

## Resolution 2013-14

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Department of Transportation is in the process of designing and constructing the widening of State Road 83 (US Hwy 331 South) from State Road 8 (Interstate 10 a.k.a. Identification Number US331.190) to State Road 20; and

**WHEREAS**, the widening of State Road 83 (US Hwy 331 South) is and will be a benefit to the citizens of DeFuniak Springs and Walton County, Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of DeFuniak Springs request Florida Department of Transportation and Anderson Columbia Company, Inc., consider the construction and reconstruction work being performed on State Road 83 (US Hwy 331 South) between County Road 278 (Coy Burgess Loop) South (US 331.240) and State Road 8 (Interstate 10) be moved as the highest priority for FIN Project Identification Number 22066375201 with contract identification number E3L25 due to a large volume of traffic and emergency concerns that would affect DeFuniak Springs and Walton County residents and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, the traffic congestion is a year-round concern, State Road 83 (US Hwy 331 South) is the main north/south corridor from DeFuniak Springs city limits to the only local hospital and emergency care facility in northern Walton County; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of DeFuniak Springs Police Department and Walton County Emergency Medical Services are forced to drive on the opposite side of the highway during emergency situations, placing their lives and the public in danger when en route to the local medical facility, Healthmark Regional Medical Center; and

**WHEREAS**, State Road 83 (US Hwy 331 South) is an exit off of State Road 8 (Interstate 10) with traffic congestion on the east/west exit ramps causing additional traffic danger to both citizens, emergency personnel, and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, the traffic hinders our citizens and visitors from being able to access many of the local businesses along State Road 83 (US Hwy 331 South), with stopped traffic often seen stretching from Live Oak Avenue (US 331.160) all the way south to DeFuniak Springs city limit boundary (US331.230), which is approximately a four-mile area; and

**WHEREAS**, State Road 83 being the major north-south transportation artery in DeFuniak Springs and Walton County, Florida with nearly three million out-of-state visitors using the corridor to travel to south Walton County throughout the year for retreat; and

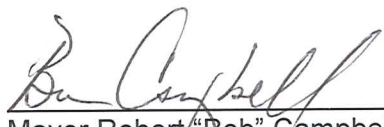
**WHEREAS**, A large number of local residents, who live in central and northern Walton County, Florida, use the highway to commute to their jobs in the rapidly growing southern portion of the county; and

**WHEREAS**, the roadway is a primary hurricane evacuation route for Walton County residents, and visitors and has the second longest evacuation clearance time in the state according to the Walton County Emergency Response Division; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, in the interest of our citizens, visitors, emergency personnel, and local businesses who use State Road 83 (US Hwy 331 South) between County Road

278 (Coy Burgess Loop) South (US 331.240) and State Road 8 (Interstate 10) on a daily basis, the citizens of DeFuniak Springs, as well as the DeFuniak Springs City Council request the construction project to widen State Road 83 (US Hwy 331 South), between State Road 8 (Interstate 10) and State Road 20 begin on the north end, just south of State Road 8 (Interstate 10) so increased capacity and traffic congestion assistance relief for the local commuters, visitors, and evacuation facilitation efforts are made in the event of a major hurricane.

**APPROVED AND PASSED** by the City Council of the City of DeFuniak Springs, Florida this 9th day of September, 2013.

  
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Mayor Robert "Bob" Campbell

**ATTEST:**

  
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City Clerk Loretta Laird