

RESOLUTION NO. 99-192

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, REQUESTING THAT GOVERNOR JEB BUSH, THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE, THE FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL, AND THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TAKE SPECIFIC AND APPROPRIATE ACTION TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC SAFETY ON INTERSTATE 95 IN NORTHERN ST. JOHNS COUNTY.

WHEREAS, Average traffic counts on Interstate 95 in northern St. Johns County exceeded 50,000 vehicles per day in 1998; and

WHEREAS, there have been 287 traffic crashes on Interstate 95 in St. Johns County resulting in 13 fatalities in the northern section of Interstate 95 thus far during 1999; and

WHEREAS, this number of traffic crashes and fatalities represents an increase of fifty percent from 1997 and 1998; and

WHEREAS, Interstate 95 in northern St. Johns County is a four lane freeway scheduled for six lane construction beginning in fiscal year 2001 - 2002; and

WHEREAS, there were 15 highway patrol officers assigned to St. Johns County in 1981 but only 11 assigned in 1999; and

WHEREAS, The Florida Highway Patrol requested budget for 119 additional Highway Patrol Officers in its 1999 legislative budget; and

WHEREAS, Governor Bush recommended budget for 31 new Highway Patrol Officers in his 1999 budget; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature appropriated funding for 31 new patrol officers in the 1999-2000 fiscal year budget; and

WHEREAS, Increased patrol on Interstate 95 by St. Johns County Sheriff's Deputies detracts from needed law enforcement coverage in other areas of our County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida respectfully requests that:

1. The Florida Highway Patrol immediately increase the number of Officers assigned to patrol Interstate 95 in St. Johns County.
2. The Florida Highway Patrol request the necessary budget to provide an appropriate increase in the number of new Highway Patrol Officers statewide.
3. Governor Jeb Bush recommend funding for the requested new Highway Patrol Officers in his upcoming budget.
4. The Florida Legislature appropriate sufficient funding for the hiring of the requested new Highway Patrol Officers during the 2000 Legislative Session.
5. The Florida Department of Transportation initiate a detailed operational safety study of Interstate 95 in northern St. Johns County and immediately implement system safety improvements based on the results of that study in order to improve safe operation of the roadway until six lane construction can be completed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida this 21st Day of December, 1999.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: James E. Bryant
Chairman

ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By: Patricia DeGrande
Deputy

