



Community Partnership In Design

Wes Weiser, Consultant Program Manager
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David C. Shearer, P.E. Whitman, Requardt & Associates, LLP
Kimberly Evans, District 2 Local Programs Administrator

Transportation Symposium



1

FDOT Community Partnership

This presentation provides a deeper look into FDOT's efforts to work with local governments, their communities and all users of the right of way to accomplish a set of unified goals and objectives.

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FDOT Community Partnership

- This can show how a project can change throughout design and over such a short period of time
 - How and why



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3

Two Separate FDOT Projects

- Two Projects in City of Palatka, Putnam County
 - Financial Project Identification (FPID): 210026-2 (Wes Weiser FDOT Project Manager)
 - SR 15 (US 17) Reid Street from Memorial Bridge to SR 19
 - Financial Project Identification (FPID): 428797-3 (Justin Garland FDOT EOR/Project Manager)
 - SR 20 (Crill Avenue) from east Of Osceola Street to south of Carr Street

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5

SR 20 at Crill Avenue

- SR 20 (Crill Avenue) from east of Osceola Street to south of Carr Street
- FPID: 428797-3-52-01
- Intersection improvement project
- Project Team
 - FDOT Design PM/EOR: Justin Garland, PE
 - S&PM Designer: John Hedman, El
 - Support from many others!



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6

Project Location

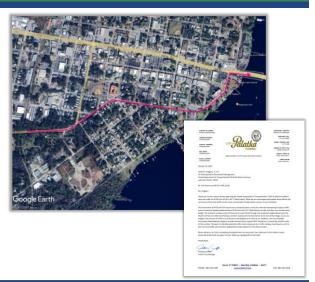




7

How did this Project Start?

- Palatka Community Redevelopment Agency – October 2023
- Concerns
 - Traffic bypasses through downtown Palatka
 - Disruption to Riverfront Park
 - Increased danger to residential area
- Scope
 - Find a solution to address community concerns in an efficient timeframe
 - Target project budget less than \$500k



8

City of Palatka

- Riverfront Park
 - Hosts Bassmaster Elite Tournament
 - 1,000+ contestants
 - · 20k people in attendance







9

9

Other Community Concerns

- SR 20 truck traffic
 - Worked with local maintenance office to put up truck route signs and PIO Campaign
- SR 100 between Palatka and Keystone Heights
 - On-going Issue in constant communication with County
- Memorial bridge lighting
- Seminole electric driveway

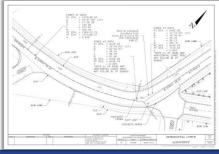


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Existing Conditions

- Posted speed and advisory speed – 25 mph
- Context Class C4 Urban General
- Access Management Class 7
- Poor sight distances
- Substandard horizontal curve geometry
 - SR 20 horizontal curve radius ~100'
 - · Compound curve





11

11

Concept Development

• Two Concepts - in coordination with Traffic Operations and City Staff



<u>Partial Closure</u> Serious concerns with wrong way driver



Full Closure
Preferred Alternative
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12

December 2023 CRA Meeting

- Showed full closure concept to CRA Board
- 30 members of public in attendance
 - Majority attended to see our plan
- CRA supported closure
- Received positive feedback
- Concerns about truck traffic



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40

13

Moving Forward

- After CRA meeting, started looking for delivery methods
- Paired with US 17 Resurfacing job letting 2026
- Funded with CIGP
- In-house design delivery



US 17 Resurfacing



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14

Stakeholder #1

- Lives on the northwest side of the intersection
- Sent multiple letters to FDOT/Governor
- Met at CRA
- Concerns
 - Truck Traffic
 - Crashes
 - Speed



15

15

Stakeholder #2

- Lives on the southeast side of the intersection
- Local historian
- Met during survey
- · House hit by errant vehicle
- Concerns
 - 1. Truck Traffic
 - 2. Crashes
 - 3. Speed



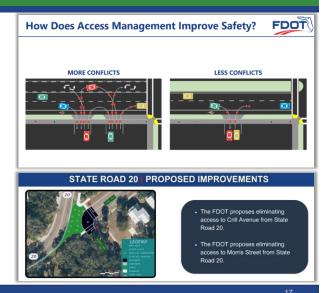
Stakeholder #2

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16

Access Management Public Meeting

- Held Meeting in July 2024
- 50+ attendees
- Majority were concerned about Crill Avenue
- Majority of comments received supported project
- Public perception was the existing intersection is extremely unsafe

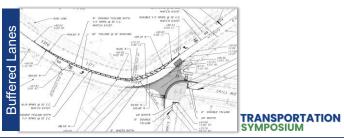


17

Incorporating Public Feedback Into Design

- Safety countermeasures
 - · Increased signage
 - Advisory Speed Study Lower advisory speed (20 MPH)
 - RPMs and pavement messaging
 - · Buffered lanes
- Crash history (2020-2024)
 - 15 total crashes
 - One fatality (drug related)





Incorporating Public Feedback Into Design

- Brick pavers to remain
 - Modified Special Provision (MSP) to match existing







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19

Incorporating Public Feedback Into Design

• Push button landscaping to follow





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20

City Commission Updates

- November 2024
 - · Updated Commission on the project
- February and March 2025
 - Updated Commission on the project
 - · Discussed detour plan





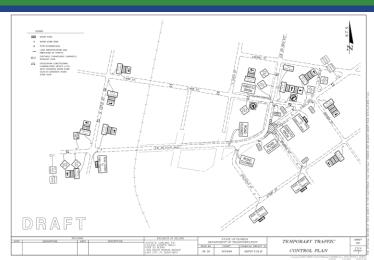
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21

21

Detour During Construction

- Need
 - Due to small curve radius and the installation of curb inlet
- Original Plan
 - Detour down Carr Street and S 13th Street
 - · Shortest Route
 - · Mirrored CSX Detour
- Commissioner Concerns
 - · Turning Radii
 - Daycare at the corner of Carr Street and S 13th Street
 - Recommended Detour Down Palm Street

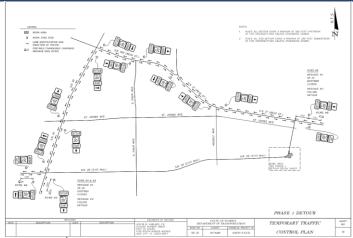


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2

Detour During Construction

- New Detour Plan
- Reviewed Palm Detour
 - · Small turn lane lengths
 - Total distance 3.5 miles
- Reviewed State Road Detour
 - SR 20 to SR 19 to SR 100 to US 17
 - Shorter distance: 3.25 miles
 - More capacity to handle additional vehicles
 - · Existing truck route
- Follow-up with the City
 - · Discussion with the City Police Chief approval
 - · City staff approval



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23

23

3D Model



Modeled Crill Avenue ORD 3D file

- Potential for 3D modeling in public involvement
- Can print plastic and metals

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Conclusion

- Key Takeaways
 - Build connections
 - Listen
 - · Be available
 - · Try to address concerns
 - Follow up

- Next Steps
 - PIO campaign during construction to notify public of the detour



25





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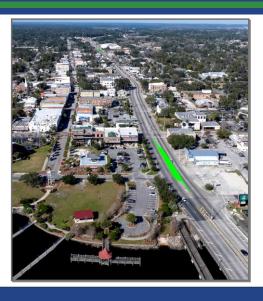
27

Partnering with the City

- · Received an email from our District Design Engineer, Kathy Thomas
- The City would like to:
 - Eliminate on-street parking and repurpose with bike lanes
 - · Landscape medians at the gateways
 - Directionalize the southernmost median
 - Decorative corridor lighting

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Other Requests from the City



- Landscape medians between gateways
- Landscaping over/along sidewalks for shade

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29

29

Other Requests from the City

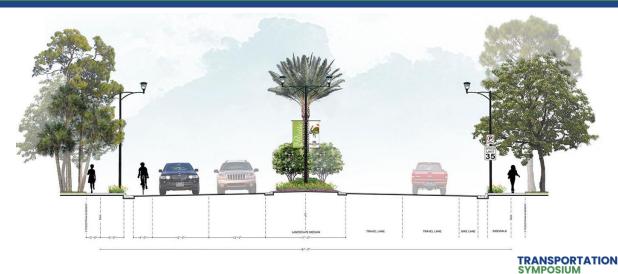


- Intersection enhancements with stamped brick pattern for pedestrian connectivity at 6 intersections
- Consolidated road signage to the back of sidewalk

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30

The Local Government's Vision



31



HYBRID PUBLIC MEETING

- Proposed Safety Improvements On State Road 20 at Crill Avenue and Morris Street
- Proposed Safety Improvements On Reid Street (US) 17/State Road 15) from the Memorial Bridge to **Madison Street**

Florida Department of Transportation



Proposed Reid Street Modifications LEGEND ON-STREET PARKING REMOVAL

The FDOT and the City of Palatka propose the removal of on-street parking from 2nd Street to Madison Street for future bike lane construction

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33

Proposed Reid Street Modifications



- Install a median on Reid Street (US 17/State Road 15) from the Memorial Bridge to the intersection of 2nd Street
- Install a directional opening on Reid street for eastbound traffic turning onto North 1st Street

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34

Involved Several Different FDOT Offices

- PD&E (Project Development and Environment)
- Safety Office
- Design

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35

35

Involved Several Different FDOT Offices

- Maintenance permits
 - Access and Drainage
 - Several Utility Permits
- Construction office detour during construction
- Railroad
- Drainage office
- Materials/Geotech office

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Involved Several Different FDOT Offices

- Environmental Management Office
- Utilities office
 - Utility Work by Highway Contractor Agreement
 - Roadway Illumination Service Agreement (RISA)
 - Requires Local Funding Agreement (LFA)
- Local Programs Office for LFA.....for decorative lighting and median work (prepped for landscape)

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37





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SCAN ME

SR 15 (US 17) Reid Street

- SR 15 (US 17) Reid Street from Memorial Bridge to SR 19
 - FPID: 210026-2-52-01
 - · Milling and Resurfacing Project
- Project Team
 - FDOT Design PM: Wes Weiser
 - Prime Design Consultant: Whitman, Requardt & Associates, LLP (WRA)
 - · EOR: David Shearer, PE
 - Subconsultants: DRMP, Pegasus Engineering, SES ERS

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39

Project Location END PROJECT STA, 172:467.39 INP 1.214 (Roadway ID 76030000) BEGIN PROJECT STA, 16-97.85 MP 28.601 (Roadway ID 76010000)

Project Scope

- Initial Scope
 - Milling and Resurfacing
 - Concrete pavement rehabilitation (SR 15/9th Street (SR 20) Intersection)
 - Pavement repairs polyurethane grout injections
 - ADA upgrades
 - Drainage repairs
 - Traffic signal loop replacements
 - · Signing and pavement markings

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11

41

Project Scope

- Scope Additions
 - Removal of on-street parking / addition of bicycle lanes
 - Based on recommendations from RRR report and request by the City of Palatka
 - Landscape medians from Memorial Bridge to 11th Street
 - Requested by the City of Palatka
 - o Coordination with D2 Safety Office
 - Includes directional opening at 1st Street
 - Decorative corridor lighting from Memorial Bridge to CSX railroad tracks

- o Requested by the City of Palatka
- Lighting Design Analysis Report (LDAR)/ Conceptual Lighting Plans
- Final Lighting Design and Construction by FPL via a Roadway Illumination Services Agreement (RISA)
- The City ultimately contracted directly with FPL in lieu of utilizing the RISA agreement
- Public Meeting
 - o Removal of on-street parking
 - Access management changes due to addition of landscape medians

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Project Timeline

Timeline

- Project NTP 7/2023
- Initial contact with City of Palatka 10/2023
- Request for landscape medians / corridor lighting 2/2024
- Moved letting date two months to 9/2025 4/2024
- Public Meeting 7/2024
- City Commissioner Meeting for median and lighting approvals 9/2024
- Combined 210026-2 and 428797-3 as goes-with projects 9/2024
- Moved letting date to 2/2026 1/2025
- City Commissioner Meeting for re-approvals 8/2025

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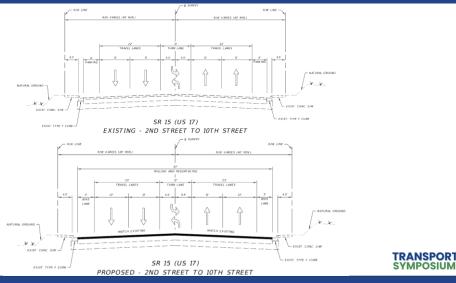
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43

Removal of On-Street Parking



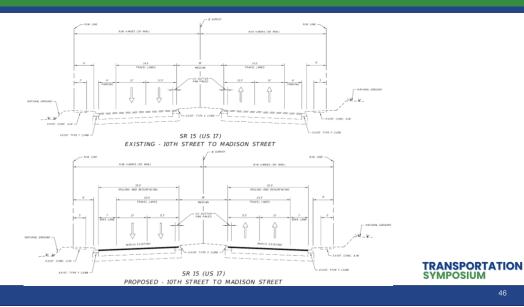
Existing / Proposed Typical Sections



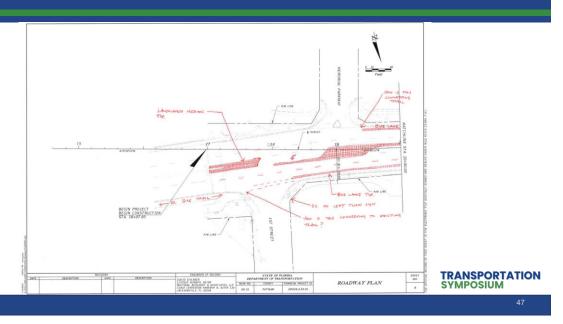
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45

Existing / Proposed Typical Sections

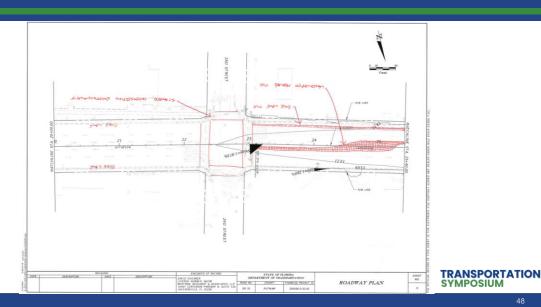


Landscape Medians – Initial Concept (City)

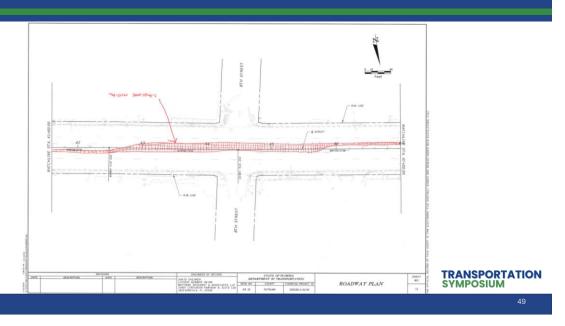


47

Landscape Medians – Initial Sketch (City)

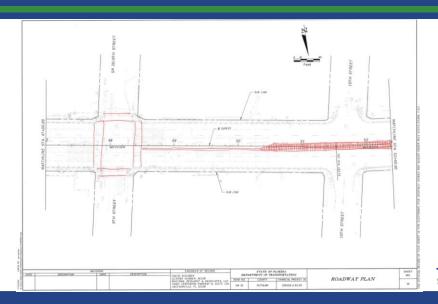


Landscape Medians – Initial Sketch (City)



49

Landscape Medians – Initial Sketch (City)



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50

Landscape Medians – Initial Sketch (City)



51

FDOT District 2 Safety Office Study US 17 and 1st St 210026-2 (FY26) TRANSPORTATION SYMPOSIUM 52

FDOT District 2 Safety Office Study



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53

53

Landscape Medians – Initial Concept



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54

Landscape Medians – Initial Concept



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55

Landscape Medians – Updated Concept

- Eliminated median between 2nd Street and 3rd Street due to substantial turn lane length deficiencies
- Eliminated medians between 7th Street and 11th Street based on direction from the City
- Extended westbound left turn at 2nd Street
 - · Based on direction received at a City Commissioners meeting
 - Eliminated landscape median leaving only a traffic separator

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Landscape Medians – Final Concept



57

Decorative Corridor Lighting

- From the Memorial Bridge to the CSX Railroad Tracks (N. of 11th Street)
- The City requested to match the existing lighting at the nearby City Community Center
- Selected a similar light and pole that met highway lighting criteria



58

Lighting Design Challenges

- Tight corridor
 - Limited Right of Way
 - Numerous utilities
 - Nonstandard driveway width and spacing
- Design Variations
 - Lateral Offset
 - · Unobstructed sidewalk width
 - · Lighting criteria

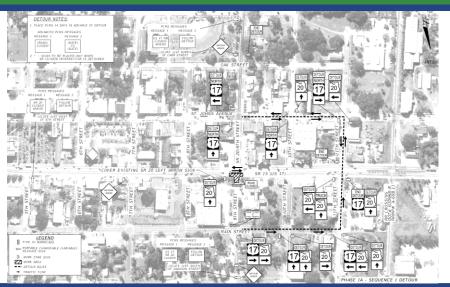


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59

59

Detours – Concrete Pavement Rehabilitation



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Multiple Key Stakeholders

- · City of Palatka
 - Mayor
 - City Commissioners
 - City Manager
 - Public Works
 - Traffic
 - Utilities
- Putnam County Traffic
- FPL
- CSX Transportation



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61

61

Public Engagement Efforts

- Public Meeting July 10, 2024
 - Conversion of on-street parking to bicycle lanes
 - Landscape medians
 - Access management / median opening modifications
- City of Palatka Commissioner Meetings
 - September 12, 2024
 - August 28, 2025



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6

Conclusion

- Key Takeaways
 - · Early stakeholder engagement
 - · Be flexible
 - Be proactive
 - · Be available
- Next Steps
 - Construction begins summer 2026
 - PIO efforts during construction



63





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Coordination Challenges

- City of Palatka
 - · Three different City Managers
 - Two different Public Works Directors
 - Multiple different Project Manager contacts
 - · City of Commissioner approvals
- FPL
 - · Email challenges
 - Key staff limited availability

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25

65

Funding

- 1. Needed an estimate from FPL and Design EOR
 - Then verbal approval from the City
 - · Then redesign to accommodate their funding availability
- 2. Letter of intent signed by commissioners
- 3. Program the money work program
- 4. Wait for final estimate from FPL
- 5. Local Funding Agreement signed (back before the Commissioners)
- 6. Then the City wired the funds and FDOT could receive the funds

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67

What is a Locally Funded Agreement (LFA)?

An LFA is a legally binding agreement between a participant (Local Agency) and the Department where the participant provides funding for a portion, or all of the project and the Department or Department's contractor/consultant performs the work



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How LFAs Assist in Community Vision?

Common types of requests for special enhancements from our Local **Partners**



- Additional widening (ex: 2 to 4 lanes)
- · Pedestrian crossing
- Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) funds are provided to the Local Agency for the improvement during planning/design /construction
- Special lighting
- Signal work (where signal is warranted)

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69

Who are the Key Players During the LFA **Process?**



Reid Street Improvements – Community Vision

SR 15 (US 17) Reid Street from Memorial Bridge to SR 19



Local Agency requested additional enhancements to Reid Street

Enhancements include design and construction of median modifications, design of corridor lighting and manhole and valve adjustments

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71

71

Local Funds Assists in Community Vision

Local Funding Request Letter

Re: SR 15 (US 17) Reid Street from Memorial Bridge to SR 19 project

Dear Mr. Weiser:

This is to inform you of the Local Agency's intention to allocate funding for the SR 15 (US 17) Reid Street from Memorial Bridge to SR 19 project in FY 2025-2026 for construction and design of medians and manhole adjustments. The funding is subject to approval by City Commission.



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Local Funds Programmed by FDOT

Section 1 – Project Specifics:				
FM#:	Project Location:			
FDOT PM:			The state of the s	
Agreement due date to Local Agency	(allow three months for execu	tion of the agreement and deposit of local	funds):	Funding >
Local Agency:	Contact:			
Deposit due date (for LFAs):			-	mading a
Project Scope:				unding
DOT responsibilities/special consider	rations:			Funding
Local Agency responsibilities/special considerations:				
Type of Funding Deposit: (Select one)				
	e deposit, no additions nor reim ncy required to participate in co			
Section 2 – Funding Specifics:				
Include each phase/amount of the project that will require local funding participation. Include match % for each fund type (will be included in agreement). (Remember to include CEI if needed!):				
Pha	ase Fund Type Amou	unt		TRANSPORTATION SYMPOSIUM
				73

73

LFA Scope and Funding Requirements

Median Modifications, Design of Corridor Lighting & Manhole and Valve Adjustments SR 15 (US 17) Reid Street from Memorial Bridge to SR 19 LFA – Lump Sum

LOCALLY FUNDED AGREEMENT (Lump Sum)

This Locally Funded Agreement ("Agreement") is made and entered into by and between the State of Florida Department of Transportation ("Department") and the Local Agency ("Participant").



-RECITALS-

- It is in the mutual best interest of the parties to facilitate a transportation project for the median modification, design of corridor lighting and manhole and valve adjustments ("Improvements") on State Road 15 ("US 17"), also referred to as Reid Street from Memorial Bridge to SR 19, as indicated in attached Exhibit "A" and
- The Department is fee simple owner of SR 15 (US 17), and the Project is located on or within the SR 15 (US 17) right of way ("Department Property"), and
- 3. The Participant has agreed to allocate funds to make the improvements, as outlined in Exhibit "B"; and

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Design and Construction of Median Modifications, Design of Corridor Lighting and Manhole and Valve Adjustments

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74

Thank You for Your Time and Attention!

Kimberly Evans
District 2 Local Programs Administrator /
Locally Funded Agreement Coordinator
Kimberly.Evans@dot.state.fl.us
386-961-7402

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75



Safety Message

Construction Equipment Proximity Hazards

- Don't ever assume that operators see you
- Operator visibility issues
- Heavy Equipment "Blind Spots"

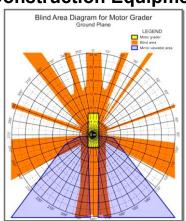


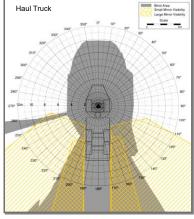
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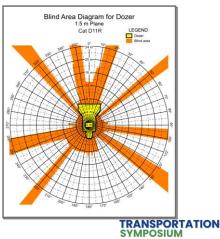
77

Safety Message

Construction Equipment Blind Spots







Safety Message

Avoiding Disaster

- Always give large mobile equipment the right of way
- Outfit equipment with backup cameras
- Wear high visibility clothing WEAR YOUR VEST!
- Add strobe lights or high-viz flags to smaller vehicles
- MOST IMPORTANTLY Never assume the operator sees you – ALWAYS ASSUME THEY DON'T!!!



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70

79





Community Partnership in Design

Questions?

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SCAN ME

