



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0916**

March 13, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Longboat Key Multi-Use Trail Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Town of Longboat Key, located at 501 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, Florida, 34228.

The funding would be used to advance the planning and feasibility phase for approximately 10 miles of 12-foot-wide multi-use trail improvements along State Road 789 (Gulf of Mexico Drive) within the Town, addressing pedestrian and cyclist safety along with a transportation and active mobility component of the Gulf of Mexico Drive Multi-Use Trail Project.

This is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds as it improves safety, reduces vehicle-pedestrian conflict, enhances hurricane evacuation corridor functionality, strengthens multi-modal mobility, and supports economic vitality in a coastal tourism-dependent community. Funding will support conceptual engineering, safety analysis, drainage and resiliency assessments, right-of-way verification, cost estimating, environmental screening, public engagement, and project management.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 23 USC 133.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vern Buchanan".

Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress