

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

OCTOBER 13, 2009

WORKSHOP

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this date in a workshop with the following members present: Chairman Nathan Peters, Jr., Vice Chairman Carmen L. McLemore, and Commissioners Billy E. Traylor, Bill Williams, and Warren Yeager.

Others present were: County Attorney Timothy McFarland, Clerk Rebecca L. Norris, Deputy Clerk Kari Summers, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Assistant Administrator Michael Hammond, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, Grant Writer Towan Kopinsky, and Planner David Richardson.

Chairman Peters called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m., E.T.

GULF COAST PARKWAY

Steve Norris, C.T.S.T./Transportation Committee Chairman appeared before the Board and gave a presentation on the Gulf Coast Parkway, stating that in August, 2008 public meetings were held in Port St. Joe and Springfield to present the twelve potential corridors for the new roadway. He reported that four of the twelve corridors have been recommended for further analysis and consideration. Mr. Norris reported that the purpose of the proposed Gulf Coast Parkway is to improve mobility by increasing the regional transportation network, increase security of the Tyndall Air Force Base, enhance economic development in Bay and Gulf Counties, and improve emergency evacuation of Gulf and Bay Counties, stating that these goals will be achieved by: (1) reducing travel times for residents from southeast Bay and coastal Gulf Counties to employment center in Panama City, (2) providing a more direct route between US 98 in Gulf County and freight transfer facilities on US 231 within Bay County, (3) improving access between Gulf County Enterprise Zones along CR 386 and US 98 and the major freight transportation route out of Bay County, US 231, (4) providing a direct route for tourists traveling US 231 to reach vacation and recreation opportunities in South Gulf County, (5) providing a more direct (USEPA) route from South Gulf County to the Panama City International Airport (existing and proposed), (6) Increasing traffic capacity of existing roadways; in particular, the currently congested section of US 98 (Tyndall Parkway), (7) improving security for the Tyndall AFB by providing an alternative route to US 98 through Tyndall, (8) providing an alternative to existing emergency evacuation routes, and (9) providing a new corridor consistent with the adopted Bay County Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP); and the adopted Bay County and proposed Gulf County Comprehensive Plans. He reported on the ranking of the corridors, stating that there is no benefit for the Enterprise Zones on corridor #17, that corridor #8 has more advantages for Gulf County. Commissioner Traylor recommended that P.B.S. & J. give a breakdown on the analysis rankings, and requested Mr. Norris meet with them and address the cost analysis rankings. Commissioner Yeager reported that the purpose and needs for the Gulf Coast Parkway is to enhance economic development in Bay and Gulf Counties, stating that corridor #17 will not improve Gulf County. Mr. Norris discussed that it is very important for the County Commissioners and Economic Development to attend the public meeting which is scheduled in Port St. Joe, on October 20, 2009, from 6:00 to 7:30

p.m., E.T. He also recommended that the best option for Gulf County is preferred option #1, stating a hybrid alignment consisting of corridor #8 on the southern side of Highway 22 and corridor #15 or #14 on the north side (preference for #15), and preferred option #2 is corridor #8 as shown. Tom Graney appeared before the Board and reported that the key issue is every single thing about the purpose of Gulf to Bay Parkway is Gulf County. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Williams, Tom Graney reported that they enter into the public comment period starting October 20th, and then into an evaluation mode with a recommendation to D.O.T. Grant Writer Kopinsky reported that the first public hearing is scheduled in Springfield on Thursday, October 15th, and the public hearing for Gulf County is Tuesday, October 20th at 6:00 p.m., E.T., at the Centennial Building.

There being no further discussion, and upon motion by Commissioner Traylor, the meeting did then adjourn at 5:58 p.m., E.T.

**NATHAN PETERS, JR.,
CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:
REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK**