



FRANKLIN-98 CONSTRUCTION BEGINS!

Construction of the Franklin-98 Living Shoreline has begun! North Florida Construction, a locally based company, loads the limestone materials onto a barge in Eastpoint and transports them to the project site for deployment. This method allows for the materials to be efficiently placed without disturbing submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) or damaging uplands with tracked vehicles. Additionally, the minimized amount of construction equipment along the shoulder and right of way will reduce traffic congestion along the project area. Three barges will be utilized in the construction of the project.



Limestone materials for the project site are loaded onto the barge in the image above.



Reefs will be placed in shallow water, less than six feet. Excavators will be used from the barges to position the materials. Turbidity curtains, materials that contain disturbed sediments that are suspended in the water, and aerial imaging will be used to minimize damages to SAV and ensure accuracy of materials placement. The reefs are marked with an RTK GPS unit, ensuring accuracy to the centimeter. Stakes are placed to demarcate the placement area, and the edges marked and mapped once in place. The construction of the reefs will take place over the fall and winter 2023-2024.

Once the low-profile reefs are constructed, a marsh will be constructed behind them. The marsh will primarily be comprised of *Spartina alterniflora*. The combination of the marsh and reefs will benefit the local ecology through providing enhanced habitat that has been preempted by seawall in many locations along the project area. The enhancements will also help to offset erosion and catch sediment, increasing shoreline resiliency.



Limestone materials (above) and marsh grasses (below) installed at the project site.



TALLAHASSEE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SEEKS FTZ DESIGNATION

David Pollard and Vanessa Spaulding (Tallahassee International Airport) joined Kelly Halverson (IMS Worldwide) in presenting the Board with an overview of the Tallahassee International Airport's proposal to create a Foreign Trade Zone within the Apalachee Region.

Foreign Trade Zones (FTZ) are designated locations within the United States where companies can utilize special customs procedures to increase competitiveness with other nations for manufacturing and operations. Each site is granted FTZ status by the US Foreign-Trade Zones Board (FTZ Board) under the US Department of Commerce.

Tallahassee International Airport is seeking an FTZ designation. The FTZ Proposed Service Area includes Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Liberty, Leon, Taylor, Madison, Gulf, Wakulla, Jackson, and Calhoun counties. The FTZ application

requires letters of support from each county within the FTZ Proposed Service Area.

FTZs can be utilized for distribution, storage, testing & inspection, repackaging, assembly, repair, scrap, and manufacturing. Operational benefits of an FTZ include Duty Deferral, Duty Elimination, Duty Reduction, Duty Inversion, Duty Free Export/Scrap, Merchandise Processing Fee Reduction, and Improved Supply Chain Velocity.

As site selection teams often have FTZ as criterion on their checklists, having an FTZ program is an important recruiting and retention tool for local EDC groups. FTZ tenants typically have higher retention rates due to their links to CBP, increased supply chain velocity, and investment in physical security.

FOREIGN TRADE ZONE KEY STAKEHOLDERS

GRANTEE – The local authority entrusted with administration of the program in the local community (Tallahassee International Airport).

OPERATOR – A company that operates under Zone Status, within its own facilities for itself or for the account of others (Company, Third-Party Logistics Provider).

USERS – Companies using the FTZ, either as an Operator or within an Operator's facility (Retail, Manufacturing, Distribution, and E-Commerce).

US FTZ BOARD – Provides Grant of Authority to Grantess and authorizes FTZ site and production approvals.

US CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION – All FTZ sites must activate with CBP prior to conducting any Zone activity. Local CPB offices oversee FTZ Operators to ensure FTZ regulatory compliance.

For additional information, please contact Vanessa Spaulding (Tallahassee International Airport) at Vanessa.Spaulding@talgov.com.

Click here for full presentation.





Gadsden County’s Competitive Florida Partnership Grant Application has been awarded funding and ARPC staff continue to support the County with project planning. The Competitive Florida Partnership helps a community utilize its unique assets and challenges its leaders to set realistic goals to advance their economic development visions. A community that participates in this grant opportunity is committed to innovative strategies that promote partnerships, community design and a viable economy. The partnership establishes a network of vibrant communities and passionate leaders who gain ideas on how to reach their goals through the success and lessons learned from their peers.

FLORIDACOMMERCE

Franklin County has been awarded the DEO Community Planning Technical Assistance (CPTA) Grant to fund an update to the County’s Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code. CPTA grants provide counties, municipalities and regional planning councils the opportunity to create innovative plans and development strategies to promote a diverse economy, vibrant rural and suburban areas and meet statutory requirements for planning, while also protecting environmentally sensitive areas. Understanding that many Florida communities have been impacted by hurricanes, CPTA grants may also be used to assist with disaster recovery, resiliency and economic development planning.



PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING MARCUS THOMPKINS TO THE ARPC TEAM!

We are thrilled to introduce Mr. Thompkins, our newest team member in the ARPC Housing Program!



ARPC TAKES TO THE SKY!



ARPC is excited to announce the integration of drones into our regional planning support services. This equipment is essential for resiliency work and environmental planning, and enhances our support for both ongoing and upcoming planning projects.





REGIONAL BROADBAND EFFORTS CONTINUE!

ARPC facilitated a Community Broadband Workshop in Jacob City (Jackson County). Participants included Jacob City Council members and Jackson County staff.

LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS REGIONAL IMPACT



CROSSWALKS TO CLASSROOMS

KCCI sponsored this initiative which utilizes street art to increase safety for cyclists and pedestrians. This project was installed at Sable Palm Elementary, and included local law enforcement agencies, service organizations, and free helmet fittings by RideOn.

One young man was so pleased with his new bike helmet, he announced his intention to wear it all day.



2023 FLORIDA BROADBAND SUMMIT

ARPC staff met colleagues from around the state and gained insights for the broadband initiative in Jacob City, and throughout the Apalachee Region.



TALLAHASSEE SCIENCE FESTIVAL

Beautiful weather and record-breaking crowds made this annual event a Saturday well spent.

Staff estimated 300+ visitors to the RideOn exhibit, where adults received program information, and young guests were challenged to answer environmental questions for the scavenger hunt and invited to spin the prize wheel for incentive items.



WILLS ON WHEELS

ARPC Staff and representatives from Legal Services of North Florida outside the "Justice on the Block, on the move!" bus for a Wills on Wheels event. This was one of five legal clinics, hosted by ARPC and LSNF in Calhoun, Gulf, Jackson, Liberty, and Wakulla counties. Collectively, over 200 community members were assisted with legal matters at no cost to the individuals! Our thanks to AARP for making this initiative possible through the AARP Community Challenge Funding.



NEW MURAL IN CHATTAHOOCHEE

ARPC staff met with Chattahoochee Main Street to tour and discuss community needs.

