

Resolution

Northeast Florida Regional Council

2011-13

Supporting the First Coast Outer Beltway and User Toll Financing

WHEREAS, the First Coast Outer Beltway (herein referred to as Beltway) is planned as four lane limited access toll facility, in its ultimate configuration, and will provide a connecting roadway, outside of the existing I-295 loop, between I-10 and I-95; and

WHEREAS, the Beltway provides much needed connectivity and increases mobility of people and goods between the seven counties in the Northeast Florida Region and the entire State; and

WHEREAS, the Beltway brings a project that is one of the largest engineering projects in Northeast Florida and will create an environment for private investment, quality jobs and stimulate economic prosperity in the Region; and

WHEREAS, the Beltway is listed as a major transportation improvement in the Florida Major Transportation Vision for the 21st Century that leverages new development and innovative projects in the Region; and

WHEREAS, the Beltway is planned to be constructed, in part, using the Public Private Partnership financing method which encourages expanding the private business role and partnership with public agencies in the State; and

WHEREAS, funds for the constructions of the Beltway are not likely to be available through traditional federal, state and local financing in the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, the modern innovative methods of toll collections reduce the stop and go pay problems of the past, while tourists and business travelers share in the financing of a new Beltway; and

WHEREAS, the ultimate Beltway design includes 13 new interchanges and a major structure across the St. Johns River connecting Clay and St. Johns County. This river crossing will address projected increases in population and provide additional capacity. The river crossing will replace an aging bridge ensuring public safety and the ability for large boats to travel upriver; and

WHEREAS, the Beltway will help promote growth in the Cecil Commerce Center. Cecil Commerce Center is a significant long-term economic development asset to the Region promoting manufacturing, supply chain logistics and industrial end users; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

1. The NEFRC supports the vision of Clay, Duval, and St. Johns counties as they too plan for the orderly flow of roadway traffic and growth that influences Northeast Florida.
2. The NEFRC supports financing that provides motorists a choice using a toll facility or existing non-toll facilities instead of higher ad valorem taxes and/or local sales taxes to finance one of the largest infrastructure projects in Northeast Florida.
3. The NEFRC endorses the consideration of user toll financing for the First Coast Outer Beltway.

Unanimously adopted by the Northeast Florida Regional Council in a regular meeting assembled in the City of Jacksonville, the sixth day of October, 2011.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Elaine Brown", is written over a solid horizontal line.

Elaine Brown

President

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Brian D. Teeple", is written over a solid horizontal line.

Brian D. Teeple

CEO