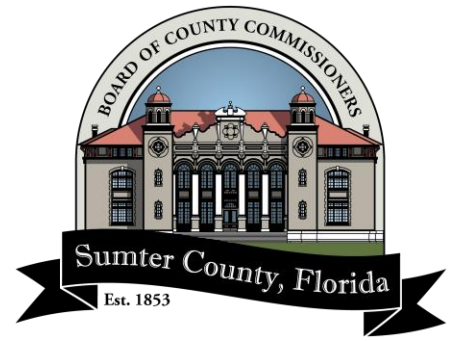


Board of County Commissioners Sumter County, Florida

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December 9, 2020

Honorable Senator Dennis Baxley, Chair
Honorable Representative Brett Hage

RE: Sumter County Legislative Delegation Meeting

Dear Honorable Delegation,

On behalf of the Sumter County Board of County Commissioners, we want to congratulate you, Representative Hage, on your re-election to the Florida House of Representatives.

We have one issue for your consideration. As you may know, we participated in the Northern Turnpike Corridor Task Force, and it submitted its final report to the Governor and Legislature last month. As emphasized in the final report, the first two guiding principles and instructions focus on compliance with the local comprehensive plan and improving existing corridors before considering any turnpike extension.

There are conflicts with these two guiding principles and Florida Statutes Section 338.2278:

- The specific date noted in the law to consider new corridors in the local comprehensive plan no later than December 31, 2023, when the project development & environmental (PD&E) study will not be completed before that date, and even if there is a demonstrated need for any new turnpike corridors.
- The law requires the construction of the corridor projects to begin no later than December 31, 2022, when the design cannot start until the conclusion of the PD&E study.
- The law requires the corridors open to traffic no later than December 31, 2030; however, the corridors have not met the demonstration of need from the conclusion of a PD&E study.

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The Board respectfully requests you provide funding for the capacity improvements that demonstrated their need in the adopted PD&E studies, such as the widening of US 301 from SR 44 to C-470, the widening of C-470 from I-75 to SR 27/441, and the widening of SR 50 across Sumter County. The Board also requests a modification to Section 338.2278 Florida Statutes removing the hard dates for the Turnpike “new” Corridors for the reasons presented herein.

Yours in partnership,

Garry Breeden
Chairman