



A Penny For Pasco

Background

The Penny for Pasco is a Local Option Surtax passed by Pasco County voters on March 9, 2004, that went into effect on Jan. 1, 2005, for a period of 10 years. Proceeds of the Penny are divided amongst the Pasco County School Board (45%), local municipalities (10%), and Pasco County Government (45%). The proceeds of the sales surtax results in a Countywide property tax reduction. Pasco County Government's 45% share of the Penny for Pasco is distributed as follows: 50% for transportation improvements and to address traffic congestion, 25% for the acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands, 20% for improving public safety, and 5% for contingencies. It is estimated the Penny for Pasco will generate funds in excess of \$400 million.

First Lands Designated for Conservation with Penny for Pasco Funds

On Nov. 22, 2005, and Dec. 6, 2005, the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners approved the first two tracts of land to be acquired using Penny for Pasco funds. The first property, the Morsani Property, consists of approximately 650 acres in Central Pasco and will be acquired as a conservation easement. The second property, the Upper Pithlachascotee River tract, consists of 111 acres of land that will be used by the County for passive recreation, such as bird watching and hiking. Both of these properties lie in critical linkage areas, which will eventually tie these newly acquired properties into the existing public land system, creating green space and conservation areas that stretch for hundreds and hundreds of acres. Over the ten years of

the Penny for Pasco, more than \$40 million is expected to be allocated for this program.

Public Safety Improvements

- 60 Sheriff's vehicles are now in use at more than \$2.6 million and 35 mobile data terminals are scheduled for purchase during Fiscal Year 06-07.
- 70 Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) valued at \$115,013 were purchased with Penny for Pasco funds and to be placed in County-owned facilities
- Two additional units will be ordered for Fiscal Year 2006 using Penny for Pasco funds.
- A new fire engine and a new 3,000- gallon tanker are scheduled for purchase using Penny for Pasco funds, as soon as two new fire stations are constructed.

Road Construction & Median Improvements

Progress is being made on the numerous road improvement projects outlined in the Penny for Pasco plan, including:

- Interstate 75 & C.R. 54, plus six-lane C.R. 54 from Pasco Rd. to S.R. 581-construction planned to start Fiscal Year 08/09
- Main St. from Congress St. to Rowan Rd. in New Port Richey—preliminary design and route & pond siting studies began October 2005 and, to date, nearly \$200,000 has been utilized.
- Seven Springs Blvd. Median & Safety Improvements have totaled \$2,933,142.

Ten Intersection Improvements

Five intersections have no right-of-way acquisition required and construction costs are listed:

- Collier Parkway & Weeks Blvd. \$868,286
- Grand Blvd. & Moog Rd. \$861,904
- Grand Blvd. & Trouble Creek Rd. \$1,036,610
- Little Rd. & Ponderosa Ave. \$824,945
- U.S. 19 & Fox Hollow Dr. \$782,656

Five intersections required right-of-way acquisition and funds were allocated:

- Congress St. & Orchid Lake Rd. \$191,191
- Grand Blvd. & Mile Stretch Dr. \$191,210
- Regency Park Blvd. & San Miguel Dr. \$616,736
- S.R. 52 & Prospect Rd. \$197,400
- S.R. 54 & Boyette Rd. \$222,500

Other Projects

- Starkey Trail Connection from New Port Richey along Massachusetts Ave. from Congress St. to Starkey Blvd.—scope for design is underway.
- Transit shelters along U.S. 19 & U.S. 301 are scheduled to begin October 2008.
- Countywide advanced Right-of-Way Acquisition is scheduled to begin October 2008.