

**CITY OF VENICE, FLORIDA
FISCAL YEAR 2018
FEDERAL PRIORITIES
FACT SHEET**

1) Beach Renourishment & Preservation

The City of Venice has a 50-year contract with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to renourish the beach every 10 years due to erosion impacts from the Venice Inlet. The City is most appreciative of the current support from the ACOE, and look forward to our next renourishment which is scheduled to be completed in 2025. Maintaining a healthy beach profile is critical for protecting structures during storm events, reducing flooding impacts and to supporting tourism which is a primary economic revenue source for the region.

The City of Venice would like to discuss with the Army Corps of Engineers the prospects for alternative methods to not only restore, but to also preserve and protect, the area's beaches during the next scheduled restoration project.

FY 2018 Request: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers discuss with the City of Venice alternative means to protect beaches as opposed to the traditional restoration of sand as has been previously done.

2) Explore the Relocation of the Federal Post Office from Downtown Venice

Currently, a federal post office facility occupies space in a key downtown location in the City of Venice. The facility provides conventional customer services and also includes a distribution center. Collectively, the composite facility consumes more than half a city block of precious, historical downtown space. It would be preferable that the post office's retail feature remain on the island in another location convenient for customers, while the distribution center be relocated to a similarly convenient site in the Venice area. Additionally, there is a vision by the City to provide opportunities for restoring this site to the original design as developed during the City's early period as part of the John Nolen Plan, possibly as a hotel.

FY 2018 Request: That the Federal Government explore the possibility of moving the distribution component of the post office to a different site in the Venice area, while relocating the customer service feature to another location on the island. The City could then investigate opportunities for restoring the post office site to a use more consistent with the John Nolen Plan.

3) VA Dept. Initiative to Assist in Homelessness and Treat Mental Illness in Veterans

Because a lack of social services increases problems for society, especially for the homeless, those with mental illness, and those with alcohol and drug addictions – particularly veterans battling these issues – more ways of helping vets in need of these services must be identified and implemented. Many veterans face challenges throughout their lives that may lead them to lose their home and become homeless, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs states. Having homelessness in a community undermines the welfare of all residents. Developing jobs, reinstating mental health care clinics, increasing opportunities for vets and others to receive help and employment assistance to be able to become independent and self-sufficient are examples of ways to improve society now and in the future.

The City asks that the VA Dept. create an initiative to assist with homelessness and mental illness in vets locally.

FY 2018 Request: The Department of Veterans Affairs formulate an initiative of viable alternatives to reduce homelessness and to treat mental illness in veterans needing these services.

4) *Ribbons of Venice*

The City of Venice was recently designated a Silver Bicycle Friendly Community. There is community momentum to continue improvements to make Venice a safe and healthy place to ride bicycles for recreation and transportation purposes. The City has been working with a nonprofit agency to identify sidewalks, bicycle lanes and connections, and other opportunities to extend the existing Legacy Trail system by connecting it with parks, centers of commerce, and other destinations throughout the City and county. The connections in Venice have been identified and the city is seeking funds to construct them.

FY 2018 Request: The City of Venice respectfully requests \$500,000 to construct multi-use trail connection points and bicycle lanes within the city to facilitate the regional trail system.