

OCTOBER 25, 2005-WORKSHOP

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Workshop with Growth Management on Tuesday, October 25, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. at the South Walton Courthouse Annex. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the level of services and operational designation of County Road 30-A.

The following Board members were present: Commissioner Kenneth Pridgen, Chairman, Commissioner Scott Brannon, Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Larry Jones, Commissioner Cindy Meadows, and Commissioner Rosier Cuchens. Mr. Ronnie Bell, County Administrator, and Attorney David Hallman, Legal Services Director, were also present.

Chairman Pridgen called the meeting to order and turned the floor over to Ms. Pat Blackshear, Planning and Growth Management Director.

Ms. Blackshear discussed the purpose of the meeting, stating that through review of the Comprehensive Plan policies, staff discovered that a roadway may be designated as failed or constrained. She stated that the Comp Plan also allows for capital improvement projects to be placed in the first three years of the county's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). She stated that in response to the ORC report they were currently preparing a plan amendment that would develop a CIP schedule, which she intended to present for consideration on November 22. She stated that the schedule would be helpful to the projects proposed for CR 30-A which were presently being delayed because they did not meet concurrency. She requested that CR 30-A be designated as a strained facility to allow the proposed projects to be placed on the CIP schedule for the Board's consideration at the next BCC meeting scheduled for November 22nd. She felt that this

was the best interim measure to advance the projects that were being held up. Ms. Blackshear then turned the floor over to Ms. Debbie Dantin, P.E., Genesis Group, to discuss the projects that would be included in the CIP schedule. A traffic concurrency project log listing developments was submitted to the Board and into the record.

Ms. Dantin stated that most of the projects being held up because of concurrency deficiencies were proposed for CR 30-A. She stated that through the traffic concurrency review study, roadway capacity improvements were identified and would be provided in the CIP schedule to be included in the Comp Plan amendment. The recommended improvements include turn lanes and roundabouts, which Ms. Dantin said provide additional capacity and reduce delay more than traffic signals.

Per Commissioner Meadow's request, Ms. Dantin explained the designation of a constrained facility, which means unable to provide additional vehicle capacity on the roadway due to physical, environmental or sociological policy constraints. She stated one advantage of designating CR 30-A as a constrained facility was that it would help protect the corridor to be designated as a scenic Florida highway. She said that another advantage was that it would provide flexibility in concurrency standards, helping to implement procedures for mitigation identified in the traffic concurrency policies.

(Commissioner Brannon entered)

Chairman Pridgen questioned the determination basis of funding sources for the transportation related improvements. Ms. Dantin and Ms. Blackshear concurred that staff would work with applicants on a case by case basis for each project.

In response to a question raised by Commissioner Cuchens, Ms. Blackshear explained that once the CIP schedule was adopted by the Board and the amendment was

in compliance, the CIP would be effective and projects within the first three years could be rolled into capacity in the concurrency management system. She stated that with direction from the Board, they would proceed with obtaining cost estimates and project identification, as well as a CIP schedule, from Ms. Dantin. The CIP schedule would allow projects with concurrency deficiencies to proceed with transportation related improvements. Ms. Dantin added that subsequent to adoption and implementation of the new concurrency management system, new mitigation strategies would provide quality development and improve the transportation network. She pointed out that the interim measure as presented would not solve traffic deficiency, but would not further degrade the system either.

Commissioner Meadows questioned policy procedures for the proposed interim measure. Ms. Dantin stated that they had prepared procedures to address roadway deficiencies once the traffic management system was implemented, but wasn't sure how staff intended to handle procedures during the interim. Ms. Blackshear concurred that procedures were needed, but needed to include a policy to update and purge records. Commissioner Meadows asked if additional staff would be hired to assist with the process. Ms. Dantin stated it was their recommendation that another full time traffic engineer be hired once the new concurrency management system was implemented.

The floor was opened to public comments and questions. Mr. Jim Barton addressed Board to publicly thank the Planning Department for being proactive.

Discussion was held regarding twelve specific developments listed on the project log presented by Genesis Group. Commissioner Brannon expressed concern with the

applicants of the proposed projects being unaware of traffic deficiencies until they appear before the Planning Commission for consideration.

Commissioner Meadows observed that most of the developments listed on the project log were under 30 units and had a low number of total daily trips. Ms. Blackshear informed that the concern was not with the number of trips, but with the 12,000 trip deficit. Further discussion was held regarding the matter.

(Commissioner Jones entered)

Ms. Blackshear assured the Board that staff would work diligently by means of the interim measure to advance projects that were being delayed due to traffic deficiencies.

It was the general consensus of the Board to discuss the issue further at the regularly scheduled BCC meeting on November 22.

Mr. Bell recognized Ms. Dawn Molanterro, President/CEO of the Chamber of Commerce.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Kenneth Pridgen, Chair

ATTEST: _____
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Court