



City of North Port

City Commission

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Barbara Langdon, Mayor
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May 23, 2023

Via Email

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Office of the Governor State of Florida
Plaza Level 05, The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

Re: City of North Port – Price Boulevard Project Funding

Dear Governor DeSantis:

Thank you for your public service and support of our state. We truly appreciate your personal attention to the impacts of Hurricane Ian on our community. As you may recall from your post-storm visit to our City, the storm caused catastrophic damage to residential homes and critical infrastructure which included water control structures, utilities infrastructure, bridges and roadways. The damage to the waterway crossings along the Price Boulevard corridor was particularly devastating as it is one of our main east-west transportation routes for first responders, school transportation, and commercial and residential traffic, as well as a prime hurricane evacuation route. Not only did the closure of this road hinder movement throughout the City for recovery, but it effectively stranded neighborhoods until flood waters receded and repairs of the collapse roadway could be completed.

Included in the State's 2023 budget by the Legislature is \$1.5 million dollars of funding for hardened crossings over the four waterways underneath Price Boulevard. This funding will supplement \$80 million of voter-approved local funding for much needed widening of this corridor in order to accommodate the increased traffic flow resulting from the rapid growth of our City. As these waterway crossings are critical to the flow of traffic through our City, this State funding is important in helping to prevent a repeat of the Hurricane Ian impacts which closed Price Boulevard immediately after the storm, obstructing emergency and residential traffic flow through the City, hampering recovery efforts and hindering the return to daily life for North Port's residents.

We respectfully ask you for your support for this needed funding and look forward to welcoming you to the ribbon cutting ceremony as soon as this project is completed.

Sincerely,

Barbara Langdon, Mayor
City of North Port

BL/tm

cc: North Port Commission
Jerome Fletcher, City Manager