



# Pinellas County

## Staff Report

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File #: 24-0698A, Version: 1

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### **Subject:**

Sovereignty Submerged Lands Easement between the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida for the Shore Drive Bridge Replacement Project.

### **Recommended Action:**

Approval of the 50-year Sovereignty Submerged Lands Easement (Easement No. 43040) between the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (BTIITF) of the State of Florida (Florida) for the Shore Drive Bridge Replacement Project over Brooker Creek.

- Easement is for a 4,859 square foot portion of State-owned land within Brooker Creek.
- The parcel of land shall be used for public transportation purposes as detailed in the Southwest Florida Water Management District Environmental Resource Permit No. 47046961, dated July 14, 2023.
- The Shore Drive Bridge project will replace a 100-year-old bridge to provide a safer and more resilient structure and enhance pedestrian safety by including a sidewalk along the bridge.
- The project is currently in the 100 percent design phase.
- This Easement is required to allow the Project to proceed on State lands.

PID 004979A; Executed Easement to be recorded by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, as agent for and on behalf of the BTIITF of the State of Florida and provided to the County; No funding required.

### **Strategic Plan:**

Ensure Public Health, Safety, and Welfare  
2.5 Enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety

Foster Continual Economic Growth and Vitality

4.4 Invest in infrastructure to meet current and future needs

4.5 Provide safe and effective transportation systems to support the efficient flow of motorists, commerce, and regional connectivity

### **Summary:**

The purpose of Easement No. 43040 is to provide the County with access and use of state sovereign submerged lands to reconstruct the Shore Drive Bridge, install a new subaqueous watermain, and relocate the existing reclaimed watermain. An Easement is required when a Project includes State lands within a project area.

### **Background Information:**

Lands below the Shore Drive bridge are state-owned, sovereignty submerged lands, therefore, the County is required to obtain an easement from the FDEP. The proposed bridge, seawalls, and utility lines will be located within the easement.

A new potable watermain will be installed and an existing reclaimed watermain will be replaced with this project. The two watermains will be installed 15 feet below the bottom of Brooker Creek by horizontal directional drill.

The Shore Drive Bridge project will replace a 100-year-old bridge to provide a safer and more resilient structure while enhancing pedestrian safety by including a sidewalk along the bridge. The installation of the new watermain will improve the water service and quality in this area of the County. The project is currently in the 100 percent design phase with the start of construction anticipated in early 2025.

**Fiscal Impact:**

N/A

**Staff Member Responsible:**

Kelli Hammer Levy, Director, Public Works

**Partners:**

FDEP

**Attachments:**

Easement

Project Location Map