

CITY OF VENICE, FLORIDA
FISCAL YEAR 2018
FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS
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: US Army Corps of Engineers consider discussing with the City of Venice alternative means to protect beaches as opposed to the traditional restoration of sand as has been previously done.

2) Coordinate a Program to End Homelessness and Treat Mental Illness, with an Emphasis on 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 those people in need of these services needs to 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.

FY 2018 Request: Assistance with identification of viable alternatives to reduce or end homelessness, and to treat mental illness, with an emphasis on veterans needing these services.

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

The City of Venice is engaged in a process to expand parking capacity, relieve vehicle congestion, and improve overall traffic flow and efficiency in the City's central business district. As the City grows in population and tourist influx, improvements in traffic routing and parking capacity are critical to serving the resident and business population and in maintaining a high level of traffic safety and efficiency. Among the concepts being examined are: development of parking lots and parking structures in the downtown area, and creation of a trolley looping system to connect parking sites to business and shopping locations. Currently, a post office facility occupies space in a key downtown location. 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 commercial space. While the presence of a customer service center is considered a valuable traditional downtown service, the larger component of the post office complex, the distribution center, is a service that could operate from a myriad of other area locations. There is also a desire by the City to provide opportunities for restoring this site to the original use 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, while retaining the customer service feature at the present location; or work with the City to identify an equally customer-convenient site in the downtown area. Additionally, the City requests support for the creation of an expanded parking system to accommodate efficient movement of vehicles out of traffic circulation, and a compatible trolley looping feature to facilitate safe movement of patrons and tourists.

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.