

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Board of County Commissioners

June 24, 2024



### Okaloosa County to Break Ground on Historic Bridge-to-Bridge Multi-use Path

**Okaloosa County, Florida** – Okaloosa County will be holding a groundbreaking ceremony on Monday, July 8, 2024, at 7 a.m. at John Beasley Park on Okaloosa Island (1550 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE) to begin construction on a multi-use path that will stretch about four miles between the Brooks Bridge and Marler Bridge on Okaloosa Island.

“The safety and well-being of our residents and visitors is a top priority and this new path will improve safety while also providing a quality recreational asset in the County,” said Okaloosa County Board Chairman Paul Mixon. “I applaud the work of the County staff and the perseverance of Commissioner Ketchel who has worked to move this project forward.”

The 12-foot wide path will allow cyclists and pedestrians to enjoy the unique Destin-Fort Walton Beach scenery while having a protected route between both bridges. The project includes stabilizing the shoulders and parking areas along the south side of U.S. Highway 98 where the path will be built.

“This path has been a vision for many people who have been looking for a safe place to walk, bike, and exercise on Okaloosa Island,” said Okaloosa County District 2 Commissioner Carolyn Ketchel. “We are fortunate to be able to move this project forward with input from local residents and the cooperation of our partners at Eglin Air Force Base.”

Multiple funding sources, including tourism revenue and an FDOT grant, are being used for construction. The path is expected to be open to the public in early 2025.

###

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER NICK TOMECEK AT 850.651.7321

[NTOMECEK@MYOKALOOSA.COM](mailto:NTOMECEK@MYOKALOOSA.COM)