

RESOLUTION NO. 2003- 251

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA PROVIDING THAT ST. JOHNS COUNTY IS OPPOSED TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW HIGH LEVEL SHANDS BRIDGE BEFORE STUDIES ARE CONDUCTED TO EVALUATE DIFFERENT BRIDGE DESIGN ALTERNATIVES**

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Department of Transportation is in the process of studying the possible expansion or replacement of the Shands Bridge connecting St. Johns County and Clay County; and

**WHEREAS**, the St. Johns River Alliance, at its November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2003 meeting, passed a Resolution supporting a new Shands Bridge to be built at a minimum navigational vertical clearance of sixty-five (65) feet without the consent or advanced knowledge of St. Johns County and Clay County, the two most directly affected Counties; and

**WHEREAS**, the costs of different bridge design alternatives, and the associated impacts of a new high level bridge have not yet been evaluated; and

**WHEREAS**, the existing Shands Bridge may remain in place to serve local traffic even as a new bridge is constructed, and if the existing bridge remains it is not necessary to build a higher new bridge; and

**WHEREAS**, the Clay County Board of County Commissioners is considering a resolution expressing similar concerns; and

**WHEREAS**, it is premature to prescribe that a new, high level bridge be constructed before more detailed studies are conducted regarding the costs, impacts, and justifications of a high level bridge;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County that St. Johns County is opposed to the Resolution of the St. Johns River Alliance supporting the construction of a new, high level Shands Bridge without due consideration of all of the factors that may affect the expansion or replacement of the Shands Bridge and the impacts to St. Johns County and Clay County.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida this 16  
Day of December, 2003.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST.  
JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: [Signature]  
Chair

ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By: [Signature]  
Deputy Clerk

## RESOLUTION

**A resolution concerning the Shands Bridge, State Road 16, Green Cove Springs.**

WHEREAS; the navigable waters of the Lower and Middle River Basins of the St. Johns River, lying southerly of State Road 16, near Green Cove Springs, and extending southerly into the Lower and Middle River Basins have historically been accessed by tall-masted ships, and

WHEREAS; since the construction of the Shands Bridge, such access has been denied due to the height of the bridge, and

WHEREAS; ship building industries, and other types of maritime commercial and tourism development have been limited to the areas lying southerly of the Shands Bridge due to the height of the Bridge, and

WHEREAS; all bridges northerly of Sanford have a navigational vertical clearance of between 65 feet and 160 feet with the sole exception of the Shands Bridge at 45 feet, and

WHEREAS; the Florida Department of Transportation has recently announced that it will hold a series of public meetings, beginning in Januray 2004, for the purpose of receiving public comment concerning the future of river crossings connecting Clay and St. Johns Counties, and

WHEREAS; during these public meetings, the DOT will be soliciting comment concerning the reconstruction and expansion of the Shands Bridge, or possibly construction of a new bridge,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Johns River Alliance declares that the Shands Bridge as currently constructed is an impediment to economic and tourism development to areas of the St. Johns River lying southerly of this bridge, and that the bridge ought to be rebuilt, or any new bridge that may be built, to a minimum navigational vertical clearance of 65 feet.

DONE, ORDERED AND ADOPTED THIS 12<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2003.

St. Johns River Alliance

SUE CARLSON, CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST: