

**BARRIER ISLANDS GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL (BIG-C)
RESOLUTION NO. 2003-02**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BARRIER ISLANDS GOVERNMENT COUNCIL (BIG-C), PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA SUPPORTING THE IMPROVEMENT OF GULF BOULEVARD BETWEEN WALSINGHAM ROAD AND PARK BOULEVARD WITH AN IMPROVED ROADWAY SURFACE, SIDEWALKS, UNDESIGNATED BIKE LANES AND STORMWATER DRAINAGE AND SURFACE WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS; URGING THAT OTHER PINELLAS COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES SUPPORT THE PROJECT BY PASSING A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT AND FORWARDING IT TO THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION AND DISTRICT FDOT SECRETARY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, in 1989, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District VII determine that the capacity of the Walsingham Bridge needed to be expanded from two lanes to four lanes due to expected traffic volumes; and

WHEREAS, residents of Indian Rocks Beach objected to the project because the plan did not consider the impact bridge expansion would have on traffic circulation, pedestrian access and pedestrian safety; and

WHEREAS, to address these objections, FDOT conducted a “snapshot” study to identify ways to mitigate these adverse impacts; and

WHEREAS, the “snapshot” study concluded that Gulf Boulevard could be widened and improved between Walsingham Road and Park Boulevard to mitigate these impacts; and

WHEREAS, FDOT in the year 2000 completed the bridge expansion project contemplated in 1989; and

WHEREAS, FDOT prepared a PD&E (Planning, Development & Environmental) Study in the year 2000 for improvements to Gulf Boulevard between Walsingham Road and Park Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, the PD&E Study concluded that the cost of expanding the road and related improvements were cost prohibitive; and

WHEREAS, FDOT District VII abandoned plans to improve Gulf Boulevard between Walsingham Road and Park Boulevard, and

WHEREAS, the City of Indian Rocks Beach and Town of Indian Shores persuaded the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and FDOT District VII to consider a reduced scope project that would make the following improvements but exclude adding additional lanes or medians for a divided highway: roadway surface, pedestrian safety and access, bike safety and access, stormwater drainage and surface water quality; and

WHEREAS, the MPO and FDOT District VII agreed to design a project to the new

specifications at an amount estimated construction cost between \$6 and \$8 million; and

WHEREAS, Gulf Boulevard between Walsingham Road and Park Boulevard represents the last substandard two lane road between St. Pete Beach and Clearwater Beach; and

WHEREAS, Gulf Boulevard is the only direct route west of Seminole Boulevard to south St. Petersburg and the Sunshine Skyway; and

WHEREAS, conditions have continued to deteriorate as traffic increases,

NOW THEREFORE, THE BARRIER ISLANDS GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL (BIG-C), PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA, DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, THAT:

Section 1. The BIG-C Membership hereby adopts this resolution supporting the City of Indian Rocks Beach and Town of Indian Shores in efforts to obtain funding assistance for the project known as the “Gulf Boulevard Roadway Improvements – Walsingham Road to Park Boulevard”.

Section 2. The BIG-C Membership urges all municipal governments to support efforts intended to improve the substandard portion of Gulf Boulevard between Walsingham Road and Park Boulevard.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

The foregoing Resolution was offered during General Meeting of the Barrier Islands Governmental Council (BIG-C), Pinellas County, Florida, on the ____ day of _____, 2003, by _____, who moved its adoption, and said motion was seconded by _____; and upon roll call the vote was:

AYES:

NAYS:

J. J. Beyrouiti, President
Mayor Town of Redington Shores

ATTEST:

Tom De Cesare, Secretary
City of Madeira Beach