

**LEE COUNTY TRAFFIC OPERATIONS CAMPUS HARDENING PROJECT DESCRIPTION
(LeeCountyPD_CFHP_7)**

1. (A.) PROJECT PURPOSE

Lee County proposes to harden the Lee County Department of Transportation (LCDOT) Traffic Section facilities, a campus consisting of buildings that house the traffic signal maintenance operations, signs and markings operations, engineering and inspections operations for LCDOT, and a warehouse facility that houses the materials for the operations that work out of these buildings. Work will include three major areas of hardening:

- Remove skin, provide and install additional purlins and girts and replace skin for roof;
- Installation of flood panels for all man doors and roll-up door openings for flood proofing; and
- Upgrading all windows, man doors and roll-up doors to comply with current codes for wind speed loading up to 170 mph.

Lee County operates and maintains all 437 traffic signals within Lee County including the incorporated areas and the State roadways through interlocal agreements. Lee DOT also maintains more than 5,500 street lights, 70,000 street signs, 300 miles of fiber-optic communication line, and pavement markings throughout the County. All of these infrastructure assets are maintained out of the Lee DOT-Traffic Section facilities. Should the DOT-Traffic facilities be damaged, the maintenance operations would be severely restricted due to the inability to store parts and the inability to remotely monitor the traffic roadway network.

1. (B.) DESCRIPTION OF THE CRITICAL FACILITY

The LCDOT Traffic Section is a critical facility that provides support to all of Lee County. The maintenance of all traffic signals, signs, pavement markings, and street lights is based out of the LCDOT-Traffic facility. The facility also houses the right-of-way permitting operation for Engineering Services, the roadway construction inspection crews for Engineering Services, the roadway repaving operations for Engineering Services, and the Traffic Operations Center (TOC). The TOC oversees the day-to-day operation of the traffic signal system for the Department.

The TOC campus is located in the FEMA-designated X Flood Zone, outside the Special Flood Hazard Area.

The Lee County Traffic Operations Center, 5650 Enterprise Parkway, Fort Myers, FL 33905, is located at 26 39' 50.12"N; 81 48' 4.59"W.

2. RISK MITIGATION

Structures on this campus are not sufficiently designed to withstand a significant wind event. Should a significant wind event devastate these facilities, there is presently not a backup facility in place to house these operations without a significant reduction in efficiency.

The infrastructure that is maintained by the DOT-Traffic Section are critical facilities within the County. Facilities and operations such as traffic signals, pedestrian crosswalks, pedestrian level lighting, pavement markings, right-of-way permitting, and roadway repaving are all maintained out of the DOT-Traffic Section facility. These are all vital for first-responders in the aftermath of a hazardous event.

In addition, structures to be hardened by this proposal house operations to replace signs and markings and to conduct engineering responses and inspections immediately after a damaging event. These services are critical for the return normal traffic operation and restoration of a safe and rebounding economy.

Immediately after Hurricane Irma, the DOT-Traffic Section was able to begin damage assessment and restoring of traffic signals immediately. There were approximately 200 traffic signals damaged as a result of the storm. Through the DOT-Traffic Section facilities, these signals were able to be repaired sufficiently to allow some form of operation within one month. Full restoration of the signals took longer, but the signals were able to operate per FHWA guidelines.

Lee County plans to harden this facility to wind speeds of at least 170 mph, exceeding the requirements of the Florida Building Code. In June 2018, FEMA's Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration reported that every dollar invested to harden facilities above building code standards will return \$5 in future cost savings. The total investment in direct construction costs for this project is estimated at \$2,611,890.

3. WORK COMPLETION AND MANAGEMENT TEAM

Grant-supported work to complete the hardening will be overseen by the Lee County departments of Facilities and Construction Management and Transportation. Lee County Procurement will select a Design Professional and General Contractor through established Lee County Competitive Negotiation protocols and in compliance with all federal guidelines outlined in the Federal Register Notice 84 FR 45838 and Florida DEO requirements.

When final design has been completed, the Design Professional will provide an Opinion of Probable Cost which will be the basis of review for the establishment of the construction bid from the selected General Contractor. The General Contractor is required to secure a minimum of three (3) bids for each component of the project and these bids are shared and reviewed by County Facilities' staff prior to approving the construction bid.

4. DETERMINATION OF PROJECT FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Estimates for this project were based on quotes for previous comparable at Lee County facilities and on estimates provided by design professionals hired by Lee County to propose hardening on Hertz Arena as a hurricane shelter.

The total estimate for this project is \$3,865,418, including \$2,611,890 in direct construction costs. Costs of professional fees and a contingency are also included.

This is a sound investment considering that these spaces will be available for the lifetime of the new roof and windows, estimated to be approximately 15 years.

5. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

This proposal to upgrade the TOC campus reduces the risk of the catastrophic loss of this critical facility. Its continued operation is vital to safe and prosperous operation. Specific outcomes include:

- Protect the safe and constant operation of the Traffic Operations Center, a critical facility responsible for controlling traffic throughout Lee County;
- Help ensure the usefulness of this structure for approximately 15 years;

6. Maintenance

Because the TOC is a critical and constant service of Lee County, the continued maintenance and upkeep of the facility is paramount. The hardened roofing, windows and doors will be included in the County's normal maintenance programs.