

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-_____

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA

RE: SUPPORT OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT) REQUEST FOR FUNDING & CONSTRUCTION OF A DIVERGING DIAMOND INTERCHANGE AT INTERSTATE 75 AND UNIVERSITY PARKWAY AND ASSOCIATED CAPACITY IMPROVEMENTS ON UNIVERSITY PARKWAY BETWEEN NORTH CATTLEMEN ROAD/COOPER CREEK BLVD AND MARKET STREET.

WHEREAS, transportation is vital to our health, safety and welfare, and adequate and properly managed transportation corridors are essential to our economy and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Florida Statutes 339.61, declares that the designation of a strategic intermodal system, composed of facilities and services of statewide and interregional significance, will efficiently serve the mobility needs of Florida's citizens, businesses, and visitors and will help Florida become a worldwide economic leader, enhance economic prosperity and competitiveness, enrich quality of life, and reflect responsible environmental stewardship.

WHEREAS, Florida Statutes 339.65, establishes Interstate highways, such as Interstate 75, as part of the Strategic Intermodal System and establishes criteria for designating intercity controlled access arterial roadways, such as University Parkway, as emerging Strategic Intermodal System facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Transportation, Manatee County Board of County Commissioners, Sarasota Board of County Commissioners, and members of the general public are concerned about traffic congestion at the I-75/University Parkway Interchange and on University Parkway between North Cattlemen Road/Cooper Creek Blvd and Market Street; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Transportation is proposing plans for a double diverging diamond interchange, which would remove at grade turning movement conflicts and maximize interchange efficiency; and

WHEREAS, improvements to enhance and extend the capacity of the intersections of Market Street and Cooper Creek/Cattlemen at University Parkway are being evaluated and if deemed needed, will be subject to contractual commitments tied to development approvals; and

WHEREAS, there is currently an opportunity to expedite the design, funding, and construction of the double diverging diamond interchange and associated capacity improvements on University Parkway; and

WHEREAS, Sarasota County has recently completed the construction of capacity improvements in the southwest quadrant of the I-75/University Parkway Interchange consisting of the extension of North Cattlemen Road as a four lane parallel facility to Interstate 75 between University Parkway and Fruitville Road and DeSoto Road as a two lane parallel facility to University Parkway between North Cattlemen Road and Honore Avenue; and

WHEREAS, there are adequate traffic and parking management and construction techniques available to manage daily and special event traffic prior to and during the construction of the double diverging diamond interchange and University Parkway improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Transportation has requested a Resolution from Manatee and Sarasota Counties respectively in support of the prioritization and fast track funding of the interchange improvements proposed and the commitment to continue to seek additional improvements to enhance the effectiveness of the bi-county regional transportation system consistent with the Counties adopted Comprehensive Plans;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

1. The Commission hereby expresses its full support for FDOT to fast track funding and expedite the design and construction of the double diverging diamond interchange at Interstate 75 and University Parkway and associated capacity improvements on University Parkway between North Cattleman Road/Cooper Creek Blvd and Market Street as soon as is possible; and
2. The Commission hereby expresses its full support for the planning, design and construction of the following regional capacity improvements: 1) the construction of a bridge over I-75 on the southern boundaries of the Nathan Benderson Park and Schroeder-Manatee Ranch, 2) the extension of Lakewood Ranch Blvd from its current terminus south of University Parkway to Fruitville Road, subject to contractual commitments tied to development approvals, 3) the construction of Lorraine Road between University Parkway and Fruitville Road, subject to contractual commitments tied to development approvals, 4) additional improvements required by, attributable to and funded by new development, and 5) additional regional transportation improvements to enhance mobility consistent with and identified in the local governments Comprehensive Plan.
3. The Commission hereby expresses support for continued efforts between FDOT, Sarasota and Manatee Counties to design, fund and implement interconnected traffic signal management systems along University Parkway.

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Sarasota County, Florida, this _____ day of _____, 2014.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: _____
Chair

ATTEST:

_____, Clerk of the
Circuit Court and Ex-Officio Clerk of
the Board of County Commissioners of
Sarasota County, Florida

By: _____
Deputy Clerk