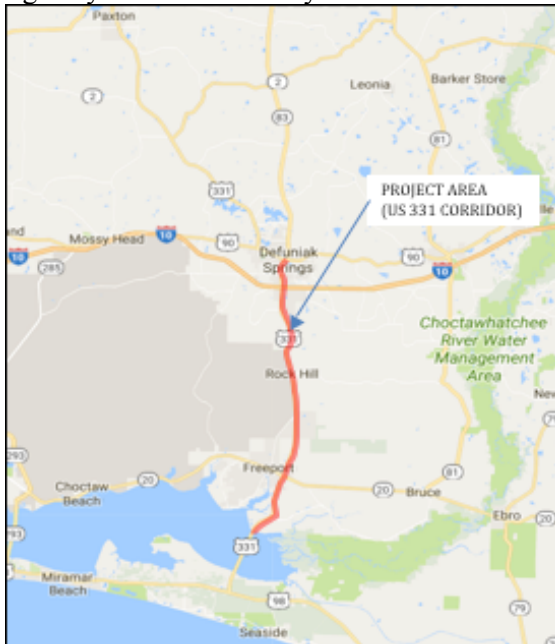
Dedicated Matching funds for the Project: \$17,000,000

- A. \$12,000,000 Walton County RESTORE ACT POT 3 funds*
- B. \$5,000,000 Walton County RESTORE ACT POT 1 funds*

- A. Since POT 3 funding will be available over a 15 year period, the County intends to borrow or bond the anticipated revenue immediately so that the funding will be available for construction during the three (3) year development process.
- B. POT 1 funding will be available and dedicated to match this project over a three (3) year period, as following: \$2,000,000 in Year One, \$2,000,000 in Year Two, and \$1,000,000 in Year Three.

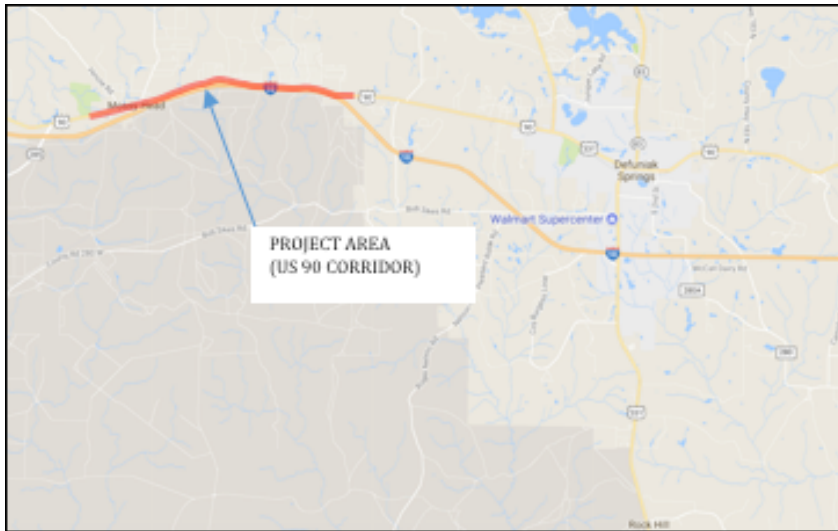
3. Location of the Project or Program.

Please refer to the Maps below for the location of the Project. The Project location is along the major roadways of US 331 from South Walton County (Coastal area) to the I-10 Interchange in North Walton County near the City of DeFuniak Springs and US 90 the East-West arterial highway in Walton County.



**US 331 Corridor
Project Area**

*Subject to final BOCC appropriation



US 90 Corridor Project Area

4. Summary Description of the Proposed Program.

The US 331 Corridor that is centrally located in Walton County as a major north and southbound arterial is significant to this region in regards to its functional classification as well as its economic impact. Currently, there are areas along the corridor that do not have access to water or wastewater services. The need to upgrade and extend water and wastewater services along the US 331 corridor is vital to meet the economic and environmental needs of the City of Freeport and the City of DeFuniak Springs, which are both designated as Rural Areas of Opportunity (RA) which means fast track permitting and a waiver of match requirements, and Walton County. According to the Florida Department of Health *2016 Community Health Needs Assessment*, one of Walton County's community weaknesses is infrastructure. The Florida Department of Health and Safety reported that septic tanks were leaking into the Bay, causing an environmental hazard, which would be addressed by these water and wastewater expansion projects. This project would meet potable water demands and provide wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal to numerous lots in which commercial or industrial development will be located, which according to the *2016 Community Health Needs Assessment* would address two of the "forces for change in Walton County" by increasing water usage and sewer improvements. A major four lane construction project of approximately \$200 million is currently underway of US 331 spanning from South Walton County to the I-10 interchange on the north in DeFuniak Springs. The water and wastewater infrastructure project and the highway construction project together will have a transformational impact on Walton County's ability to enhance and attract economic development along this critical corridor. Without these water and wastewater services, any additional development would be impossible along this critical corridor.

U.S. Highway 90 is one of the primary west-east arterial highways in Walton County. Most of the parcels along this corridor will consist of commercial or industrial development. Specifically, there is a potential mixed-use project site located centrally between Mossy Head and the City of DeFuniak Springs that needs water and wastewater service for development purposes. This project would extend water and wastewater services to the proposed site and provide opportunities for additional growth along the US Highway 90 Corridor.

From an economic standpoint, the *2016 Community Health Needs Assessment* states that businesses are too far in relation to where people live. Residents in the northern, rural parts of the county will pay more, drive more and sometimes go in to Alabama to spend their money. These two projects would expand access for residents in the north end of the county, thus creating opportunities for more businesses to operate in areas currently not suitable for construction. Furthermore, 9.4% of Walton County's labor force are veterans, compared to the State of Florida at 6.1% and the U.S. at 5.5%, so increasing business access for the north end of the county would have a significant impact on increasing job opportunities for unemployed veterans. Walton County currently ranks 24th in the nation for income disparity, which would be addressed and improved with the completion of this project

Studies conducted in May 2017 by the Market Graphics Research Group estimates that there is going to be a significant increase in demand for housing in areas north of the Bay over the next twelve (12) months, which will increase the need for infrastructure, especially water and sewer improvements.

Triumph Eligible Activities and Priorities:

Walton County believes this project should be considered for funding by the Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., because it meets the following eligibility requirements:

- Public infrastructure projects for construction, expansion, or maintenance which are shown to enhance economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affect counties.

This project also matches the following priority considerations of the Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.:

- Partner with local governments to provide funds, infrastructure, land, or other assistance for the project.

- Benefit the environment, in addition to the economy.

- Are recommended by the BOCC of Walton County, in which the project will be located.

The Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved this Project on November 7, 2017.

5. Summary Timeline for the Proposed Project or Program.

This is an extensive infrastructure project, which preliminary reviews show is expected to take three years to complete. Once funding is secured, planning and design could begin as early as the spring of 2018. Permitting and construction would begin in 2019 and continue into 2020. Our preliminary review also shows that the requested funding provided by Triumph Gulf Coast, could be expended in equal \$9 million increments over a three year period.

*Subject to final BOCC appropriation