

COMBINED PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS AND FINAL NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN

October 19, 2026
Escambia County Neighborhood Enterprise Division
221 Palafox Place, Room 305
Pensacola, FL 32502
850-595-4968

This notice shall satisfy three separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by Escambia County.

Per 24 CFR 58.33, and 24 CFR 55.20(b)(1), the combined Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds (NOI-RROF), and the Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain will be published simultaneously. As a result, the comment periods for the FONSI, NOI-RROF, and 100-Year Floodplain have been combined. Commenters may submit comments to Escambia County and objections to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to ensure they will receive full consideration.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about November 4, Escambia County will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Federal funds under the Community Development Block Grant Entitlement funds (CDBG - Entitlement) funds appropriated under the Housing and Community Development Act, 1974 (Pub. L. 93-383) for the CDBG - Entitlement Program to undertake a project known as Johnson Avenue Sidewalks, Bike Lanes, Drainage, and Streetscape Improvements for the purpose of improving multimodal transportation connectivity, accessibility, and safety along Johnson Avenue. The total estimated funding for the Project is \$2,214,627.00.

FINAL NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN

This is to give notice that Escambia County under 24 CFR Part 58 has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988 and in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection. The activity is funded under Escambia County Community Development Block Grant funding and B-20-UC-12-0012, B-21-UC-12-0012, B-22-UC-12-0012, and B-23-UC-12-0012. The proposed project location is E Johnson Ave in Pensacola, FL, Escambia County and is

in a floodplain. The proposed project consists of planning and design for multimodal transportation and streetscape improvements along Johnson Avenue. Improvements may include new and/or reconstructed sidewalks, designated bike lanes, roadway alignment adjustments, stormwater drainage enhancements, street lighting, pedestrian safety features, landscaping, and related streetscape elements. The project includes approximately 11,500 linear feet and extends along Johnson Avenue, starting at North Davis Highway on the western end and terminating at Happy Valley Trail on the eastern end. The project area includes a 30-foot buffer from the outer edge of the existing roadway on the northern side of the route to account for placement of these improvements.

The floodplain provides drainage for surrounding areas as well as the opportunity for natural wetlands and habitats to thrive. Maintaining the floodplain is an invaluable service to the community. Natural benefits of the floodplain will not be significantly impacted. The 0.2 percent flood approach was used in conjunction with the following FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps: Community Panels 12033C0365J effective on 8/19/2025 and 12113C0415H effective on 11/19/2021, show a total of approximately 1.30 acres of the project footprint located within the Zone A 100-year floodplain and 0.03 acres of the project footprint located within the 500-year floodplain. The project is not a critical action.

Escambia County has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial functions and intrinsic values of the existing floodplain: 1) Preferred Alternative, 2) No Action Alternative, and 3) Nature-Based and Engineered Flood-Mitigation Alternative. Escambia County evaluated preliminary alternatives in the surrounding areas; however, the selected site is the most cost-effective and beneficial to the community, and this location would positively impact the area's multimodal transportation network and support local transportation connectivity, accessibility, and safety. The No Action Alternative would not allow for the proposed multimodal transportation improvements and safety challenges along the Johnson Avenue corridor would likely persist as transportation demand continues to increase. A standalone Nature-Based and Engineered Flood-Mitigation Alternative was determined to be less practicable because the constrained existing roadway right-of-way limits opportunities for extensive green infrastructure and exclusive reliance on such measures could conflict with accessibility, safety, maintenance, and transportation objectives. Although parts of the project site are in floodplains, the project scope was designed so that there will be minimal impact to floodplains and no impact to wetlands. The project will minimize impacts to waterbodies and wetlands utilizing an existing transportation corridor and incorporating practicable avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures, including erosion and sediment controls, stormwater management practices, preservation of existing vegetation where feasible, and consideration of nature-based and flood-resilient design features during final design. Following these mitigation measures will ensure compliance with state and local floodplain/wetland protection procedures.

Escambia County has reevaluated alternatives to building in the floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative to floodplain development. Environmental files documenting compliance with Executive Order 11988 and 24 CFR 55, are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in the floodplain and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about the floodplain can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in the floodplain, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Escambia County has determined that this project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Escambia County Neighborhood Enterprise Division, located at 221 Palafox Place, Room 305 Pensacola, FL 32502, and may be examined or copied weekdays 8 A.M to 5 P.M. The ERR will also be made available to the public for review electronically and can be requested at grgriffin@myescambia.com.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Escambia County. Comments may be submitted to Mr. Garrett Griffin, Division Manager via 221 Palafox Place, Room 305 Pensacola, FL 32502, or by email to grgriffin@myescambia.com. All comments received by November 3, 2026, will be considered by Escambia County prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

Escambia County certifies to HUD that Wesley J. Moreno, in his capacity as County Administrator, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act and related laws and authorities, and allows Escambia County to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and Escambia County's certification for a period of fifteen (15) days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the

request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of Escambia County; (b) Escambia County has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency, acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504, has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec 58.76) and shall be addressed to either FL_Webmanager@HUD.gov or the HUD Jacksonville Field Office, 400 West Bay Street, Suite 1015 Jacksonville, FL 32202. Potential objectors should contact HUD at (904) 232-2627 to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Wesley Moreno, Escambia County Administrator