



NEWS RELEASE

St. Johns River Ferry Commission

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ST. JOHNS RIVER FERRY RECEIVES ADDITIONAL \$4.97 MILLION

Funds to be used for replacing slip walls

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., June 3, 2014 - The St. Johns River Ferry has received an additional \$4.97 million to be used toward the replacement of the slip walls at both the Mayport and Fort George landings. The funding consists of a \$1 million appropriation in the state's budget (signed by Governor Rick Scott today) and a \$3.97 million Passenger Ferry Grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) also announced yesterday.

"This funding overcomes what was perceived to be a nearly insurmountable amount of capital dollars needed to make structural improvements necessary for the continued operation of the ferry, and will go a long way to replace the slip walls in Mayport and Fort George" said John Crescimbeni, Chairman of the St. Johns River Ferry Commission.

The \$1 million appropriation is the result of legislation sponsored this year by both Senator Aaron Bean and Representative Janet Adkins. The St. Johns River Ferry Commission would like to thank Governor Scott, Senator Bean, Representative Adkins as well as the entire Duval delegation for recognizing the importance of the St. Johns River Ferry which provides regional transportation options with national significance.

The \$3.97 million grant awarded by the USDOT is administered separately through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Passenger Ferry Grant Program, which provides funds to support existing ferry service, establish new ferry service, or help to repair and modernize ferry boats, terminals, and related facilities. The grant application was submitted on behalf of the St. Johns River Ferry Commission by the JTA who will actually administer the grant locally. The Commission would like to thank the JTA board members and staff for their continued partnership in, and support of, the St. Johns River Ferry.

"The JTA is proud to be part of a collaborative effort to improve our ferry and serve the citizens of northeast Florida. We look forward to working with the St. Johns River Ferry Commission, the City of Jacksonville and the State and Federal transportation authorities to continue to improve our transportation network" said JTA board member Ed Burr.

The \$3.97 million Passenger Ferry Grant is in addition to the \$900,000 Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grant awarded in April. Last year, the Commission hired grant consultant Langton Associates to write two grants which together have now yielded \$4.87 million.

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