



MEMORANDUM

Date: March 26, 2025
To: Board of Commissioners
From: Robin I. Gomez, City Manager
Subject: UPDATE ON JOHN'S PASS DREDGING

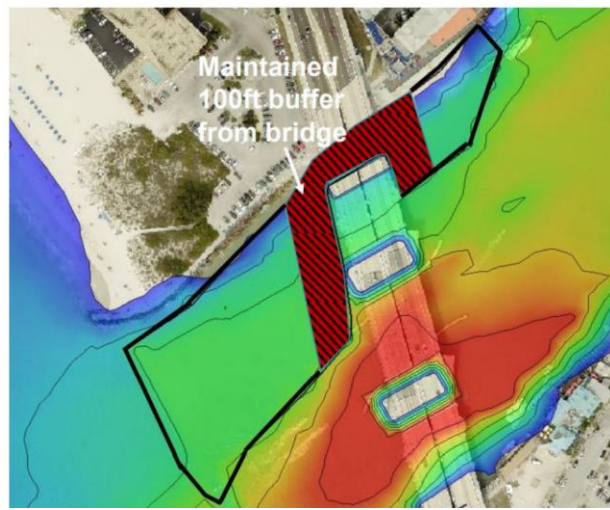
Background

The City has been utilizing the Pinellas County Professional Coastal Management Environmental Consultant, Aptim Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc, for the initial design and permitting process for the John's Pass Dredging Project.

Discussion

The City was awarded a \$1.556 Million grant by the 2022 Florida Legislature, through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, FDEP, (available until June 30, 2025), to assist with the dredging of 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 the east (as more specifically identified in the enclosed Project Description documentation). The multi-year project will require the coordination of various permits including the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), as well various partner agencies, and private property owners.

John's Pass Inlet Proposed Area to be Dredged – black outline



Project Location and Site History

Johns Pass connects Boca Ciega Bay to the Gulf of Mexico in southwest Pinellas County (Figure 1). Since the mid-1990's to present, the City of Madeira Beach has experienced increased sedimentation along the northern side of the channel within Johns Pass. The sedimentation is 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. The project area stretches approximately 670 linear feet on the northern side of Johns Pass channel adjacent to the Gulf Boulevard Bridge (State Road 699) (Figure 2). FDEP Permit No. 0270453-001-JC, issued in 2010, suggests that maintenance dredging has occurred in the channel at Johns Pass.



Project Purpose and Goals

The Johns Pass Dredging Project was designed with 2 goals:

1. To restore access to adjacent marinas.
2. To remove the excess sediment from the referenced area

Proposed Activity

To mitigate for the sedimentation on the north side of Johns Pass, it is the City's desire to dredge this area to restore access to adjacent marinas and remove the excess sediment from the Pass. The proposed dredge footprint, shown in Figure 2, is approximately 1.61 acres. The project area is located under and adjacent to the Gulf Boulevard Bridge. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has authorized dredging around the Gulf Boulevard Bridge and specified a 15-foot buffer between the dredge template and the bridge pilings and footings. The seaward limit of the dredge area ranges from approximately 102 to 140 feet from the marina boardwalk. The minimum distance from the dredge template to the federal navigation channel is 121 feet. The dredge template is shown in detail in the Permit Drawings (Attachment #2). The template has a proposed dredge depth that ranges from -10 to -12.7 feet NAVD, with a 2-foot overdredge



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allowance. An approximate volume of 12,897 cubic yards will be removed from the channel. Side slopes will be cut at 1 vertical foot to 5 horizontal feet. The dredged material will be dewatered in the City-owned parking lot north of Johns Pass. The material will be disposed of in an upland location to be coordinated with the City of Madeira Beach and Pinellas County. After the initial project completion, periodic maintenance dredging may be required if sedimentation reoccurs in the project area.

City officials were notified in June 2022 that the Florida Legislature appropriated, just over \$1.5 million to help fund the project (Governor signed budget approving appropriation). In October 2022, the City contracted with Aptim Environmental (the Pinellas County coastal contractor) to manage the project specifically to obtain all requisite permits.

In January and February 2023 Aptim staff met 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.

In December 2023, FDOT approved State right-of-way permit with the DEP and USACE permits still in progress by Aptim.

In March 2024, City requested an extension of the State appropriation funding through June 30, 2025; can be extended through Dec 31, 2025.

Aptim submitted all remaining completed permits to the USACE and the FDEP by July 2024. Follow-up comments received on August 16 and September 5 were completed by Aptim and submitted to USACE and FDEP on Jan 22, 2025. In Dec 2024, as requested by FDEP, the City obtained a temporary access & construction easement from the adjacent property (179 Boardwalk Place W) to the proposed dredging site. FDEP performed an on-site visit/review on Jan 14, 2025; we received confirmation on Feb 3 of all information received by FDEP.

On Feb 27, 2025, City requested an extension of state appropriation funding through Dec 31, 2025. FDEP acknowledged receipt stating they would provide the extension.

On Mar 13, 2025, Aptim resubmitted the Jan 22, 2025, response to USACE as USACE stated they had not received the items on Jan 22 and a follow-up on Feb 14 and Mar 3, 2025.

Additional communication from Aptim to the FDEP was submitted on March 18, 2025.

We should have back within 30-60 days. Upon receipt of permits, we will issue a bid shortly after that would schedule to complete the dredging in 2025.