

# Federal Legislative Priorities



**POLK**  
COUNTY  
Florida's Crossroads of Opportunity

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# Your Polk County Commissioners



Left to right: Martha Santiago (Chair), District 4; Mike Scott, District 5; Bill Braswell (Vice Chair), District 3; Becky Troutman, District 1; Rick Wilson, District 2.

**Thank you for your consideration and support.**



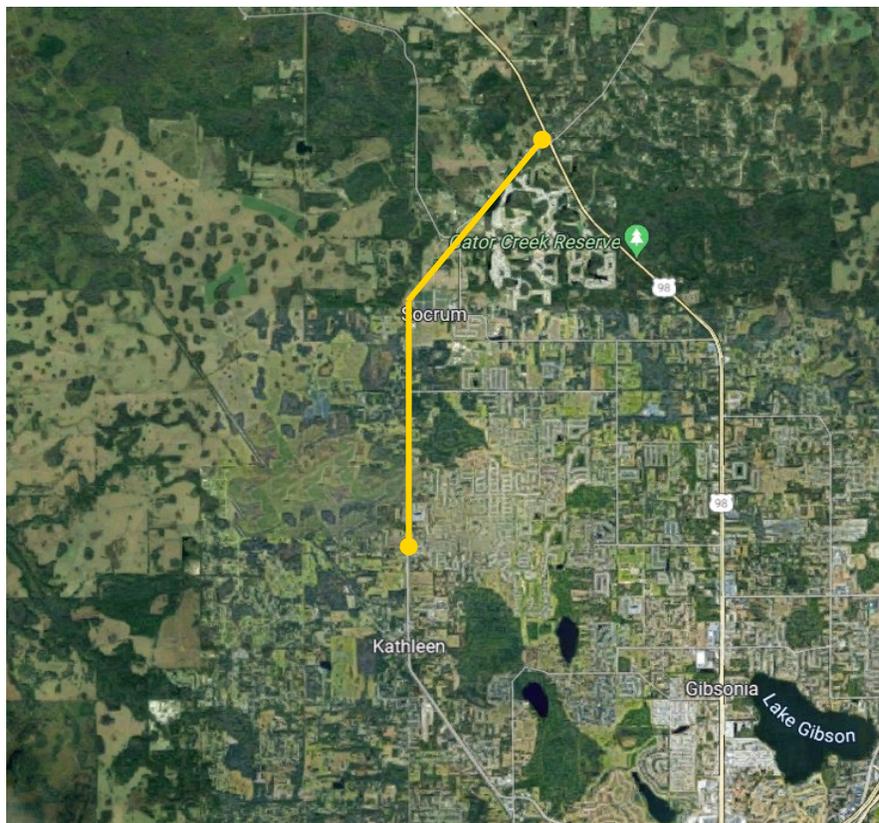
# Appropriation Requests

## Kathleen Road Widening and Extension (Duff Road to U.S. Highway 98 at Rockridge Road)

**Request:** Request funding of \$2 million to complete the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study, design and permitting of the Kathleen Road Widening and Extension project.

This project is included in the Polk County Transportation Planning Organization's Long Range Transportation Plan.

**Background:** Due to congestion on U.S. Highway 98 and increasing development in the north Lakeland/Kathleen area, Polk County needs a parallel roadway to U.S. Highway 98 to move traffic north and south.



This project is needed to reduce congestion on an already failing roadway due to the volume of traffic utilizing the roadway. There would be substantial benefits from the widening and extension of this roadway to the north.

This project includes widening and extension of Kathleen Road north from Duff Road to U.S. Highway 98 at the Rockridge Road intersection.

**Cost Estimate:**

- **PD&E** - \$2.5 million
- **Design** - \$2.5 million
- **ROW** - \$30 million
- **Construction** - \$65 million

The estimated start date for design is in FY 2026 with construction completed in FY 2033. The county budget currently has funding of \$2.5 million for the intersection improvements with the remainder to be determined based on other funding sources and amounts.

**Contact:**



Jay Jarvis  
Roads and Drainage Director



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# Polk County Poinciana Area Sidewalk Needs

**Request:** Request funding of \$850,000 to construct sidewalks in the Poinciana area. These sidewalks will make it safer for children to get to their school bus stops, as well as make it safer for residents to walk around their community.

**Background:** In July 2015, APV provided Polk County with a list of existing community sidewalks including a prioritized list of roads without sidewalk. This list serves as a reference for public requests for sidewalks in APV that are reviewed by the Polk County Sidewalk Advisory Committee.

Outstanding sidewalk needs in APV would benefit residents with safer access to local neighborhoods and community venues, including parks, pools, schools, businesses and the APV administration offices.

The 2024, 2025 and 2026 House HUD budgets each included \$850,000 for Poinciana sidewalks. We are requesting \$850,000 million for additional sidewalks in the FY 2027 House HUD budget to help complete more projects.

**Total Cost Estimate:** \$5 million  
**Current request:** \$850,000

**Contact:**



Jay Jarvis  
Roads and Drainage Director

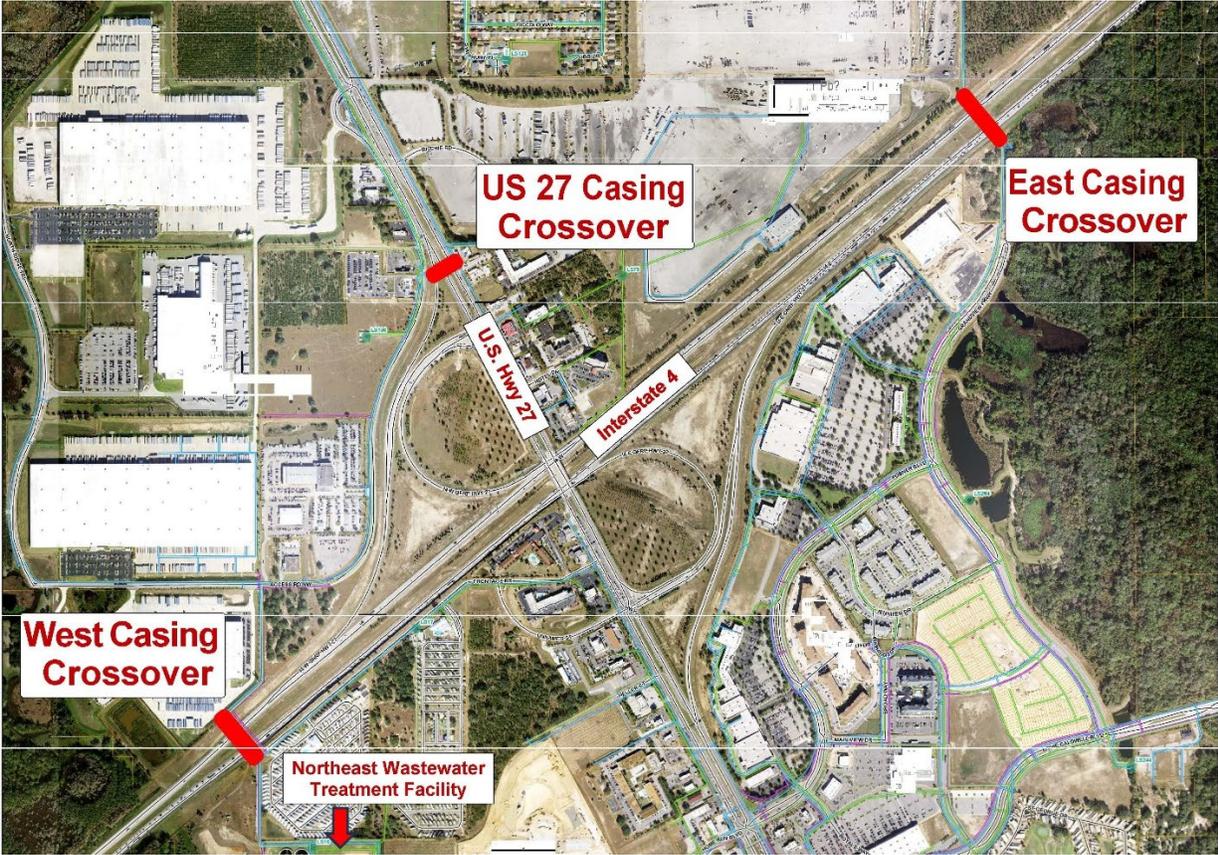


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# Protection of Critical Infrastructure Through Proactive Construction

**Request:** Request funding assistance in the amount of 80% of the \$14.3 million to construct eight separate 36-inch casing conduits under Interstate 4 and U.S. Highway 27. The county provides water, wastewater and reclaimed water to the Northeast Regional Utility Service Area, which is bisected by Interstate 4 and U.S. Highway 27.

Once the project is designed, a more refined cost estimate for construction and easement acquisition can be determined.



**Background:** Polk County Utilities, located in Central Florida, owns and operates six separate service areas over a 2,000 square mile area. Each service area has its distinct characteristics and services offered to the customers receiving benefits from those services, including potable water distribution, wastewater collection and treatment, and reclaimed water distribution. The Northeast Regional Utility Service Area is the largest and fastest growing of these service areas.

Interstate 4 connects Tampa to Orlando, traversing through Polk County. U.S. Highway 27 is a major north/south corridor serving major businesses and supporting the tourism industry by providing access to several major attractions in Central Florida. These major roadway corridors bisect the county's service area.

As part of the distribution and collection system for the centralized utilities – including potable water, wastewater, and reclaimed water – large, 24-inch pressure mains cross under both Interstate 4 and U.S. Highway 27. Failure of any of these pressure mains would result in catastrophic consequences, ranging from thousands of customers losing service to collapse of multiple lanes of either of these critical transportation corridors.

PCU is proposing a project to construct eight separate 36-inch casings – two under Interstate 4, east of U.S. Highway 27; three under Interstate 4, west of U.S. Highway 27; and three under U.S. Highway 27, north of Interstate 4.

These casings will allow for rapid shutdown of a ruptured pressure pipe, thereby minimizing the damage to the roadways, and will facilitate relatively simple construction to reinstate service to the residents, businesses and critical services in region.

**Construction Cost Estimate:** \$14.3 million

**Current request:** \$11.44 million for 80% of construction costs

**County match:** \$2.86 million for 20% of construction costs

**Timeline:**

**Design:** Complete

**Permitting:** N/A

**Construction:** 24 months

**Contact:**



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Polk County Utilities Director



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