



Marion County Board of County Commissioners

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COMMISSION EXPEDITES SHARPES FERRY BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

Immediate Release

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (Nov. 3, 2009) – Marion County Commissioners voted today to move forward with a 50/50 cost-sharing partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation that will expedite replacement of the Sharpes Ferry Bridge.

In a unanimous vote, the board approved the use of funds that remain from three bond projects that were bid on earlier this year to cover the county's \$4 million share of the \$8 million project. FDOT will fund the remaining \$4 million through its County Incentive Grant Program.

“Due to the competitive construction market and bid process, we will save money on this much-needed project and be able to leverage more funding from the FDOT,” said County Engineer Mounir Bouyounes, P.E. “This is in the best interest of the citizens of Marion County.”

The FDOT rated the Sharpes Ferry Bridge, located on County Road 314, as a functionally obsolete structure. Marion County leaders have also listed this project on the county's Transportation Improvement Program for several years. Crews are expected to start work to replace the bridge in 2010.

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