

# Community Redevelopment Agency



The Panama City Beach Community Redevelopment Agency is on its 8th year and well on its way with the 3rd construction project. Both Richard Jackson Boulevard and Churchwell Road & Public Parking Lot are complete with welcome improvements being enjoyed. The Front Beach Road/South Thomas Drive Segment is under construction and currently 50% complete.

The Front Beach Road/South Thomas Drive section continues to replace all old utilities and take all overhead utilities underground. The redeveloped roadway will now have a current stormwater system. The ponds will be enhanced with landscape, seating areas, gentle slopes and walking paths that create mini-parks with access to the water's edge. This section is also unique in the provision of a dedicated bicycle and transit lane. The sidewalks will provide pedestrian mobility that will continue to interconnect all future projects. Lighting and enhanced paving will accent the pedestrian transition through mid-block road crossings, transit stops and roadway intersections.

Future projects include State Road 79 (SR-79) from Panama City Beach Parkway to Lullwater on Front Beach Road and Front Beach Road (FBR-2) from South Thomas

Drive to Richard Jackson Boulevard. Both sections are progressing through design and the PD&E process with SR-79 construction plans at 50% complete & FBR-2 construction plans at 90% complete.

Public/private partnerships, grants and State/Federal Funds are being solicited and utilized to enhance the existing tax increment revenues. A TIGER II Grant application was submitted for 2010 and FDOT TRIP funds have been extended into 2011 for SR-79. Inter-local agreements and DOT have also provided additional funds. The HAAS Center performed a study to support our grant request that shows a benefit to cost ratio (B/C) of 2.19 which means that each dollar of CRA expenditure increases net national income by \$2.19.

In conclusion, the CRA projects are not only redeveloping infrastructure, expanding transportation and providing beautification for Panama City Beach, it is also an economic stimulus for our community.



**Opposite page, Top:** Rendering of Segment II new roadway with tram/bicycle and median shown; **Bottom:** Rendering of Front Beach Road with CRA improvements. **Above:** Before photo and After rendering of Segment I at pedestrian crosswalk. **Below:** Richard Jackson Blvd. after completion.

