



CITY OF ATLANTIC BEACH

800 SEMINOLE ROAD
ATLANTIC BEACH, FL 32233
PHONE (904) 247-5800

August 19, 2019

Jeff Sheffield
Executive Director
North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)
980 North Jefferson St.
Jacksonville, FL 32209

RE: City of Atlantic Beach request for Mayport Road to be included on TPOs 2020 list of priority projects

Dear Mr. Sheffield:

The City of Atlantic Beach is respectfully requesting that Mayport Road improvements be included on the 2020 list of priority projects. On August 12, 2019 our Commission passed Resolution 19-42 in support of the Mayport Road improvements to implement a lane reduction project in order to accommodate a multipurpose path and traffic calming with the right-of-way. We hope to optimize street space to benefit all users. Lane reductions help improve safety and comfort for pedestrian as well as bicyclists. Reducing the number of lanes on a Mayport Road can reduce crossing distance and exposure for pedestrians while also reducing vehicle speeds and the potential for rear-end collisions. It will also improve sight distances for left-turning vehicles.

Mayport Road is an important commercial corridor in Atlantic Beach and a prime area for growth for new businesses due to distressed properties and high traffic volumes along the corridor. This area is a major focus for revitalization due to its importance to the City's image and future vitality of adjacent neighborhoods.

Mayport Road is also designed as part of the East Coast Greenway. The East Coast Greenway is a walking and biking route stretching 3,000 miles from Maine to Florida. The Greenway offers a safe place for bicyclists, walkers, runners, and more — of all ages and abilities — to commute, exercise, and visit new destinations.

This area was identified during the 2018 Mayport Road Visioning Implementation Plan for pedestrian friendly redevelopment. As a result of the visioning plan and in an effort to redevelop and redefine the Mayport Road corridor, the City has established the Marsh Oaks Business District land use designation on our future land use map in our 2030 Comprehensive Plan. This land use category was created along Mayport Road in order to help spur a new urbanism style development with emphasis on being walkable and pedestrian friendly.

The City also created the associated traditional marketplace zoning district, which is intended for mixed residential and neighborhood retail development. It was established to allow redevelopment along commercial corridors with a development pattern more consistent with development that was common prior to the 1950s. This development style is characterized by having minimum setbacks, parking areas in the rear or side yards, and access through rear alleyways. Typically, this style of development also has a mixture of uses with commercial on the first floors and upper stories residential.

As part of the revitalization efforts, the City Commission has authorized a matching grant for art projects and façade improvements along the corridor. The Façade Improvement Program is intended to provide an opportunity for property owners or their tenants to upgrade the exterior of their buildings to attract tenants, strengthen the image of Mayport Road, increase utilization of existing buildings, enhance economic vitality, and improve property values.

The purpose of the Mayport Road Public Art Program is to provide funding for the installation of public art that creates a unique sense of place, strengthens the image of the corridor, increases utilization of existing buildings, enhances economic vitality, and improves property values.

In summary, the City continues to set the framework for successful revitalization and redevelopment of the Mayport Road corridor and considers these transportation improvements to be a top priority. So much so, that we have included \$200,000 in the FY19-20 budget to assist FDOT with engineering fees.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ellen Glasser', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ellen Glasser, Mayor

cc: Charlie Latham, Mayor, Jacksonville Beach
Jim Knight, Urban Transportation Development Manager, FDOT

enc. Resolution No. 19-42

RESOLUTION NO. 19-42

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ATLANTIC BEACH AUTHORIZING THE REQUEST TO BE PLACED ON THE NORTH FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (TPO) 2020 LIST OF PRIORITY PROJECTS FOR TRANSPORTATION RELATED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE MAYPORT ROAD CORRIDOR; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, for many years, City of Atlantic Beach leaders have desired to eliminate traffic and pedestrian accidents and slow traffic on and near Mayport Road; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission encourage a lane reduction along Mayport Road to add a multipurpose path, reduce crossing distance and exposure for pedestrians while also reducing vehicle speeds and the potential for rear-end collisions; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission, desire to improve aesthetics and create a sense of place on and near Mayport Road; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission, desire to implement the concept of Complete Streets. Complete streets allow for safe travel by those walking, cycling, driving automobiles, riding public transportation, or delivering goods on Mayport Road; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission updated the Future Land Use Map to include a new designation, Marsh Oaks Business District, in an effort to spur mixed use pedestrian development; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission established Traditional Marketplace (TM) zoning district to encourage new urbanism style development with pedestrian oriented elements; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission established a Mayport Business Overlay District to foster smart growth along the corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission have accepted the Mayport Road Vision Implementation Plan, which recommends safety along Mayport Road; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission have created the Mayport Road Public Art program and Façade grant program to encourage redevelopment and revitalization along the corridor; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Mayor and City Commission to request to have the Mayport Road/East Coast greenway improvements added the TPO 2020 list of priority projects to accommodate a multipurpose path and traffic calming within the right-of-way, and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Commission of the City of Atlantic Beach as follows:

