

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Board of County Commissioners

02.25.19



Local Business Man Donates toward Okaloosa Island Bike Path

Fort Walton Beach– Okaloosa County is proud to announce receipt of a large donation from local businessman Jay Odom to improve safety on US 98.

Odom announced a pledge of \$100,000 for construction to create a bridge-to-bridge pathway for bicyclists and joggers on Okaloosa Island.

The money will be used to begin construction, should the Tourism Development Council approve the expenditure of \$160,000 to execute an environmental assessment, which is required by the federal government, before any further action is taken.

Upon a positive assessment, the county may move forward with plans for construction of the path.

“Several years ago, a man lost his life on highway 98 bicycling to church for Easter Sunday services. We want to prevent more deaths like his and make Okaloosa Island a safe and exceptional place for bicyclists, runners and lovers of nature,” said Okaloosa Island Commissioner Carolyn Ketchel, “this multimodal path will reduce the tragic spike in life-threatening and deadly wrecks involving pedestrians and bicyclists by separating them from high-speed traffic on US 98.”

The Tourism Development Council, which meets next on February 26th at 9:00 AM, will discuss whether or not to move forward with the study.

The meeting will take place at the Okaloosa County Administration building in the County Commission Meeting Chamber.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT CHRISTOPHER SAUL 585-7059 OR AT
CSAUL@MYOKALOOSA.COM