

RESOLUTION NO. 34-2008

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF GRANT-VALKARIA, FLORIDA, RECOMMENDING THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO INCLUDE FUNDING FOR THE WIDENING OF SR 528 BETWEEN SR 520 AND PORT CANAVERAL IN THE “2035 STRATEGIC INTERMODAL SYSTEM COST FEASIBLE PLAN”; PROVIDING FOR NOTIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Brevard Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is the designated and constituted body responsible for the urban transportation planning and programming process for the Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville Urbanized Area; and

WHEREAS, SR 528 is a component of the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) connecting I-4 and Port Canaveral and under the management of Florida’s Turnpike Enterprise, the Orange-Osceola County Expressway Authority (OOCEA) and the Florida Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, SR528 is a critical element of the regional transportation system due to its central location within the region and the important facilities to which provide access; and

WHEREAS, SR 528 is the primary highway connecting three internationally significant SIS facilities – Orlando International Airport (OIA), Port Canaveral and the Florida Spaceport comprised of the Kennedy Space Center (KSC) and the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, and three SIS highways – I-4, SR 417 and I-95; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Spaceport is the premier launch facility in the world, Port Canaveral is the second busiest cruise terminal in the world and the Orlando International Airport is the thirteenth busiest airport in the U.S. and twenty-third busiest in the world; and

WHEREAS, the three aforementioned SIS facilities are estimated to provide directly and indirectly 200,000 jobs in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the OIA and Port Canaveral are significant distribution centers for cargo, all of which moves by truck largely on SR 528; and

WHEREAS, tourism is the largest industry in Central Florida with directly and indirectly more than 100,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, SR 528 is the direct route connecting Orlando’s attractions with the KSC Visitor Center, Port Canaveral cruise ships and Brevard County beaches thus enhancing the attractiveness of Central Florida to domestic and international visitors; and

WHEREAS, SR 528 is a critical evacuation route not only for Brevard County but also, due to its connection to I-95, for residents of coastal Florida south to Miami; and

WHEREAS, the population of the Central Florida region is projected to double to 7 million persons by 2050; and

WHEREAS, passenger activity and cargo volumes at both OIA and Port Canaveral will increase significantly in future years and facility expansion is planned or under way to serve these growing markets; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Spaceport is engaged in development of the next generation space vehicle and an aggressive program to secure commercial space launch business; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of pending future travel demand on SR 528, the Brevard MPO, OOCEA, and Florida's Turnpike Enterprise all include widening SR 528 within their respective long range plans; and

WHEREAS, two SR 528 improvement studies were recently completed – a Project Development and Environment Study for the widening of SR 528 to six lanes in eastern Orange and Brevard Counties, and a multi-modal study to assess the feasibility of highway, rail and pipeline improvements in the SR 528 corridor; and

WHEREAS, the improvement plans of the three entities that own and operate SR 528 need to be coordinated and implemented in a manner that serves the public interest and make sound financial sense; and

WHEREAS, in that SR 528 is a state road and partially a toll facility, opportunities may exist for public-private partnerships or alternative funding strategies to advance improvement plans; and

WHEREAS, SR 528 is a unique facility with respect to its ownership, the critical facilities and markets it serves and its role as an emergency evacuation route and, therefore, deserves special recognition in the development of funding plans for the Strategic Intermodal System.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GRANT-VALKARIA, as follows:

Section 1. Recommends the Florida Department of Transportation include funding for widening SR 528 between SR 520 and Port Canaveral in the “2035 Strategic Intermodal System Cost Feasible Plan” in addition to projects in the Central Florida region already contained therein

Section 2. Requests other units of government, elected official and agencies concerned with or affected by future travel conditions on SR 528 express their views to the Florida Department of Transportation

Section 3. Encourages the Florida Department of Transportation to bring together the various planning organizations, transportation operating agencies and local governments to examine the feasibility of advancing improvements in the SR 528 corridor through a public-private partnership.

Section 4. That a copy of this resolution shall be provided to the Director of the Florida Department of Transportation, the Brevard County Metropolitan Planning Organization, and the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners.

Section 5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

DONE, ORDERED AND ADOPTED this 22nd day of October, 2008.

Town of Grant-Valkaria

(signature on file)

Del Yonts, Mayor

ATTEST:

(signature on file)

Susanne Krueger, Town Clerk