

SMART ST. AUGUSTINE

RAISE AWARD AMOUNT: \$12,263,159

APPLICANT: FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

STATE: FLORIDA

RURAL

Project Description: The project includes a citywide deployment of innovative transportation technologies such as smart parking, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, electric vehicle charging stations, and other transportation improvements. Improvements include six mid-block rectangular rapid-flashing beacons in high pedestrian traffic areas, automatic pedestrian and bicycle detection, pedestrian walk time extension for low mobility pedestrians, smart lighting sensors at three mid-block crossings and audible pedestrian countdown signals at approximately 23 locations.

Project Benefits: St. Augustine receives an estimated 6 million visitors annually, and according to the grant application, 53 percent of the city’s population lives in areas of persistent poverty. Over 20 percent of those residents are employed in tourism-related jobs in the downtown historic district, but tourism is threatened by congestion and mobility challenges that discourage visitors. Smart parking and bicycle amenities, among other improvements, will facilitate tourist access. The pedestrian safety improvements, such as audible countdown signals, also address equity as they will assist students who attend the St. Augustine Florida School for the Deaf & Blind, the largest school in the nation for hearing impaired students.

