

XII. GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

Goal # 24 - Pursue a public port facility to meet existing and future economic, recreational, and commercial needs of the County.

Location

Objective 24.1 Port Citrus will be located in an area meeting the following criteria:

- Minimum land use requirements
- Coordinated efforts with the Economic Development Council
- Adequate channel depth
- Reasonable distance from the Gulf of Mexico
- Reasonable cost of design and construction

Policy 24.1.1 Port Citrus should be located on the Cross Florida Barge Canal west of US19 based on a “Port Feasibility Study.”

Economic Feasibility

Objective 24.2 The Citrus County Port Authority should determine the economic feasibility of a public/private partnership in the development of Port Citrus.

Policy 24.2.1 The Citrus County Port Authority should provide support to the private corporation in pursuit of Port Citrus development through the use of information and personnel in order to obtain permits and other necessary documentation.

Policy 24.2.2 The Citrus County Port Authority should coordinate tasks with private sector investors for Port Citrus development to stimulate economic development in the County.

Governmental Coordination

Objective 24.3 Development and operation of Port Citrus should be coordinated with all appropriate Federal, State, and local agency regulations, including, but not limited to, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department

of Environmental Protection, Southwest Florida Water Management District, and the Citrus County Transportation Planning Organization.

- Policy 24.3.1 The costs necessary to complete Port Citrus will be submitted for inclusion in the County's Capital Improvement Plan in accordance with the County budget development process.
- Policy 24.3.2 Port Citrus should be operated and maintained in conformance with all applicable state and federal regulations.
- Policy 24.3.3 The Citrus County Port Authority should continue to coordinate with the Office of Greenways and Trails in developing a port plan.
- Policy 24.3.4 The Citrus County Port Authority should continue its intergovernmental coordination efforts with neighboring local governments in planning for the use of barge canal lands.

Impact Mitigation

- Objective 24.4 Development of Port Citrus should be carried out in a manner which is consistent with the goals, objectives, and policies of the applicable elements within the Citrus County Comprehensive Plan.
- Policy 24.4.1 Port Citrus should be designed using Best Management Practices as established by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to mitigate any potential adverse impacts.
- Policy 24.4.2 Port Citrus should be designed to include an access easement so as not to preclude recreational opportunities in compliance with current law.
- Policy 24.4.3 Development of Port Citrus should include a plan to address documented impacts to natural resources.
- Policy 24.4.4 All inappropriate dredged materials should be disposed of in compliance with the applicable regulations.

- Policy 24.4.5 Contractors at Port Citrus should be responsible for controlling turbidity, siltation, erosion, and impacts on natural resources during construction and operation.
- Objective 24.5 Access routes to Port Citrus should be properly integrated with other modes of transportation in accordance with the Traffic Circulation Plan and the Florida Transportation Plan.
- Policy 24.5.1 Citrus County Port Authority should ensure that proper transportation access to the port is provided in accordance with the goals, objectives, and policies of the Traffic Circulation Plan.