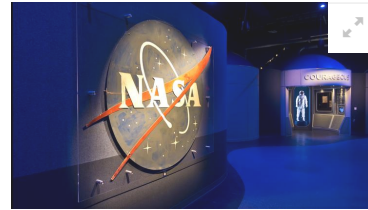


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GOVERNMENT & REGULATIONS

Space Florida to get nearly \$90M in federal funding for infrastructure



Space Florida will get almost \$90 million in federal funding for industrial projects.

COURTESY OF KENNEDY SPACE CENTER

COMPANIES IN THIS ARTICLE

Space Florida
Merritt Island, FL

Aerospace economic development agency Space Florida will get almost \$90 million in federal funds for an industrial project through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Infrastructure for Rebuilding America grant program.

The funds will be used in Brevard County to replace the Cape Canaveral Spaceport Indian River Bridge with new twin high-level bridges, widen about 2.7 miles of Space Commerce Way and rehabilitate 3.7 miles of NASA Parkway West.

“As Florida's population continues to increase, we must work to ensure that our transportation infrastructure remains robust and up to date for our citizens and visitors,” said Gov. [Ron DeSantis](#) in a prepared statement. “Our ports and spaceports are essential to our

future economic success. This federal investment will further strengthen Cape Canaveral and our space industry, as well as our transportation infrastructure system as a whole.”

The bridge acts as a link between Kennedy Space Center, Cape Canaveral and State Road 405 where traffic flows are expected to increase. The widening of Space Commerce Way will allow transportation of oversized vehicles to rocket launch sites and provide access to daily visitors accessing the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Space Florida’s Vice President Government & External Relations Dale Ketcham said the project is still in the preliminary design and engineering stage and is expected to break ground in 2021. A contractor for the construction has not yet been chosen by the Florida Department of Transportation.

The work, which will create hundreds of temporary construction jobs, also will help Central Florida snag a bigger share of the \$330 billion global space industry.

“This significant federal investment is part of an overall program to repair and restore America’s bridges and highways to enhance safety and economic growth,” U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao said in a prepared statement.

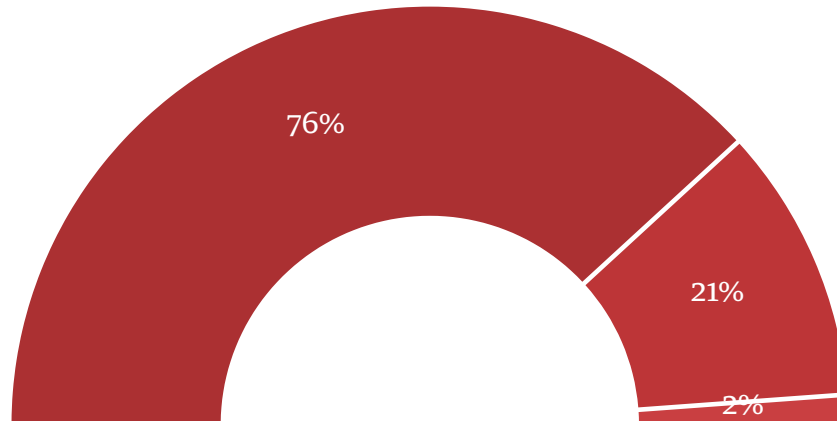
Sen. Marco Rubio said replacing the bridge is “critical” to supporting future mission launch schedules on the Space Coast. “We cannot achieve our greatest aspirations in space without first providing the necessary infrastructure to ensure that Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral can accommodate our booming space economy.”

Space Florida President and CEO Frank DiBello added that his agency now can “look forward to a new more robust transportation infrastructure to support Florida’s dominant position in the commercial space marketplace.”

The grant program allots direct federal funding to fix the nation’s infrastructure. In addition, the program aims to increase the total investment by state, local and private partners. Click [here](#) for more information.

BUSINESS PULSE POLL

Will you go see any of the future Florida rocket launches in person?



76%

Absolutely. I love space rockets.

21%

Maybe. I'm not sure how to go about it.

2%

No way, that sounds boring.

Total number of responses: **978**

This poll is not a scientific sampling. It offers a quick view of what readers are thinking.

T H E L I S T

Modeling Simulation and Training Cos.

Ranked by C. Fla. employees

Rank	Company	C. Fla. Employees
1	Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control	9,000
2	Cubic Corp.	250