

JOHNS PASS DREDGING

JUNE 2022 – APR 2025

PURPOSE

To dredge a section of the John's Pass channel/waterway, more specifically an approximate 1.6 acres area on the northern side of the channel/waterway adjacent to a FDOT right-of-way, City property, and private property to remove/alleviate sedimentation likely attributed to alongshore sediment transport of sand moving north to south which becomes entrained via tidal currents along the updrift bank of the inlet.

ACTIONS

June 2022 City officials notified the Florida Legislature appropriated just over \$1.5 million to help fund the project.

Oct 2022 City contracts with Aptim Environmental (the Pinellas County coastal contractor) to manage the project specifically to obtain all requisite permits and assist with bid issuance.

Jan - Feb 2023 Aptim staff meet with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and US Army Corps of Engineers, USACE, representatives (pre-planning) to discuss and review permit application requirements. Aptim also communicated with FDOT throughout the middle of 2023 as the project will occur within State DOT right-of-way.

May 2023 Aptim submits FDOT permit application.

Dec 2023 FDOT approves State right-of-way permit with the DEP and USACE permits now able to be applied for by Aptim.

Mar 2024 FDOT permit received by Aptim. Issuance delayed due to impacts of Hurricane Idalia.

Mar 2024 City requests extension of the State appropriation funding through June 30, 2025 (can be extended through Dec 31, 2025).

July 2024 Aptim submits all remaining completed permits to the USACE and the FDEP.

- Why is it almost a year and half to submit?

- The FDOT permit was required to move forward with FDEP and USACE permitting as stated during the pre-application meetings. Neither agency was willing to issue a permit until FDOT approved of the project due to concerns about bridge infrastructure. Permit drawings, final design, analysis of impacts to the coastal system, environmental investigations, and permit applications were finalized and submitted between December 2023 and July 2024; however, specific permit conditions were needed to complete final design.

Aug-Sep 2024 Follow-up comments received from USACE and FDP requesting additional information

Dec 2024 Temporary access and construction easement obtained from private property owner adjacent to proposed dredging area USACE and FDEP

Jan 2025 FDEP on-site visit to John's Pass proposed dredging area. Aptim replies to USACE and FDEP requests for additional information

- Why did this take 4 months to respond?

- **APTIM needed clarification on the FDEP and USACE request for additional information (RAI)**
- **APTIM reached out to FDEP on 8/20/24.**
 - **Heard back from FDEP on 8/30/24 and a meeting was set up for 9/9/24.**
 - **Additional information regarding easement requirements was requested by APTIM on 9/9/24.**
 - **Information was provided by FDEP to APTIM regarding the need for an easement on 10/1/24.**
 - **A meeting was held with the City regarding procuring an easement for the RAI on 12/3/24.**
 - **FDEP required a site visit as criteria for response to RAI; APTIM requested site visit, but FDEP arranged for what would be the passage of Hurricane Helene. Site visit was rescheduled but delayed again due to impacts from Hurricane Milton. Final date coordinated based upon FDEP schedule was 1/14/25.**
- **APTIM reached out to USACE on 9/5/24, 9/19/24, and 10/14/24 to discuss the RAI.**
 - **Heard back from USACE on 10/22/24 and meeting was set up for 10/28/24.**
- **Why no request for confirmation?**
 - **We will request confirmation for future RAI responses. We are told by the FDEP to wait 21 days after submittal until follow-up as review timeline courtesy and 28 days for the Corps as that is their standard review timelines.**

Feb 2025 FDEP replied on Feb 18 requesting additional information (due w/in next 30 days) involving construction plans, water quality standards, and disposal and dewater processes, as well as possible additional comments from state agencies, FWC and Water Resource Management.

Feb-Mar 2025 USACE continues information reviews

Expected replies from USACE and FDEP to occur within 30-60 days. Upon receipt of permits, bid issued shortly after to schedule to complete the dredging by summer 2025.

- Follow up on February 14, 2025 –
 - **Why did you wait over 3 weeks to follow up**
 - **We are told by the FDEP to wait 21 days after submittal until follow-up as that is their standard review timelines.**
- Follow up on March 13, 2025 –
 - **Why did you wait 4 weeks to follow up**

- **APTIM followed up with the USACE on 2/14/25 and 3/3/25, and the USACE responded on 3/13/25.**
- **We are told by the USACE to wait 28 days after submittal until follow-up as that is their standard review timelines.**
- Has confirmation from the March 13 submittal been received from USACE?
 - **Yes, the USACE has received the RAI response.**
- If no confirmation what are you doing to move this project forward?
 - **A meeting was held between APTIM and USACE on 3/20/25 to discuss the RAI response.**
 - **An additional RAI was received from FDEP on 2/18/25.**
 - **APTIM reached out regarding a meeting on 2/19/25.**
 - **A meeting was held between APTIM and FDEP on 3/5/25.**
 - **Additional clarification from FDEP regarding mitigation and best management practices is pending.**

Aptim followed up with FDEP and USACE on March 21 and April 7, 2025, on the additional information submitted to both agencies. USACE replied on April 7, 2025, I will let you know. There may be additional information required after the Corps receives comments from the resource agencies. No reply from FDEP as of Wed, Apr 9, will follow-up prior to Apr 16 meeting.