RESOLUTION 2009-88

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA ENCOURAGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ADDRESS WHATEVER TAXATION ISSUES ARE NECESSARY, SO THAT THE FIRST COAST OUTER BELTWAY PROJECT MAY MOVE FORWARD TO ULTIMATE COMPLETION

WHEREAS, for the past 30 years a need has existed in Northeast Florida for an outer beltway between Interstate 95 and Interstate 10 connecting St. Johns, Clay, and Duval Counties, and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Transportation and the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization have agreed that the need for such a beltway is one of great importance, and

WHEREAS, the First Coast Outer Beltway will provide a total of 13 new interchanges, a major bridge structure across the St. Johns River, connect Interstate 95 in St. Johns County with Interstate 10 in Duval County and thereby create a freeway approximately 46.5 miles, and

WHEREAS, both Duval County and Clay County have plans to add two lanes to the existing two-lane road that would create a four-lane limited access road from the new Interstate 10 interchange to Blanding Boulevard, thus completing one-third of the beltway, and

WHEREAS, the St. Johns County Commission has previously adopted Resolution 2006-92 in support of a new limited access St. Johns River Crossing in a location at or near the existing Shands Bridge, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation has conducted the necessary public meetings and has determined the right-of-way with the endorsement of the boards of County Commissioners of St. Johns and Clay Counties and the Mayor and Town Council of the consolidated City of Jacksonville, Duval County, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation has satisfied the requirements and have received approval from the Federal Government to build this road, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation has completed environmental assessment and engineering designs and has tentative agreements with the landowners to provide right-of-way land for the outer beltway, and

WHEREAS, in April of 2008, after receiving four very qualified quotations from international investors, the Department of Transportation was instructed to stop the construction process because of taxation issues, and

WHEREAS, construction of the outer beltway will create a tremendous financial stimulus of $1.8 billion for the three county region, create thousands of jobs for construction of the road as well as a large number of support companies, and

WHEREAS, the presence of a new St. Johns River Crossing and limited access roadway connecting to Interstate 95 will facilitate long term economic development throughout the northwest quadrant of St. Johns County, and

WHEREAS, a new St. Johns River Crossing and limited access road through St. Johns County to Interstate 95 will relieve existing congestion on State Road 13, State Road 16, County Road 16A and County Road 210, and

WHEREAS, the First Coast Outer Beltway will provide an evacuation route for natural disasters and a public service and is similar to the Interstate 595 and Interstate 95 projects in Miami that require no property tax, and

WHEREAS, the financial feasibility study of the First Coast Outer Beltway has shown there is no requirement of additional funding from local, state, and federal governments,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY that:

Section1. That the above Recitals are incorporated into the body of this Resolution, and such Recitals are adopted as Findings of Fact.

Section 2. That the Board encourage the Florida legislature to adopt meaningful, appropriate, and applicable legislation, in order to address current taxation issues, so that the First Coast Outer Beltway Project may move forward to ultimate conclusion.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida this 7th Day of April, 2009.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Cyndi Stevenson
Cyndi Stevenson, Chair

ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By: Pam Halterman
Deputy Clerk

RENDITION DATE 4/9/09