



## MATANZAS LOOP ROAD GROUNDBREAKING

MAY 14, 2026 | CITY MANAGER MIKE MCGLOTHLIN

Good morning everyone,

Before we begin, I'd like to recognize and thank the elected officials, community leaders, and agency partners joining us today. Your support and collaboration have been instrumental in reaching this milestone, and we appreciate your presence here this morning.

Today is an important day for Palm Coast.

Not simply because we are breaking ground on a roadway project, but because of what this investment represents for the future of our city.

The Matanzas Loop Road is a critical piece of Palm Coast's long-term transportation vision. It is designed to improve connectivity, enhance quality of life offerings, and support economic opportunity.

This phase includes a new multi-lane roadway extending west of U.S. 1, along with a bridge crossing over the Florida East Coast Railway. That bridge is especially important because it improves safety and eliminates the need for an at-grade rail crossing.

But this project represents much more than asphalt and concrete.

It reflects years of thoughtful planning, coordination, and persistence.

For more than five years, our staff, engineers, consultants, and partners have worked diligently to move this project from concept to construction. From identifying this corridor as a legislative priority in 2022, to securing state funding, refining the design, coordinating with utility providers and rail operators, and navigating countless technical and logistical challenges — this has truly been a collaborative effort.

And while today's groundbreaking is visible, much of the work that made it possible happened behind the scenes.

So today, I want to specifically recognize the people standing behind us and many others who could not be here this morning — the City staff members, engineers, planners, project managers, and partners who remained committed to this vision every step of the way.

Their professionalism, expertise, and dedication to Palm Coast are the reason we are here today.

I also want to thank the Palm Coast City Council — both past and present — for recognizing the long-term importance of this project and continuing to move it forward over the years. Large-scale infrastructure projects require consistency, patience, and leadership, and Council's support has been essential.

Additionally, we are grateful to the State of Florida and the Florida Department of Transportation for their partnership and investment in Palm Coast's future. We also



appreciate the collaboration of the Florida East Coast Railway, Florida Power & Light, the City of Bunnell, and our private sector partners who helped make this day possible.

This project is also about preparing responsibly for what lies ahead.

The Loop Road will eventually connect to future regional transportation improvements that are planned to strengthen mobility between Jacksonville and Orlando. As those regional connections continue to develop, Palm Coast must ensure we are planning strategically and investing in infrastructure that supports mobility, economic vitality, and quality of life for our residents.

That is exactly what this project is intended to do.

Today marks a significant milestone, but it is also the beginning of the next chapter. In the months ahead, residents will begin to see this corridor take shape, and over time it will become an important part of how our community moves, connects, and grows.

Most importantly, this project reflects our commitment to building Palm Coast thoughtfully, responsibly, and with future generations in mind.

Thank you all for being here today.

At this time, I would like to turn the podium over to Palm Coast Mayor Mike Norris.