

12.G.1. [23-0581](#)

CR-510 FDOT Widening Concept - Possible Closure of Existing Old Dixie Railway Crossing

Recommended Action: Staff is requesting direction from the Board on the possibility of closing the FEC railway crossing on Old Dixie Highway to accommodate the widening project for CR-510

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Old Dixie FEC Railway Crossing Map](#)
[Old Dixie FEC Railway Crossing Sebastian](#)
[CR 510 Alternative 3](#)

Public Works Director Richard Szpyrka appeared before the Board to discuss a Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) study the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) was conducting as part of the plan to widen CR-510 to four lanes from 58th Avenue to east of US-1. At issue was the Florida East Coast (FEC) railroad crossing at CR-510 and US-1 and FEC's policy that when lanes are added to a crossing, those lanes must be compensated for by closing another crossing in the general area.

The FDOT suggested closing a nearby crossing where the FEC railroad crossed Old Dixie Highway in order to compensate for the CR-510 widening, as shown in presented photographs. Mr. Szpyrka showed that Old Dixie Highway south of the railway crossing was narrow and in disrepair. Staff sought direction from the Board on the possibility of closing this railway crossing.

Commissioner Loar was informed by Mr. Szpyrka that the County could give up their rights to FEC and the FEC would close the crossing; similar compensations had been made previously. In response to Commissioner Flescher, Mr. Szpyrka suggested the closure would benefit area development because the County gained an expanded intersection at CR-510 and US-1 in exchange for closing the south segment of Old Dixie Highway, which was unsuitable for heavy traffic. He mentioned unresolved negotiations with the Spirit of Sebastian Development, which wanted full access to that stretch of Old Dixie Highway, and the County which maintained safety concerns.

Mr. Szpyrka also noted there were limited crossings available to satisfy the FEC's rule, and closing this low volume road segment would impact the County the least. Commissioner Moss was informed this stretch of Old Dixie Highway was not on the County's CIE list for widening. County Administrator Titkanich discussed the details of road closure procedures with Mr. Szpyrka.

Karen Mechling, representing the developers of the Spirit of Sebastian, stated the

developer would like to be part of the process in deciding the future of Old Dixie Highway moving forward.

Brian Benton, Sebastian Interim City Manager, supported the closure and sought to ensure the City was kept in the loop regarding future development.

Joseph Paladin, President, Black Swan Consulting, expressed support for the County's recommendation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Loar, seconded by Commissioner Flescher, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Earman, Vice Chairman Adams, Commissioner Flescher, Commissioner Loar, and Commissioner Moss

H. Utilities Services

13. COUNTY ATTORNEY MATTERS

14. COMMISSIONERS MATTERS

A. Commissioner Joseph H. Earman, Chairman

B. Commissioner Susan Adams, Vice Chairman

Note: Item 14.B. was moved to be heard as Item 9.D.

C. Commissioner Joseph E. Flescher

D. Commissioner Deryl Loar

E. Commissioner Laura Moss

15. SPECIAL DISTRICTS AND BOARDS

The Board of County Commissioners reconvened as the Board of Commissioners of the Solid Waste Disposal District. The minutes will be approved at an upcoming Solid Waste Disposal District meeting.

A. Emergency Services District

B. Solid Waste Disposal District

A motion was made by Commissioner Flescher, seconded by Vice Chairman Adams, to approve the Solid Waste Disposal District Meeting Minutes of June 6, 2023, and June 20, 2023 as written. The motion carried by the following vote: