Executive Summary

The Mid-Bay Bridge is a 3.6 mile, two (2)-lane toll bridge that is located in Northwest Florida. Spanning the Choctawhachee Bay, in Okaloosa County, the bridge begins in Niceville, Florida and ends in Destin, Florida.

The Mid-Bay Bridge Authority was created by legislation to plan, build and oversee this facility along with the connecting roads to the Bridge. The Authority has five voting members appointed by the Governor for three year terms and has a non-voting member who is the local District Three Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation. The facility is operated and maintained by the FDOT through a Lease-Purchase Agreement with the Department and day-to-day administration is managed by an Executive Director along with the Director’s staff.

Completed in 1993 to anticipate the traffic demands of coastal development in the Destin/Niceville Region and to provide additional hurricane evacuation capacity for the region, the bridge has increasingly exceeded annual traffic volume projections. To meet the increasing regional traffic demands that are projected for the future, the Mid Bay Bridge Authority has developed a comprehensive capital improvement program to include new roads for the bridge along the north and south approaches and an additional bridge to parallel the existing bridge.

Overall the comprehensive program will have improvements that start at US 98 in Destin and extend to State Road 85 north of Niceville. Many of the improvements are located on Eglin Air Force Base owned by the US Government and the Mid Bay Bridge Capital Improvement Program is being developed as a cooperative effort between the US Air Force, the Florida Department of Transportation, and the local County and City governments and communities.

Attached are the components of the program to include project descriptions, funding sources, and anticipated timelines. The existing Mid-Bay Bridge is a critical part of the Northwest Florida Panhandle transportation network and with improvements proposed in this program the region will benefit by the additional capacity and ease congestion along existing corridors.
• State Road 293 (Danny Wuerffel Way)/US 98 Widening and Intersection Improvements
  Project completed in Spring 2002.

• Toll Booth Plaza Expansion

• Mid-Bay Bridge Expansion
  Completion needed by 2013.

• State Road 20 Widening
  Project is currently being designed.

• Mid-Bay Bridge Connector - 3 Phases
  Conceptual approval by Eglin Air Force Base of Connector from bridge to State Road 85 in December 2006.
  - Phase 1: Mid-Bay Bridge to Range Road. Design initiated Spring 2007.
  - Phase 2: Range Road to State Road 285. Initiation scheduled for 2008.
  - Phase 3: State Road 285 to State Road 85. Initiation scheduled for 2010.
State Road 293 (Danny Wuerffel Way) / US 98 Widening and Intersection Improvements

Okaloosa County, Florida

**Purpose and Need:**
The two (2)-lane approach along State Road 293 (Danny Wuerffel Way) had insufficient capacity for traffic demands. The US 98/State Road 293 intersection was the most congested intersection in the County.

**Length:**
Approximately 1.9 miles

**Description:**
This project involved the widening of the existing State Road 293 (Danny Wuerffel Way) to a four (4)-lane divided highway and the widening of the existing US 98 to a six (6)-lane divided highway for one mile with intersection improvements.

**Status:**
This project was constructed and completed by the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority in 2002.

**Cost:**
ROW/Design/Construction: $7.1 million

**Funding Source:**
FDOT Loan, FDOT / Okaloosa County Grant, City of Destin, Private Development

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**Mid-Bay Bridge Expansion**

*Okaloosa County, Florida*

**Purpose and Need:**
The Mid-Bay Bridge has exceeded traffic projections since its construction. Currently, future traffic projections show the need for an additional Mid-Bay Bridge by the year 2013.

**Length:**
Approximately 3.6 miles

**Description:**
The second bridge will be identical to the existing two (2)-lane bridge. The new bridge will be built to the east of the existing bridge and carry northbound traffic. The existing bridge will carry the southbound traffic.

**Status:**
This project has not been released for design. Environmental documentation will be the initial phase.

**Costs:**
ROW/Design/Construction: $196.4 million

**Funding Source:**
Future Bond Issue
Toll Booth Plaza Expansion
Okaloosa County, Florida

Purpose and Need:
Anticipating the construction of a second bridge, a traffic model of the existing and proposed traffic flows was made to determine optimal traffic flows through the existing Toll Booth Plaza. The additional lanes will also provide some relief to congestion until the four (4)-lane approach is completed.

Description:
Expansion of the existing six (6)-lane toll booth plaza to an eight (8)-lane facility.

Status:

Costs:
ROW/Design/Construction: $6.3 million

Funding Source:
2004 Bond Issue
State Road 20 Widening
Okaloosa County, Florida

**Purpose and Need:**
State Road 20 is an existing two (2)-lane highway from White Point Road to the intersection of the new Mid-Bay Bridge Connector. To provide capacity directly to the Mid-Bay Bridge Connector, State Road 20 must be expanded to a four (4)-lane road.

**Length:**
Approximately 1.1 miles

**Description:**
The State Road 20 will be widened from a two (2)-lane rural highway to a four (4)-lane divided highway.

**Status:**
This project is in the design phase. Design will be completed Spring 2007.

**Costs:**
ROW/Design/Construction: $7.5 million

**Funding Source:**
Capital Improvement Fund

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**Timeline:**
- State Road 293 (Danny Wuerffel Way)/US 98 Widening
- Mid-Bay Bridge Expansion
- Toll Booth Plaza Expansion
- State Road 20 Widening
- Mid-Bay Bridge Connector - Phase 1
- Mid-Bay Bridge Connector - Phase 2
- Mid-Bay Bridge Connector - Phase 3

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Design
ROW Acquisition
Construction
**Mid-Bay Bridge Connector - Phase 1**  
*Okaloosa County, Florida*

**Purpose and Need:**  
Phase 1 of the Connector will provide needed capacity improvements for the North Approach to the Bridge. Improvements will relieve congestion on White Point Road and State Road 20 and improve hurricane evacuation.

**Length:**  
Approximately 2.8 miles

**Description:**  
The first phase will be a four (4)-lane limited access highway connecting Mid-Bay Bridge to County Road, Range Road.

**Status:**  
The land acquisition associated with this project will be from Eglin Air Force Base. The Mid-Bay Bridge Authority is currently discussing the alignment and federal documentation. The project design will be initiated Spring 2007.

**Costs:**  
ROW/Design/Construction: $39.2 million

**Funding Source:**  
Capital Improvement Fund and 2007 Bond Issue
Mid-Bay Bridge Connector - Phase 2
Okaloosa County, Florida

**Purpose and Need:**
Phase 2 of the Connector will provide added capacity and relieve congestion on State Road 20. It will also expedite hurricane evacuation.

**Length:**
5.6 miles

**Description:**
Phase 2 will be a four (4)-lane limited access toll road from County Road, Range Road to State Road 285.

**Status:**
The land acquisition associated with this project will come from Eglin Air Force Base. The Mid-Bay Bridge Authority is currently discussing the alignment and federal documentation. The project design and ROW procurement will immediately follow Phase 1.

**Costs:**
ROW/Design/Construction: $97.5 million

**Funding Source:**
2007 Bond Issue and Future Bond Issue
Mid-Bay Bridge Connector - Phase 3
Okaloosa County, Florida

Purpose and Need:
Phase 3 will complete the Connector and provide additional capacity to the system and relieve congestion on State Road 20. Additional hurricane evacuation routes will also be provided. This Phase will also connect to the planned Northwest Florida Bypass.

Length:
2.5 miles

Description:
The third phase will be a four (4)-lane divided highway toll road from State Road 285 to State Road 85.

Status:
The land acquisition associated with this project will come from Eglin Air Force Base. The Mid-Bay Bridge Authority is currently discussing the alignment and federal documentation. The project design and ROW procurement will immediately follow Phase 2.

Costs:
ROW/Design/Construction: $47.2 million

Funding Source:
Future Bond Issue

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**Timeline**

**Capital Improvement Program**

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- **Mid-Bay Bridge Expansion**: Design Criteria Prep
- **Toll Booth Plaza Expansion**: Design
- **State Road 20 Widening**: ROW Acquisition
- **Mid-Bay Bridge Connector - Phase 1**: Design, Construction
- **Mid-Bay Bridge Connector - Phase 2**: Design, ROW Acquisition
- **Mid-Bay Bridge Connector - Phase 3**: Design, ROW Acquisition

Project Completed in 2002

Permits/Environmental Documents

Design/Construction

Construction Completion Scheduled for May 2007

Design

Construction

ROW Acquisition

Construction

ROW Acquisition

Design

Construction

ROW Acquisition

Design

Construction