

PORT ST. JOE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION: 2014-09

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA CITY COMMISSION REQUESTING THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT, COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE TO PORT ST. JOE IN ITS LONGSTANDING EFFORTS TO ADVOCATE AND SECURE THE REQUESTED "GULF COAST PARKWAY ALTERNATIVE ALIGNMENT 15" AND/OR SUPPORT FOR THE PRIMARY ALTERNATIVE "GULF COAST PARKWAY ALIGNMENT 14" AND TO PROMOTE AND HONOR THE ORIGINAL INTENT, PUBLIC POLICIES AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE GULF COAST PARKWAY; REQUESTING FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO APPROVE, ACCEPT AND SUPPORT THESE CONTINUED EFFORTS SOUGHT BY THIS RESOLUTION AND REQUEST; AND ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAME

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) has ongoing road improvement projects and grant funding being utilized throughout the State of Florida for the enhancement of its roadways and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the City of Port St. Joe has previously supported through unanimous resolution for the past decade its continuous and unwavering support of the DOT's proposed regional transportation system improvement known as the Gulf Coast Parkway ("Parkway"); and

WHEREAS, this Commission following years of extensive public hearings, public information campaigns and the receipt of an overwhelming demand of its constituents has consistently requested and deemed most appropriate for the original stated public policies, the adoption and implementation of Alternative Alignment 15; and

WHEREAS, Gulf County and the implementation of the Gulf Coast Parkway has received support both on national and local levels promoting the benefits to national security by creating U.S. 98 bypass around Tyndall Air Force base; and

WHEREAS, this Gulf Coast Parkway was intended under the Transportation Outreach Program to promote and enhance transportation for economically disadvantaged counties such as Gulf County and the Parkway development and planning was initiated by a \$25 million earmark in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA-LU); and

WHEREAS, this Commission has expressed and deemed appropriate its continued support for the past decade of the Parkway's development as an immediate means to stimulate Port St. Joe and Gulf County as an economically disadvantaged county and secure the financial support to promote economic growth through improved access to regional transportation routes; and

WHEREAS, this Commission has received the continued support and endorsement of the local and regional business community who remain dedicated to the recruitment and cultivation of new business and job growth in Port St. Joe, Gulf County and beyond, and

WHEREAS, this Commission has received the continued support and endorsement for the Parkway through the Apalachee Regional Planning Council and its Strategic Regional Policy Plan as well as other state, regional and local economic development agencies and their strategic planning, and

WHEREAS, this Commission supports the Parkway construction to improve the access between Gulf County Enterprise Zones along CR 386 and US 98 and other major freight transportation routes to Bay County and US 231, and

WHEREAS, this Commission supports the Parkway construction and specific recommended Alternative Alignments to facilitate and spur the economic growth that will come from the improved access to the developing Port St. Joe Port Authority, new Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport, regional transportation routes and the interconnection of alternative modes, and

WHEREAS, this Commission supports the Parkway construction to promote and enhance direct routing to and from for tourists traveling US 231 to reach vacation and recreation opportunities in Port St. Joe and south Gulf County; and

WHEREAS, this Commission supports the Parkway construction to also provide Port St. Joe and Gulf County and the region enhanced public safety from an alternative route for hurricane evacuation and quicker and safer access for emergency and recovery vehicles and personnel, and

WHEREAS, this Commission has most recently received information and commentary from surrounding regional partners supporting alternative alignments that would essentially negate the fundamental public policies, appropriations and core reasons initially adopted in support of the Parkway; and

WHEREAS, this Commission and public commentary from the most recent public hearings have lead Gulf County to seek a continued dialogue with the DOT officials and possible Alternative Alignments that meet the majority of the original primary goals and public purposes for Port St. Joe, Gulf County and the construction of the Parkway, and

WHEREAS, this Commission has reviewed the various Alternative Alignments and has most sought the input and recommendations of DOT officials to ensure and secure the preservation of multiple public purposes, appropriations and policies originally adopted in support of the Parkway and the Commission, and has determined that Alternative Alignment 14 would serve as the primary alternative alignment to the longstanding preferred route of Alignment 15, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Port St. Joe Board of City Commissioners in Gulf County, Florida, in regular session this 1st day of July, 2014, as follows:

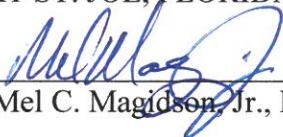
1. The Port St. Joe Board of City Commissioners hereby resolve to continue to support the implementation and selection of Alternative Alignment 15 as the most ideal and appropriate use of public funds for the original stated policies and purpose of the Gulf Coast Parkway; and

2. Be it further resolved the Commission has evaluated the various alternative Alignments from the DOT and has deemed the Alternative Alignment 14 as the second most appropriate selection and option to meet the original stated purposes to promote and develop Gulf County as an identified economically disadvantaged county; and

3. Be it further resolved a copy of this fully adopted resolution from Port St. Joe be furnished to the Florida Department of Transportation for introduction, review, acceptance and support.

DULY adopted this 1st day of July, 2014.

BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS
PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

By: 
Mel C. Magidson, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:


Charlotte M. Pierce, Clerk

(SEAL)

