

Improvements to US 98 at the Historic District

We have been discussing the conceptual plans to improve the 98 corridor as it runs through our Historic District between First/Marina and 71 or Costin. We have documented the historic support of improvements and have provided an overview of the types of improvements we are seeking.

Currently, the PSJRA is actively working on the construction cost estimates for detailed streetscape improvements and intersection improvements for the area within the Redevelopment District that will be affected by the FDOT streetscape. We are also preparing cost estimates for the engineering and construction design of the same.

The long-term plan for the PSJRA streetscape improvements is to identify locations, materials, trees, sidewalks, and so forth, and to identify cost estimates for each specific improvement. Next, working with the City of Port St. Joe, other stakeholders, and the public at large, we will determine which improvements are first priority and also identify potential local participation and funding sources. After this process, the PSJRA will prepare and coordinate the planning, design and engineering for the priority improvements. Each step will be part of the public process and will seek input from our city and county officials.

We have identified several grant opportunities to provide funding for the remainder of needed funds. The PSJRA will continue working with our consultants, Land Design Innovations, to identify additional grant opportunities as well as initiating the grant application processes in coordination with FDOT to have the funded streetscape improvements worked into their resurfacing project. Based on our conversations with FDOT, they are ready to work with us.

We have mapped out a timeline for this process and will keep you posted. Should all the funding not be immediately available, we will have created consensus on the comprehensive plan and can stage it into the future as needed. We thank the City, County, Gulf County Transportation Committee, Interagency Task Force and Economic Summit Committee for their input and ongoing support as we attempt to fast-track these important improvements.