

March 2, 2026 – City Council Meeting

Infrastructure Bond Funding Options

Bridge Improvements

1. Caxambas Bridge (constructed 1973)

Option A – Replacement: \$12M

- FDOT reimbursement: \$3.75M
- Scheduled: FY27

Option B – Rehabilitation: \$2M

- Would require foregoing FDOT grant
- Scheduled: FY27

FDOT inspections have rated the deck and superstructure as “Serious.” This bridge currently has the lowest sufficiency rating among 370 bridges in Collier County.

History:

- 2017: \$87,344 for asphalt surface replacement and new expansion joints (extended life ~10 years).
- February 5, 2024: Council approved \$265,371 agreement with FDOT for replacement design.
- June 2, 2025: Council approved \$161,351 utility design agreement to relocate water and sewer mains.

Staff Recommendation: **Replacement.**

2. Goldenrod Bridge

Replacement: \$10M

- FDOT reimbursement: \$3.75M
- Scheduled: FY29

In May 2025, Council approved \$138,000 for interim maintenance (milling, expansion joints, waterproofing membrane, asphalt, and patching).

The bridge is currently rated “Scour Critical” for substructure (pilings). The city conducted MRI testing to determine pile depth.

Replacement would provide a 75-year service life.

Staff Recommendation: **Replacement.**

3. Blackmore, Sandhill, and South Seas Bridges

- Repairs: **\$1.5M** total (\$500K each)
- Scheduled: FY28

Total Bridge Investment (FY27–FY30)

Total Cost: \$23.5M

FDOT Grants: \$7.5M

Net City Cost: **\$16M**

Roadway Improvements (FY27–FY36)

1. Paving

- Catch-up paving (36 lane miles): **\$7.2M** (FY27)
 - \$200,000 per lane mile
- Dedicated paving program: \$1.68M/year for 10 years = **\$16.8M** (FY28–FY36)
 - 84 lane miles over 10 years

Roadway paving is a core function of municipal government and must be funded either through the Capital Improvement Plan or bond financing.

2. Intersections

- Signal controllers, cabinets, pedestrian safety upgrades: **\$2M** (FY27)
- Elkcam / Collier intersection improvements: **\$5M** (FY29)
- Barfield / Bald Eagle signal installation: **\$1.5M** (FY30)

Traffic congestion remains one of the most frequent resident complaints. Signal modernization and intersection improvements will improve traffic flow and safety.

3. Median Landscaping

- **\$1.5M** (FY28)

Total Roadway Investment

- **\$34M** (FY27–FY36)
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Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety (FY27–FY34)

1. Shared Use Paths

- 6th Ave / Elkcam: **\$1.5M** (FY32)
- Bald Eagle (Old Marco Lane to Palm): **\$800K** (FY34)
- Winterberry (Heathwood to Collier): **\$800K** (FY33)

2. Bald Eagle Bike Lanes

- **\$1.5M** (FY27)

The number one request in the Parks Master Plan was expanded trails and walking paths.

Additionally, residents consistently raise concerns regarding bicycle and e-bike speeds.

Dedicated bike lanes and shared-use paths improve safety for both pedestrians and cyclists.

Total Pedestrian Safety Investment

- **\$4.6M** (FY27–FY34)
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Overall Infrastructure Program Total

Bridges: **\$16M**

Roadways: **\$34M**

Pedestrian Safety: **\$4.6M**

Total: \$54.6M (Rounded: \$55M)

Staff Recommendation

The only discretionary (“want”) item in this proposal is median landscaping (\$1.5M). All other items represent either:

- Public safety concerns
- Asset preservation
- Core governmental responsibilities

Delaying bridge replacement will significantly increase future costs. Replacing two bridges and repairing three bridges now for \$16M is fiscally prudent compared to deferred replacement at substantially higher future costs.

Road paving and intersection upgrades are not high-profile projects, but they are fundamental municipal responsibilities. Infrastructure deterioration leads to exponential cost increases over time. Even the most fiscally conservative approach recognizes that routine maintenance prevents larger capital expenditures in the future.

Staff recommends placing a **\$55 million bond referendum** on the ballot.

Estimated Cost Per Household

(\$55M bond, 20 years, 4.5% interest)

Assessed Value	Annual Cost	Monthly Cost
\$500,000	\$116.51	\$9.71
\$750,000	\$174.76	\$14.56
\$1,000,000	\$233.01	\$19.42

For comparison:

- Comcast/Xfinity: \$215/month
- AT&T cell phone: \$85/month
- Netflix: \$17.99/month
- Amazon Prime: \$12/month

Alternative Option – \$25M Bond

(As requested by majority of Council at 2/9/26 workshop)

Assessed Value	Annual Cost	Monthly Cost
\$500,000	\$52.96	\$4.41
\$750,000	\$79.44	\$6.62
\$1,000,000	\$105.92	\$8.83

Figures are estimates based on current assessed value and assumed bond terms.

Bond Comparison

\$55M Bond

- ✓ Replace two bridges
- ✓ Repair three bridges
- ✓ 36 lane miles catch-up paving
- ✓ Annual paving (*ten years at \$1.68M/yr*)
- ✓ Traffic controls and ped safety upgrades at five intersections
- ✓ Collier/E. Elcam Cir. turn lanes and through lanes improvements
- ✓ Barfield/Bald Eagle Traffic Signal
- ✓ Median landscaping restoration
- ✓ 6th Ave./Elcam shared path
- ✓ Bald Eagle shared path (Old Marco)
- ✓ Winterberry shared path (Heathwood to Collier)
- ✓ Bald Eagle bike lanes (San Marco to Collier)

\$25M Bond

- ✓ Replace two bridges
- ✓ Repair three bridges
- ✓ 36 lane miles catch-up paving
- ✓ Annual paving (*three years at \$0.5M/yr*)