



For staff use only

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

## Joint Infrastructure Surtax Projects Application

Please complete one form for each proposed project. Please check one:

☒ Wild Spaces & Public Places (not to exceed \$333,333) Requesting \$133,333.00

☐ Infrastructure (not to exceed \$333,333)

Municipality: City of Newberry

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Name of Project: Easton Parking Lot Construction

Estimated Cost of Project: \$620,000

### Who will benefit from the project:

The initiation of a parking lot construction project at the Easton Newberry Sports Complex is a strategic enhancement aimed at augmenting both the facility's operational efficiency and its service provision to the Alachua County community at large. This development serves a twofold purpose: it introduces a structured and formalized parking arrangement for attendees of various sporting events, thereby elevating the level of organization and safety, and it significantly enhances the complex's functionality as a designated shelter during states of emergency. The necessity for such an infrastructure improvement was highlighted through experiences garnered from past emergency events, where the absence of formalized parking facilities and site lighting presented logistical challenges.

### Local Significance of Project to your Municipality:

The construction of the new parking lot at the Easton Newberry Sports Complex significantly impacts local residents of Newberry, providing a tangible enhancement to their community infrastructure. For those utilizing the sports complex, this development not only eases parking challenges during high-attendance events, ensuring a smoother and more efficient arrival and departure experience, but also contributes to the overall safety and organization of the area. By facilitating better access and reducing congestion, the parking lot directly benefits local users by improving the usability of the complex for recreational and sporting activities. Furthermore, this improvement reflects a broader commitment to enhancing community facilities, ultimately enriching the quality of life for Newberry residents.

## County-Wide Significance of Project:

The Easton Newberry Sports Complex plays an essential role within Alachua County, serving as a key facility for the ACTFOR sports league and thereby uniting residents from diverse locales, including Hawthorne, Alachua, High Springs, Gainesville, and Waldo. This strategic positioning enables the complex to act as a primary venue for an extensive array of county-wide sporting events, highlighting Newberry's critical function within the Alachua County Task Force on Recreation. Through this partnership, the complex significantly contributes to community cohesion, offering a platform for sports and recreation that is accessible to all county residents. Furthermore, the recent enhancement of the complex with a secure, well-illuminated parking area not only augments its capacity to host large-scale events but also fortifies its utility as an emergency shelter. This dual-functionality underscores the complex's importance in both fostering community engagement and ensuring public safety, affirming its value as a fundamental component of Alachua County's recreational and emergency response infrastructure.

In a recent discussion with the Alachua County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), it was highlighted that enhanced lighting at the site was a requisite need. In response to this, the project will incorporate the installation of parking lot lighting. This addition is not merely a fulfillment of the EOC's request but a crucial step towards ensuring the safety and accessibility of the facility. By integrating this lighting, the project aims to facilitate safer navigation for users during evening hours and improve the site's overall functionality as an emergency shelter, aligning with the broader objectives of community safety and