

**RESOLUTION NO. 2002-128**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA SUPPORTING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW, ARCHITECTURALLY SIMILAR TWO LANE BRIDGE OF LIONS.**

**WHEREAS**, the architecture of the 1927 bridge is unique to St. Augustine, and has become symbolic of St. Augustine's commitment to preserving it's historic heritage; and

**WHEREAS**, automotive traffic across the bridge has increased to nearly twice its design capacity, and the narrow roadbed, proximity of automobiles to pedestrians, cyclists, and joggers is dangerous; and

**WHEREAS**, the existing 76 foot horizontal opening for marine traffic is below the United States Coast Guard standard of 125 feet, creating a compromise of safety for commercial and recreational marine traffic as a result of this deficiency; and

**WHEREAS**, the combination of emergency breakdown lanes, a slightly higher vertical clearance requiring less draw openings, and less accidents would help reduce traffic congestion in downtown St. Augustine; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Department of Transportation, in its Draft Environmental Impact Statement of 1998, concerning the above, identified the option of constructing a new, safe, architecturally similar, two lane bridge meeting current safety guidelines, providing standard travel lanes, breakdown lanes, a protected pedestrian walkway, a standard width horizontal opening and 8 foot higher vertical clearance for marine traffic; and

**WHEREAS**, the current Comprehensive Plan for the City of St. Augustine provides for a two lane bridge connecting downtown St. Augustine to Anastasia Island; and

**WHEREAS**, the provision of a new bridge will provide for a safe and efficient County and City transportation network; and

**WHEREAS**, St. Johns County is one of the fastest growing areas in the State of Florida, and the County Commission is the primary agency representing the transportation needs of our citizens to the Florida Department of Transportation; and

**WHEREAS**, the consequences of this decision will continue for over 50 years.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County as follows:

1. The above recitals are hereby adopted as Findings of Fact.
2. That the existing Bridge of Lions is inadequate to serve the transportation needs of St. Augustine and St. Johns County.
3. That the current rehabilitation plan outlined in the Department of Transportation 5 Year Work Plan will do little or nothing to improve traffic congestion and public safety for the citizens of St. Augustine and St. Johns County.
4. That a new safe bridge should be constructed to replace the existing Bridge of Lions, and that it should replicate as nearly as possible the architecture of the old bridge, yet feature the most efficient design permissible for the safe flow of vehicles, pedestrians, wheelchairs, bicycles, and marine traffic. The Department of Transportation Architectural Option 2B is recommended.
5. That the Florida Department of Transportation should develop detailed architectural and engineering plans for this new bridge, and commit the resources necessary for the design and construction of a bridge that will satisfy the concerns of historic preservationists who recognize the cultural importance of the Bridge of Lions, while providing a safe and efficient means of transportation.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida this 9<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2002.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: James E. Bryant  
James E. Bryant, Chairman

ATTEST: Cheryl Strickland, Clerk

By: Patricia LeGrande  
Deputy Clerk

RENDITION DATE 07-10-02