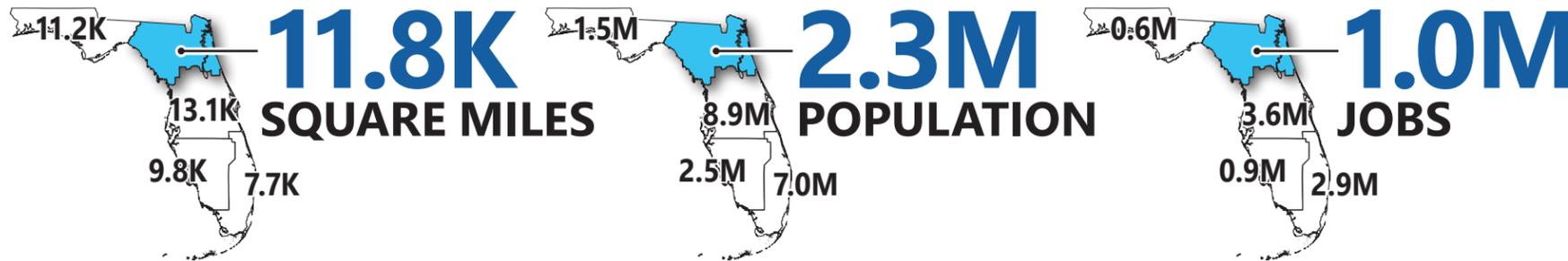




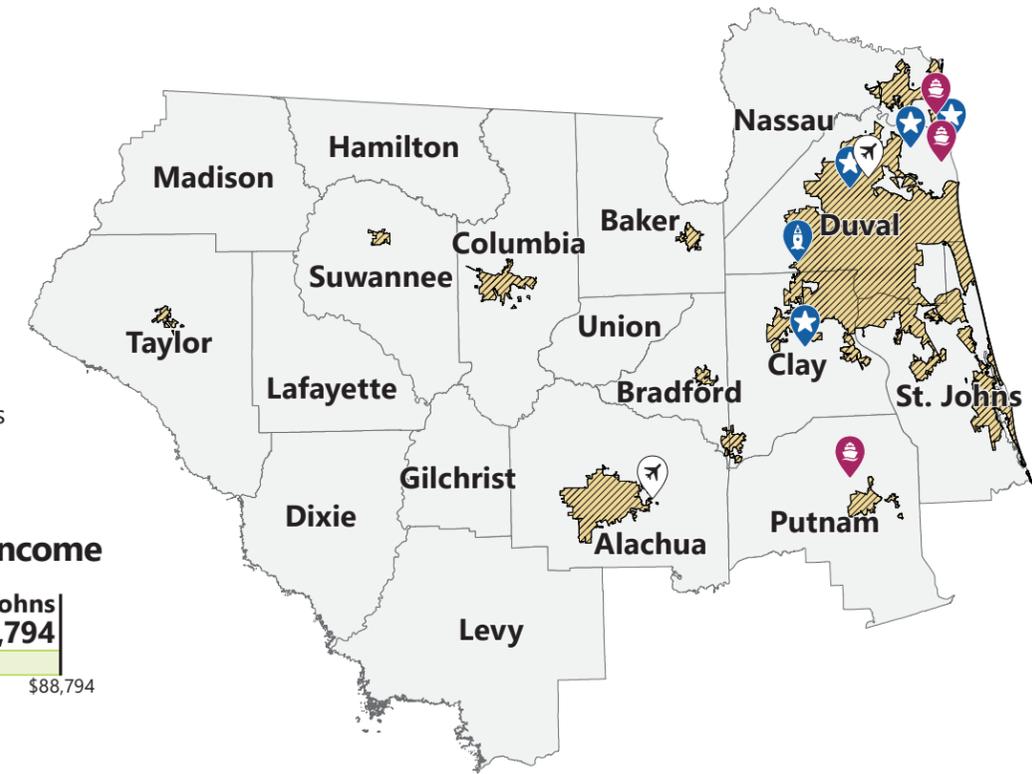
# NORTHEAST FLORIDA

## TRANSPORTATION TRENDS & CONDITIONS

The Northeast communities have a rich historical legacy along the St. Johns River, evolving over time into a thriving hub with diverse economies, including logistics, health care, and military industries. The area is a crucial regional center and gateway of the state for access both on land and sea. Recent emerging technology and multimodal infrastructure investments, such as river routes, smart streets, and bus rapid transit, reinforce the Northeast's dedication to accommodating sustainable growth and multimodal connectivity. With a relatively younger demographic and more undeveloped areas, Northeast Florida will continue to grow at a steady pace around existing urban centers, with targeted investments for transit, advanced technology, preservation of environmental assets, and enhanced amenities for outdoor activities.



[Statewide Transportation Trends & Conditions]



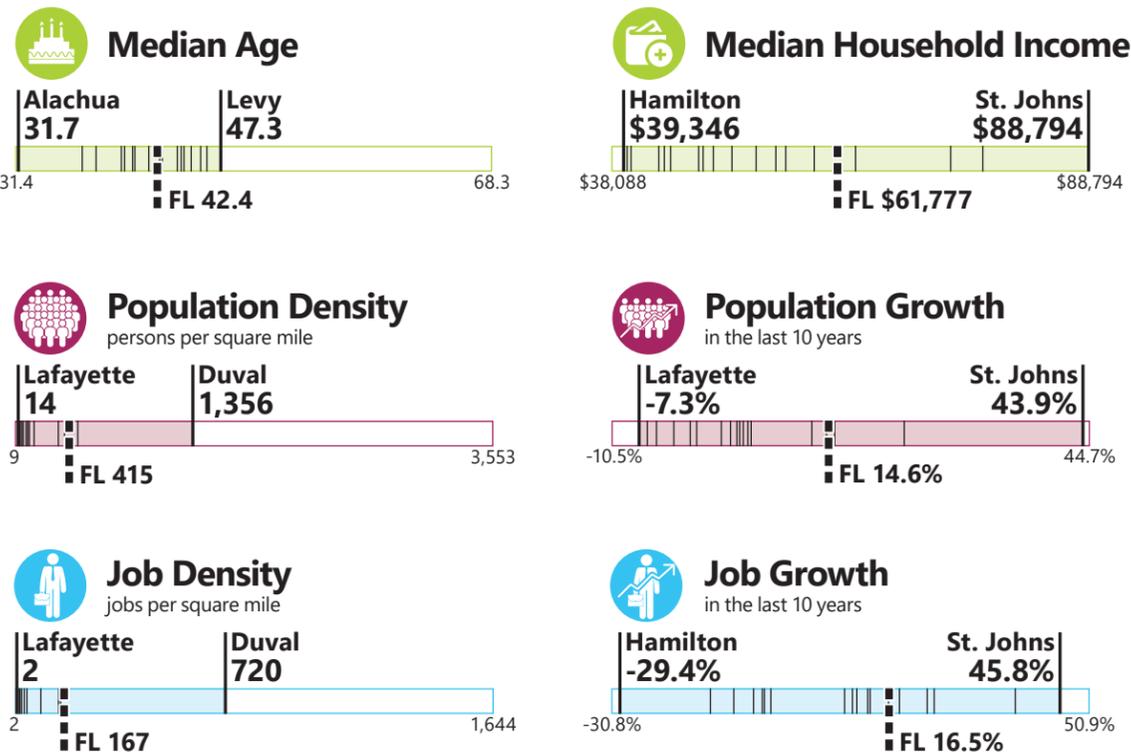
### TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM HIGHLIGHTS

- 22,469** Public Road Miles
- 676** Rail Mainline Miles
- 257** Active SUN Trail Miles
- 2,063** Highway Bridges
- 9** Transit Systems
- 2** Commercial Airports
- 3** Seaports
- 4** Military Installations
- 1** Spaceport

[Transportation Trends and Statistics by FDOT Districts]

### DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Reference scale bars reflect the range of values for each demographic characteristic across the state. Lines within shaded areas reflect values for Northeast communities.



[Florida Trends & Conditions - Northeast Communities Storymap]

- Urban Area
- Airport
- Seaport
- Military Installation
- Spaceport
- County Boundary

■ Florida (FL)  
■ Median

[Sources]

**DIVERSE AREA WITH DISTINCT URBAN CENTERS**

872,000 new residents  
656,000 new jobs  
by 2045

Northeast's historic communities grew along the fertile banks of the St. Johns River, and its socioeconomic landscape was later shaped by agriculture and the building of railroads. Most recently, the area's economy has been driven by its ports and military bases. Today, the Northeast is diverse in its geography, demography, and infrastructure.

- Destinations like Amelia Island and Ponte Vedra Beach are popular locations for water sports and golf, anchoring the area's **tourism industry** and complementing its **cultural attractions**.
- Northeast's **1 million jobs** encompass more than traditional industries, and include finance, health care, and technology. Its bio-science and cancer research hub includes the Mayo Clinic and University of Florida Health.
- In Northeast Florida, **14 out of 18 counties** have a higher percentage of people **living below the poverty level** compared to the state. In the next 30 years, St. Johns and Duval Counties will have significant population increases, **growing more than two times faster** than the other 16 counties in the area.

**TOP 3 EMPLOYMENT**



Naval Station Mayport

With a combined population of nearly 26,000 military personnel and 9,000 civilians, there is a significant demand to support commute trips and military operations of the four military bases in Northeast Florida.

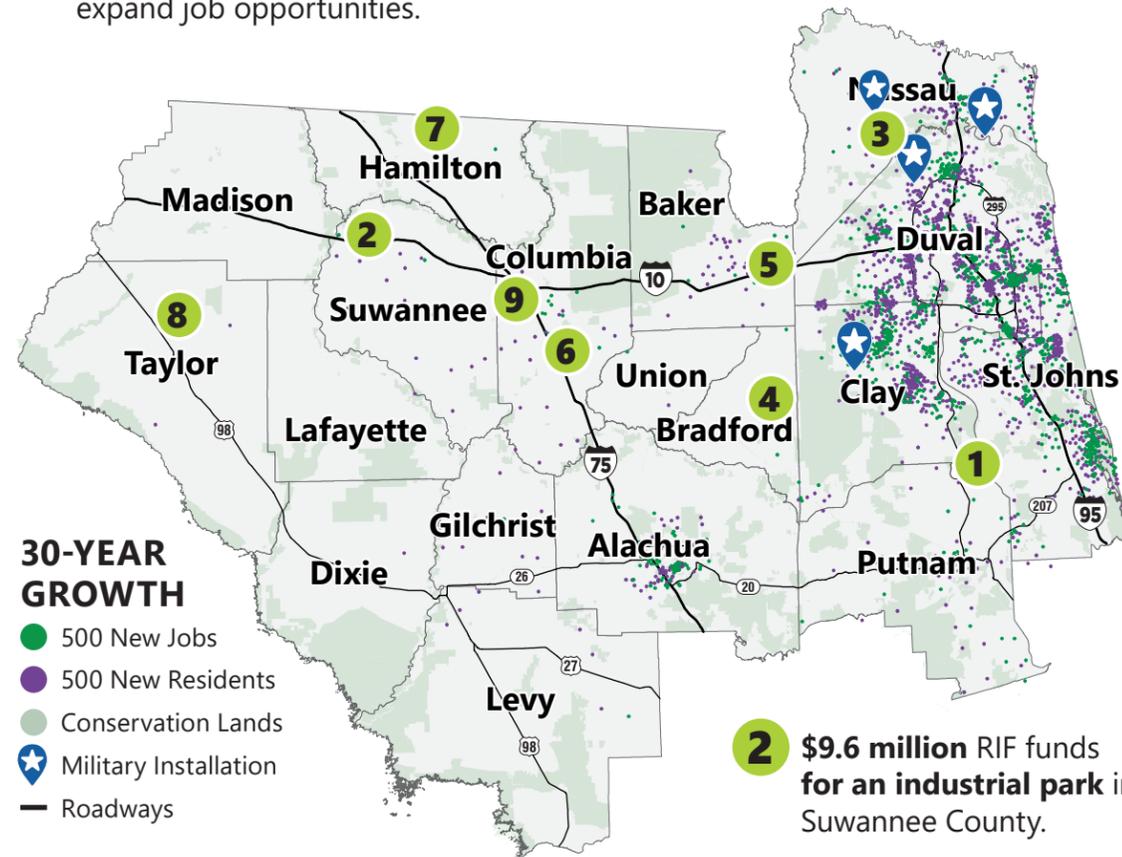
Gainesville is the **9th fastest-growing big city** among 381 U.S. metro areas from 2016 to 2021

Northeast communities are made up of **11% urban areas** & **89% rural areas**

**ENHANCING NORTHEAST'S RURAL ASSETS**

**89%** of Northeast Florida is rural

Even with modest population growth, addressing the transportation needs of rural areas is a priority. 40 percent of FDOT's Five-Year Work Program **allocated 40 percent of total funding to rural areas**. More than \$21 million from **Rural Infrastructure Fund** (RIF) program will support infrastructure projects that can spur economic development and expand job opportunities.



- 1** Clay, St. Johns, and Putnam Counties will benefit from **\$9.4 million** in state grants that **expand broadband internet service** in rural areas.
- 2** **\$9.6 million** RIF funds for an **industrial park** in Suwannee County.
- 3** **\$3.4 million** RIF funds for the Town of Callahan's **water treatment facility and wastewater pump**.
- 4** **\$700,000** RIF funds for the City of Starke **Community Center**.
- 5** **\$1.2 million** RIF funds for the City of Macclenny **water treatment plant**.
- 6** **\$5 million** RIF funds for Ellisville to **create traffic and safety improvements** near the I-75 interchange.
- 7** **\$400,000** RIF funds for Hamilton County to **enhance visitor experience** on I-75.
- 8** **\$300,000** RIF funds for Taylor County to **develop Steinhatchee Coastal Park**.
- 9** **\$564,000** RIF funds for the City of Live Oak's **water distribution and redevelopment** of Heritage Square.

**COMMITMENT TO TRANSPORTATION SAFETY**

The **Northeast Florida Community Traffic Safety Program** is leading efforts to reduce the number and severity of crashes under the state's Target Zero fatalities and serious injuries vision. University of Florida and FDOT collaborated to address roadway safety through intersection improvements (including striped crosswalks, improved sidewalks, and curb ramps) along University Avenue near the University of Florida.



## RECREATIONAL AMENITIES TO SUPPORT COMMUNITIES

Northeast Florida will continue to invest in recreational amenities to celebrate its natural assets, support community livability and healthy living, encourage multimodal travel, and boost tourism.

There are **642 miles** of FDOT Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail segments planned to expand the statewide trail network. Of the planned network, 25 percent has been funded.

Twenty-two miles of the 260-mile **St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop** will run through two Northeast Florida counties. Currently under construction and 60 percent completed, the Loop is part of the longer multi-state 3,000-mile East Coast Greenway and the Florida Coast-to-Coast Trail.

Targeted to be completed by 2029, the 30-mile **Emerald Trail in Jacksonville** will run around the urban core and link 14 historic neighborhoods to downtown, Hogans Creek, McCoys Creek, and the St. Johns River.



Palatka to St. Augustine Trail segment of the River to Sea Loop

Source: Florida State Parks

**Jacksonville** boasts more green space than any other city in the United States, with **more than 80,000 acres** of urban parks.



## TECHNOLOGY-DRIVEN SOLUTIONS

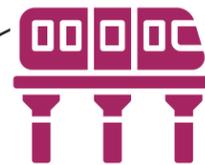
Northeast Florida is a hotbed of multimodal transportation technology pilot applications. Many of these initiatives are advanced in partnership with FDOT and other regional agencies and include:

North Florida Transportation Planning Organization has a vision for **Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS)** to transform travel through real-time traveler information of mode, route, time, and price estimation.

**Autonomous vehicles and smart devices**, including pedestrian and bicycle safety sensors, on-board vehicles, and roadside connectivity units, are being deployed for 200 miles of roadway in the City of Gainesville as part of the \$10 million I-STREET program.

**SMART St. Augustine** is a \$15.3 million citywide deployment of innovative technologies, such as broadband access, cell deployment, traffic and parking management and automation, and safety, surveillance, and wayfinding systems.

**54,000** workers travel between St. Johns and Duval Counties daily, supporting the need for more regional connections.



The **Jacksonville Skyway** is a **2.5-mile** elevated driverless monorail system over the St. Johns River and Downtown Jacksonville.

## TRANSIT THAT CONNECTS & SUPPORTS COMMUNITIES

Northeast Florida's development was originally spurred by rail and its communities will continue to prioritize, improve, and expand regional transit connections.

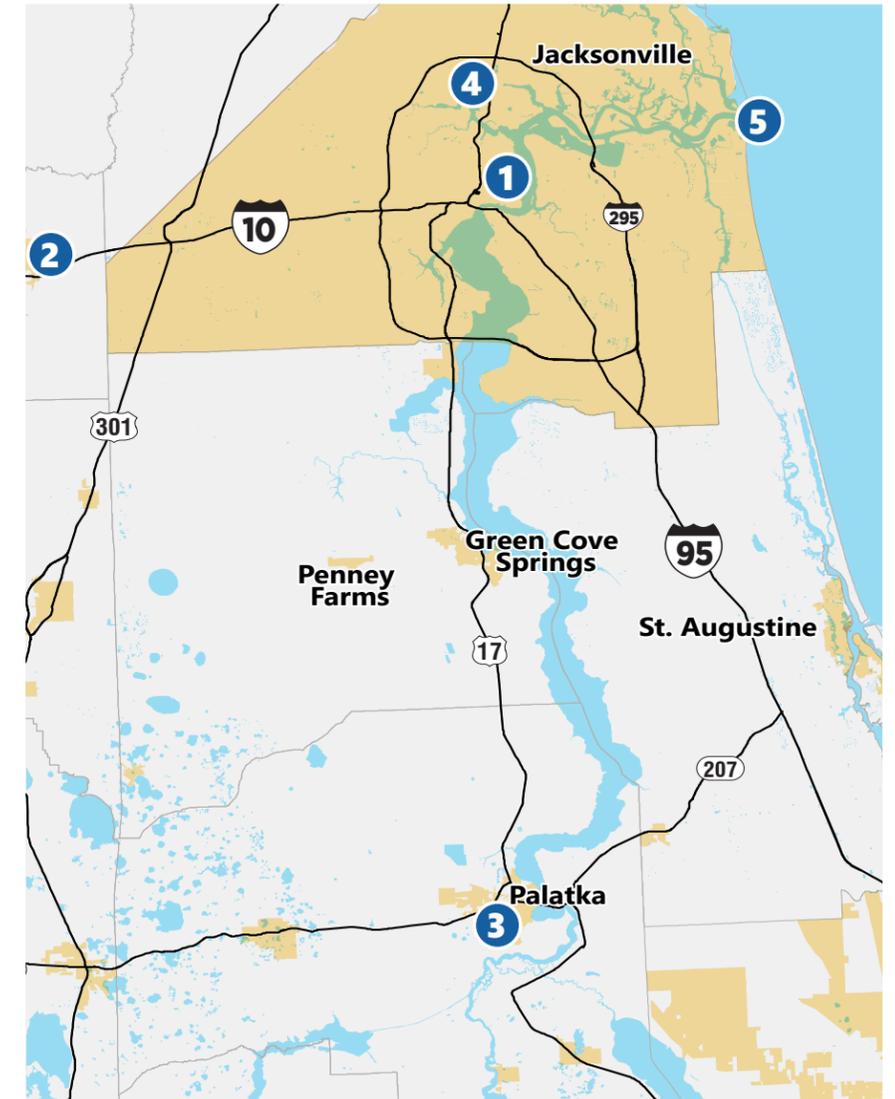
**1** Roundabout proposed at Jacksonville's **Post St/McDuff Ave/Old Roosevelt Blvd intersection** will address a challenging configuration of three signals, two rail crossings, and seven approach roadways.

**2** **\$7.8 million** is targeted for the design and construction of a 72-acre Florida Gulf & Atlantic **rail yard in Baker County**.

**3** City of Palatka was awarded **\$8.2 million** to **improve multimodal connectivity** at the A. Philip Randolph Regional Multimodal Transportation Hub.

**4** Jacksonville Transit Authority's (JTA) **Northwest Jacksonville Connects** (First Coast Flyer Green Line) will upgrade bus lines to better connect communities to downtown jobs.

**5** JTA plans to **increase the Mayport Ferry service** frequency by 50 percent and add a ferry by 2030. New water taxi service in downtown Jacksonville will be funded by 2035.



### PROPOSED RAIL & TRANSIT PROJECTS

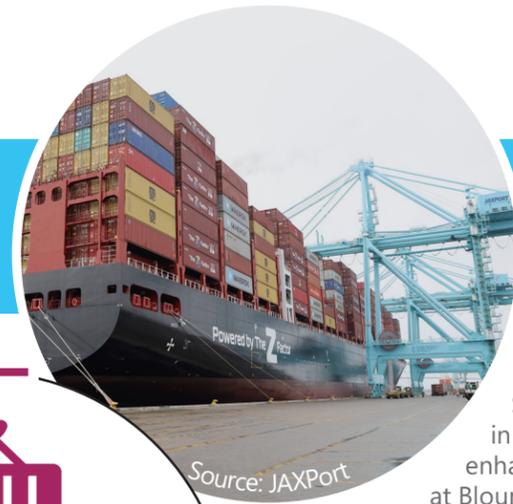
- City Limit
- County Boundary
- Roadways

## ECONOMY DRIVEN BY FREIGHT MOVEMENT

**U.S. 98 is used to transport the SpaceX rocket booster between Cape Canaveral to Texas SpaceX**

The transport of goods via three interstates (I-10, I-75, I-95), Jacksonville's extensive deepwater ports, Norfolk Southern, and CSX rail operations is expected to continue, fostering job growth and economic development in the area.

- **JAXPORT** is Florida's largest container port by volume and one of the nation's top vehicle-handling ports. With access to major interstate highways I-10 and I-95 and multiple direct rail connections, it is one of the most well-connected Florida ports. It is also the only U.S. port to offer on-dock liquid natural gas fueling capabilities.
- The North Florida TPO aims to **increase connectivity and capacity of roadways leading to JAXPORT** to enhance on-time arrivals for incoming and outgoing freight.
- Northeast's truck traffic will grow more than 40 percent, from 329 million miles in 2019 to 456 million miles by 2050.
- FDOT developed the **Truck Parking Availability System (TPAS)** to address the increasing challenge of parking shortage along the interstates. In District 2, the TPAS initiative consists of 24 **dynamic message signs (DMS)** that **gather and display parking availability** in real time.



JAXPORT Completed \$100 Million in berth enhancements at Blount Island



In 2022, JAXPORT transported more than 18 million tons and 1.3 million 20-foot equivalent units (TEUs), **16% and 30% of the state's total seaport tonnage** and TEU volumes, respectively.

**37,000+** JAXPORT-supported jobs by 2035, representing **\$4.3 billion** of regional economic impact.



## VULNERABILITY OF THE NORTHEAST COMMUNITIES

Predominantly rural in nature, the areas along the Gulf coast are known for pristine springs and vast swaths of timber, agricultural, and undeveloped lands that nourish and cleanse the springs. The Atlantic Coast, on the other hand, experiences frequent heavy rainfall and threats of storm surges and coastal erosion. The combination of these factors limits the magnitude of future development along the coasts.

- FDOT plans to invest more than \$40 million to build a 42-inch coquina barrier between the Bridge of Lions and Charlotte Street to **raise the sea wall** and prevent flooding in St. Augustine.
- During king tide events, Mayport Road leading to the Naval Station Mayport floods regularly. Forecasts show Mayport can experience between 0.5 feet and 2 feet of sea level rise by 2065. North Florida TPO is considering **adaptation strategies**, such as raising the road and armoring nearby areas to preserve the connectivity to the base.



Hurricane Matthew Impact on St. Augustine Beach



Blue Springs Park in Levy County

## RECENT KEY PROJECTS

The **Fuller Warren Bridge** will have a 12-foot-wide shared-use path connecting the Riverside and San Marco neighborhoods of Jacksonville. The mile-long path provides access to the Riverside Arts Market, Nemour's Children's Health, and Baptist Downtown. It also provides lookout areas to enjoy the view of the St. Johns River.



Fuller Warren Bridge Walkway

The **First Coast Expressway (FCE)** is a 46-mile limited-access toll road that will cross parts of Duval, Clay, and St. Johns Counties and extends to I-95. It includes a new bridge over the St. Johns River with a shared path. By providing additional capacity via a beltway around the Jacksonville metropolitan area, the FCE will help relieve congestion and provide mobility options to I-95.



FCE New St. Johns River Bridge

**I-95** will receive over a billion dollars in the next five years from the FDOT Work Program. Investment will go toward widening I-95 from Baymeadows Road to the Duval-St. Johns County line, the FCE, and the International Golf Parkway. Recently, a design-build contract was awarded for widening I-95 from Atlantic Boulevard to just south of Emerson Street.



I-95