## **Administration**

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Flagler County to kickoff Commerce Parkway Project with a groundbreaking ceremony at 11:30 a.m. Friday (March 22)

March 18, 2024 – Flagler County welcomes residents to attend its groundbreaking ceremony for the Commerce Parkway Project that will run from State Road 100 to U.S. 1 at 11:30 a.m. Friday, March 22. The event is being held in coordination with the City of Bunnell, which is hosting its groundbreaking of the city's new Administration and Police Department Complex an hour earlier – 10:30 a.m. – on the same day, also on Commerce Parkway.

"This is a big day for the City of Bunnell and Flagler County," said Board of County Commissioners Chair Andy Dance. "The Commerce Parkway Project has been a joint-effort project of the city and the county, and it will have positive impact on light industrial and growth within the City of Bunnell."

The City of Bunnell completed the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study in 2013, and the design in 2017. Flagler County has been administering the project for Bunnell since.

The Commerce Parkway groundbreaking will take place at the intersection of Sheriff EW Johnston Drive. The existing section of roadway is immediately west of the Wendy's restaurant and ends at the new Flagler County Sheriff's Office Operations and District 3 Building (the intersecting roadway is Sheriff EW Johnston Drive). The proposed new roadway section meanders through currently vacant land to U.S. 1, southeast of the Dollar General.

In July 2022, the State of Florida allocated \$6.8 million to Bunnell for the project through Legislative Appropriation Funding.

"We greatly appreciate our Legislative Delegation, House Speaker Paul Renner and Senator Travis Hutson, for working so hard for the benefit of the Flagler County community," said County Administrator Heidi Petito. "This project will bolster our economic development efforts, and it will improve public safety by providing all of our first responders – and residents – another way to get across this portion of the county when there is an emergency."

The project will consist of two, undivided 11-foot lanes with 8-foot roadside shoulders, five feet of which will be paved. There will be open drainage swales on both sides of the roadway. There will be a 5-foot sidewalk along the eastern side. The total right-of-way will be 80 feet, and it will be flanked on both sides by 15-foot easements.

Flagler County has contracted with CONSOR Engineers for "Construction Engineering and Inspection" (CEI). The Engineer of Record is Michael Baker International, and the awarded contractor is P&S Paving.

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