

STATE OF FLORIDA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PUBLIC HEARING  
Jacksonville National Cemetery Access Road  
Financial Project ID: 428455-1

Thursday, September 15, 2016

6:30 p.m.

Lannie Road Baptist Church  
5998 Lannie Road  
Jacksonville, Florida 32218

Reported by  
Cindy Danese, Court Reporter

**STATEWIDE REPORTING SERVICE**  
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ORIGINAL

T A B L E   O F   C O N T E N T SPAGE

Opening Remarks by Mr. Henderson

3

Begin Slide Presentation

6

End Slide Presentation

12

SPEAKERS

JAMES ADAMS

13

DAN HUGHES

16

DAVID RAMSEUR

18

RAY QUINN

20

GEORGE SMITH

22

TRACEY ARPEN

23

TOM PORNOVETS

25

NANCY COPPEN

29

MIKE THORNTON

29

GEORGE SMITH

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P R O C E E D I N G S

September 15, 2016

6:30 p.m.

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MR. HENDERSON: Ladies and gentlemen, I'd like to welcome you to the public hearing for the Jacksonville National Cemetery Access Road project. My name's Bill Henderson and I'm with the Florida Department of Transportation. I work out of the Lake City office with the Planning and Environmental Management Office.

I'd also liked to introduce a couple of other people here tonight. In the back is Ms. Terri Newman. She works in my office. She's been one of the project managers on this.

I'd also like to introduce Mr. Jeff Daugharty. He works out of our Jacksonville office, and he's been working on some of the design and engineering for the project.

In addition, we've been here since 4:30. There's been a lot of folks with yellow tags that either work for the Department or some of our consultants, and we've been trying to answer -- you know, one-on-one answer questions, comments or whatever.

But what we'd like to do now is just to kind

1 of show a presentation and, when I'm finished with  
2 the presentation, we'll take a quick break and  
3 we're going to take comments.

4 Right now I'm holding four speaker cards. If  
5 anybody else would like to speak, I would encourage  
6 you to -- we got the cards set up. If you see some  
7 of our people, we can fill one out. But right now  
8 I do have four speaker cards.

9 Also, I'd like you to know we do have a court  
10 reporter here tonight. This is a public hearing  
11 and we're going to be creating a transcript from  
12 these proceedings.

13 Like I said, shortly after that we'll be doing  
14 -- taking comments. However, if you have a comment  
15 and you don't feel like getting up and speaking, we  
16 got a table back there, you can do written  
17 comments. Write them in, put them in the box, and  
18 comments count just as much as if you get up and  
19 speak.

20 If you go home tonight and think of something:  
21 I wish I would've said this, send us an email,  
22 write us a letter. That counts just as much.

23 Also, if we can't answer all your questions  
24 tonight, if you think of something, we got our  
25 phone number on the handout. Feel free to call us



1 and we'll be glad to answer your questions.

2 In addition, we do have our website which is  
3 on the handout, and that website will have all the  
4 displays you'll see here tonight as well as our  
5 presentation. So if you want to pass it on to  
6 whatever, we'll have that on this website.

7 Also, I'd like to make -- this is a formal  
8 public hearing, we're going to make a formal  
9 record. You got 10 days to get all those comments  
10 in, and those comments are gonna go into the formal  
11 record. However, if you want to make a comment on  
12 the 11th day, feel free to send it in. We'll look  
13 at it, but it just won't be in that formal record,  
14 but we will -- we'll address it.

15 So, with that, I got to read a couple things  
16 in here.

17 Tonight's public hearing is being held to  
18 discuss the Jacksonville National Cemetery Access  
19 Road project. The Project Identification Number is  
20 428455-1.

21 This public hearing complies with the  
22 Transportation, Finance and Planning chapter and  
23 the Administrative Procedures chapter of Florida  
24 Statutes. It is also in compliance with the  
25 Environmental Impact and Related Procedures, Code

1 of Federal Regulations, and the Public Hearings  
2 Procedure of the United States. This hearing is  
3 also being conducted in accordance with the  
4 Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Title  
5 VI and other nondiscrimination programs.

6 Tonight's hearing is being held at the Lannie  
7 Road Baptist Church, 5998 Lannie Road,  
8 Jacksonville, Florida 32218, on September 15th,  
9 2016, at 6:30 p.m.

10 The purpose of tonight's hearing is to explain  
11 the proposed transportation project and receive  
12 your input concerning the project. We do have an  
13 attendance roster tonight and it's part of our  
14 public hearing record. If you're not already  
15 signed in, please do so before leaving.

16 Also, we're here to discuss the national  
17 cemetery road project. We know there's some other  
18 projects in the vicinity. If you want to, we'll  
19 try to discuss those a little bit, but just we're  
20 focusing on the cemetery road project.

21 With that, we're going to go ahead and show  
22 our presentation.

23 (Begin slide presentation.)

24 Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome  
25 to the public hearing for the Jacksonville National

1 Cemetery Access Road Project Development and  
2 Environment or PD&E Study. The study limits are  
3 between the western terminus of Arnold Road and the  
4 Jacksonville National Cemetery at the intersection  
5 of Lannie Road and Ethel Road in Duval County. The  
6 Financial Management Number is 428455-1.

7 A public information meeting was held on June  
8 11th, 2011 to seek comments on the two alignment  
9 alternative locations presented and the no-build  
10 alternative. The recommended alternative tonight  
11 is based on feedback from the meeting.

12 The subject of tonight's hearing is to present  
13 the findings of this study, discuss the recommended  
14 alternative and receive your input.

15 The public hearing was advertised in the  
16 Florida Times-Union August 25th and September 8th,  
17 2016, the Florida Star August 27th and September  
18 3rd, 2016, and in the Florida Administrative  
19 Register September 8th, 2016. Additionally,  
20 property owners, interested citizens and elected  
21 and appointed officials were notified by letter of  
22 tonight's proceedings. The environmental  
23 assessment study project information has also been  
24 available for review since August 25th at the  
25 Highlands Regional Library in Jacksonville and the

1 FDOT Jacksonville Urban Office.

2 FDOT's goal is to construct a new roadway that  
3 will improve access to the cemetery, reduce traffic  
4 congestion on Lannie Road, and provide a more  
5 direct route to the cemetery from the Jacksonville  
6 International Airport and I-95. This project is  
7 consistent with local and regional plans.

8 Based on study findings, FDOT is recommending  
9 construction of a new two-lane roadway that begins  
10 at the western terminus of Arnold Road, heads west,  
11 then north, and intersects Lannie Road at the Ethel  
12 Road intersection.

13 The build alternative would utilize three  
14 typical sections: an urban, rural, and bridge  
15 typical section at these locations shown.

16 To minimize wetland and future recreational  
17 resource impacts, approximately 1.7 miles of the  
18 proposed roadway, beginning at Lannie Road and  
19 traveling southeast of the Lannie Road  
20 intersection, will utilize an urban typical  
21 section. This typical section consists of two  
22 11-foot travel lanes, four-foot bike lanes, curb  
23 and gutter, and six-foot sidewalks. The proposed  
24 urban typical section for the build alternative  
25 will require a right-of-way width of 90 feet.

1           The roadway will then transition into a rural  
2 typical section consisting of two 12-foot travel  
3 lanes, two eight-foot shoulders, five-foot bike  
4 lanes, and five-foot sidewalks within a  
5 right-of-way width of 150 feet.

6           A new bridge will be utilized over the  
7 proposed crossing of Seaton Creek tributary. The  
8 typical section will consist of two 12-foot travel  
9 lanes, with eight-foot shoulders and six-foot  
10 sidewalks separated from the shoulders with a  
11 barrier wall, all within a right-of-way width of  
12 150 feet.

13           The Lannie Road and Ethel Road intersection  
14 will be reconfigured to a four-way intersection  
15 with the addition of the Jacksonville National  
16 Cemetery Access Road. Stop signs will continue to  
17 control traffic at this intersection.

18           There are no significant impacts to  
19 environmental resources such as air quality, noise,  
20 contamination, floodplains, wetlands, threatened  
21 and endangered species, and archeological and  
22 historic resources. Any impacts will be mitigated  
23 for as appropriate.

24           The Jacksonville National Cemetery is eligible  
25 for listing in the National Register of Historic

1 Places due to its significance as a final resting  
2 place for our nation's veterans.

3 The proposed Jacksonville National Cemetery  
4 Access Road will cross undeveloped portions of the  
5 cemetery and will not encroach upon any of the  
6 currently developed portions of the property. FDOT  
7 is providing the opportunity for public comments on  
8 the use of cemetery property for this project.

9 The Jacksonville National Cemetery Access Road  
10 project costs, including engineering, right-of-way,  
11 mitigation and construction are approximately  
12 \$19.7 million.

13 Right-of-way will be required for the project.  
14 There is staff here tonight to help answer any  
15 questions you may have.

16 The build alternative, including stormwater  
17 retention ponds, will impact 10 parcels; two  
18 residential and eight vacant parcels. The project  
19 will not displace any residences or businesses  
20 within the community. FDOT's real estate  
21 acquisition process will be followed.

22 Before any final decisions are made, FDOT  
23 would like to hear your comments, which you will be  
24 given an opportunity to provide momentarily.  
25 Should you desire to provide written comments in

1        lieu of, or in addition to oral comments provided  
2        at tonight's hearing, you may email or send your  
3        comments to Terri Newman at FDOT's District 2  
4        office in Lake City. Her contact information is  
5        shown on the slide. It is also included in  
6        tonight's handout.

7            All comments postmarked on or before September  
8        26th, 2016 will be documented as part of this  
9        hearing and will be included in the transcript of  
10       these proceedings.

11           Public participation at this hearing is  
12       encouraged and sought without regard to race,  
13       color, national origin, age, sex, religion,  
14       disability or family status.

15           Any person or beneficiary who believes they  
16       have been subjected to discrimination based on the  
17       Civil Rights Act of 1964 and/or other  
18       nondiscrimination authorities may file a written  
19       complaint to Mrs. Dorothy Neal, the District's  
20       administrative compliance monitor in Lake City, or  
21       contact the Department's Equal Opportunity Office  
22       in Tallahassee. Contact information is on this  
23       slide.

24           For more detailed information and a  
25       description of the recommended transportation

1 improvements, you may review the maps, drawings,  
2 and other information on display immediately  
3 following the hearing. FDOT personnel are  
4 available to discuss the recommended improvements  
5 with you and answer your questions.

6 This concludes our presentation. Thank you  
7 for attending this evening.

8 (End of slide presentation.)

9 MR. HENDERSON: Okay. Right now I am holding  
10 four speaker cards. If anybody else would like to  
11 speak, if you could present me a card, and we will  
12 go ahead and get started.

13 Okay. What I'm gonna do is I'm gonna call  
14 your name. When I call your name, I'd like you to  
15 come up to this microphone right here and state  
16 your name and, if you're affiliated with a group,  
17 state that, and we'll go ahead and get started.

18 One point I want to make, I want to go through  
19 all the comments first. I'm not going to answer  
20 any questions. I'd like to give everybody a chance  
21 to make a comment. And then after we get through  
22 with all the comments, we'll just open it up to  
23 general questions. That seems to work pretty well.

24 So, with that, my first speaker is James  
25 Adams, to be followed by Dan Hughes.



1 MR. ADAMS: Thank you. I'm here tonight on  
2 behalf of Congressman Ander Crenshaw, who wanted to  
3 be here but he's in Washington. Jackie Smith was  
4 here briefly earlier.

5 I have a prepared letter that the Congressman  
6 asked that I read for the record.

7 "First, I want to thank all of those who have  
8 worked so hard to make our Jacksonville National  
9 Cemetery not only a reality but a fitting and a  
10 beautiful final resting place for those who so  
11 deserve our respect and thanks.

12 "In 2008, on a rainy, gray day, we celebrated  
13 the dedication. I must admit I couldn't visualize  
14 what the cemetery would look like at that time.  
15 Now, as I've observed the rows of white markers, I  
16 can't explain the feeling of pride and peace that  
17 fills my heart.

18 "Our region, Northeast Florida and Southeast  
19 Georgia, has over the years contributed to the  
20 defense of this great nation and continues to play  
21 an important military role.

22 "Our Jacksonville National Cemetery is a  
23 tribute to the lives of the veterans who live in  
24 our area and are now buried here. Buried here are  
25 veterans who saw decades of life after serving in

1 the military. Alongside them are young warriors  
2 who died recently.

3 "Veterans are laid next to each other  
4 regardless of race, religion, sex, or military  
5 service. In the military, they stood shoulder to  
6 shoulder, dedicated to the cause of democracy and  
7 to the duties that they were assigned. They loved  
8 American freedoms, values and tradition, and they  
9 served our national with pride and dignity.

10 "In death, they rest among fellow warriors,  
11 secure in the knowledge that they performed their  
12 duties.

13 "It is said that America can never repay the  
14 debt we owe to these who served, but we can honor  
15 their sacrifices.

16 "This Jacksonville National Cemetery was a  
17 vision that, through hard work and preservation,  
18 became a reality. Not to be too dramatic, but I  
19 will borrow some words from President Lincoln's  
20 Gettysburg address, 'It is for us, the living, to  
21 be dedicated here to the unfinished work and to the  
22 great task remaining before us, that from these  
23 honored dead we take increased devotion to that  
24 cause.'

25 "Now that cause is to finish this tribute to

1       our veterans by building a road worthy of their  
2       sacrifices.

3               "Lannie Road is a two-lane country road, not a  
4       road built for the cemetery traffic. The people  
5       who live on this road have been good and respectful  
6       neighbors, but it's time to finish our work.

7               "I thank the staff of the Jacksonville  
8       National Cemetery for their daily commitment to  
9       caring for our veterans. I thank the support  
10      committee, especially Dan Hughes and Pat Mulvihill  
11      for his devotion to this cemetery. I thank the  
12      Jacksonville Ladies and the Wreaths Across America  
13      project, especially director Ralph Terreault. They  
14      have worked hard from the beginning.

15              I also thank the people from the Florida  
16      Department of Transportation; the Northeast Florida  
17      TPO, especially Jeff Sheffield and the board; and  
18      the City of Jacksonville for making this road a  
19      priority and securing the funding to build a road  
20      that will offer serenity and beauty as families  
21      travel to our cemetery to visit, respect, and pray  
22      for those served.

23              "Ander Crenshaw, member of Congress."

24              MR. HENDERSON: Thank you very much.

25              MR. ADAMS: Thank you.

1           MR. HENDERSON: Next speaker I have is Mr. Dan  
2 Hughes, to be followed by David Ramseur.

3           MR. HUGHES: Thank you, Bill, staff, national  
4 cemetery personnel, chairman of the national  
5 cemetery committee Ray Quinn, and committee.

6           I want to say that I'm here tonight with such  
7 gratitude. A lot of hard work beginning in 2008  
8 has been put into this project, our road into our  
9 national cemetery.

10           In all, when I travel this road in 2008,  
11 looking at the cemetery site, a good friend of  
12 mine, Colonel Ed Taylor, and I traveled this road  
13 to the national cemetery site, and of course I  
14 said, "Only submariners can be buried here," at  
15 that time, because it was wet that day, a lot of  
16 mud, a lot of water, so forth.

17           But at that time we said, "Well, let's see."  
18 But at that time we also said, "There's got to be  
19 another way, a better way, into the national  
20 cemetery.

21           We started in 2008 trying to locate a way into  
22 the national cemetery, and tonight, today, Bill  
23 White I see over here, who has been a blessing to  
24 myself over the years in helping us locate a way  
25 and a better way into the national cemetery, and I

1       thank you, Bill, for your time and your efforts and  
2       the neighbors and friends that helped us.

3               It's good to see the neighbors here tonight  
4       and the friends of the national cemetery. A lot of  
5       hard work has been accomplished over the years to  
6       bring this beautiful place of solitude and devotion  
7       to this area.

8               The road will add to the area. The road will  
9       benefit our veterans for years to come, the  
10      beautification of it and the beautification of the  
11      ongoing national cemetery projection.

12              As we move into Phase II -- and I think we're  
13      about ready to do that in October, right; is that  
14      true -- I want to say thank you, thank you, family,  
15      friends, Bill, staff, for the hard work that you've  
16      done.

17              I met Bill in 2010 out here on the back road,  
18      Pecan Road, and his staff getting ready to blacktop  
19      Pecan Road, and he said, "Where are you going?" He  
20      said, "We're looking for a way into the national  
21      cemetery."

22              That was my first introduction to Bill. And  
23      Bill's about ready to retire. We're going to miss  
24      him.

25              And, Bill, I'm going to miss you.

1           And I want to say to his staff:  
2           Congratulations for a job well done.

3           Thank you. Thank you, friends and neighbors.  
4           (Applause.)

5           MR. HENDERSON: Next we have David Ramseur, to  
6           be followed by Ray Quinn.

7           MR. RAMSEUR: I want to thank everyone that's  
8           been working on this project starting back in 2008,  
9           and it's very important. I think it's really a  
10          proposed roadway -- I'm very -- let's put it this  
11          way: I'm very grateful for this. My mic -- there  
12          we go.

13          The proposed roadway connection with the  
14          national cemetery to Jacksonville International  
15          Airport to Interstate 95 would be very beneficial  
16          and enhance all parties traveling to and from the  
17          national cemetery.

18          So really it's very, very important to have  
19          this beside the circuitous route. I was coming up  
20          the road today, I can just imagine a funeral  
21          procession trying to work its way to the national  
22          cemetery. It'd be really kind of very  
23          disheartening to those people.

24          You probably see me in my Revolutionary War  
25          Colonial uniform. I would have worn my Colonial

1 uniform, but, you know, what's interesting, when we  
2 come up to November 11th, we come into Veterans Day  
3 parade, and we come along in our Patriot uniform,  
4 and all these little kids say: Here comes the  
5 pirates.

6 That's really disheartening because you start  
7 thinking about: Did they miss that day in school  
8 about American history?

9 So what we're talking about and what I'm doing  
10 up here is, on Arnold Road, two, three years ago,  
11 the City of Jacksonville, along with the trust of  
12 public land, we purchased 864 acres. This is the  
13 place of the Thomas field -- Thomas Creek  
14 Revolutionary War battlefield based on artifacts  
15 that have been found in this area off Arnold Road.  
16 This was the second of three failed attempts to  
17 make Northeast Florida part of the United States,  
18 added the 13 colonies. Only problem is Vermont  
19 beat us out on that.

20 But I think this access road would be very  
21 important.

22 Also a possibility of thinking about hurricane  
23 evacuation and such as that.

24 So the circuitous route that the people have  
25 to travel back and forth, between that, and I think

1       it's really just beneficial, the fact that we'll be  
2       able to have this roadway access.

3       Thank you very much.

4       MR. HENDERSON: Thank you.

5       Next speaker I have is George Smith, to be  
6       followed by Tracey Arpen.

7       MR. QUINN: You said, "Followed by Ray Quinn,"  
8       didn't you?

9       MR. HENDERSON: Oh, Ray Quinn -- I'm sorry --  
10      to be followed by George Smith. I'm sorry.

11      MR. QUINN: Good evening, everyone. I'm  
12      facing the wrong way. I'm talking to the Lannie  
13      Road residents, and I would love to address you  
14      guys tonight and say thank you.

15      My name is Ray Quinn, and I have the honor to  
16      be the current chairman of the Jacksonville  
17      National Cemetery Support Committee. You met Dan  
18      Hughes a few minutes ago. Our past chair, Pat  
19      Mulvihill is with us tonight, he's the past chair  
20      also, and we have members of the support committee  
21      here.

22      Our mission in life is to assist the cemetery  
23      administration with the ceremonies that are  
24      conducted there. We run the Veterans Day ceremony,  
25      and we just did the Vietnam Veterans ceremony, so



1       we're well familiar with it.

2               What we wanted to do tonight is to say thank  
3       you to the Lannie Road residents, one for your  
4       patience, and two, importantly, for your  
5       patriotism. You welcomed us into the neighborhood,  
6       and you've been so very patient, and we see the  
7       signs that say you appreciate veterans. Thank you  
8       so much for that, truly.

9               I'd also like to thank Congressman Ander  
10      Crenshaw and his staff, especially Jackie, who  
11      worked so very hard to ensure that this day or  
12      these days, they're coming to fruition and we're  
13      glad to see them now.

14              I also want to thank the Rotary Club of North  
15      Jacksonville for all of their hard effort, pitching  
16      in and working their contacts to bring this to  
17      fruition.

18              Thank you to the Florida Department of  
19      Transportation and your staff for working hard and  
20      bringing us choices, and that's a beauty.

21              I think that I have covered the bases, but,  
22      Lannie Road folks, we love you. Thank you so much.

23              MR. HENDERSON: Thank you.

24              (Applause.)

25              MR. HENDERSON: Okay, let's get back. George

1 Smith is next, to be followed by Tracey Arpen.

2 MR. SMITH: My name is George Smith. First of  
3 all, I'd like to thank all of our military that are  
4 serving now. I'd like to thank the veterans. I'd  
5 like to honor the veterans that have fallen. My  
6 grandfather is buried there.

7 But I have lived here 20 years to get away  
8 from everything. I come out here to have a nice  
9 country living. I enjoy living out here.

10 The community out here has not really had any  
11 complaints about the cemetery. I wish that the  
12 people on the committee of the cemetery, that y'all  
13 would respect us in the community to not have  
14 another access road, because if we have another  
15 access road, more people want to come.

16 Sidewalks -- I don't like the idea of  
17 bicycles. There's too many killings on bicycles.  
18 People do not drive like they should drive. This  
19 is a very dangerous -- eight, 10 years ago, we had  
20 eight people die from Lannie Road all the way out  
21 to the end. A garbage man got killed in front of  
22 my house doing his job.

23 There's too many asphalts. There's too much  
24 concrete. I oppose it. I do not want it.

25 And, if anything, let's make this part of the

1 road going to the cemetery, let's make it better,  
2 okay? Let's do that. We don't have to -- all the  
3 money that we're going to -- that is going to be  
4 spent on that, let's take that money, make it a  
5 nice road, then take the rest of that money and  
6 give it to the veterans that are living now.

7 That's what I think should be done. I don't  
8 how much money y'all already spent to do all your  
9 surveying and everything, but, absolutely, no thank  
10 you.

11 MR. HENDERSON: Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. HENDERSON: Next speaker is Tracey Arpen,  
14 to be followed by Tom Pornovets.

15 MR. ARPEN: I'm Tracey Arpen, and I'm here  
16 tonight on behalf of Greenscape of Jacksonville, a  
17 nonprofit that's been around about 40 years,  
18 dedicated to planting, preserving and protecting  
19 trees in the city, and also City Beautiful  
20 Jacksonville, an organization that's been around  
21 about 26 years, which is devoted to enhancing the  
22 visual environment of the city.

23 As I see it, FDOT has a couple of choices  
24 here. They can either build a standard road with  
25 asphalt and concrete to move cars and people from

1 Point A to Point B, or they can build the kind of  
2 roadway that is befitting of an entrance to a  
3 national cemetery.

4 I think this is a unique opportunity. Best I  
5 can tell in Florida, this is the first time you've  
6 had a chance to build an entrance road to a  
7 national cemetery. I think all of the others were  
8 already located along established roadways and  
9 didn't require a new access road.

10 Here's an opportunity to build the kind of  
11 road that the people who have -- who are buried  
12 there and their family members deserve.

13 I'm speaking as someone who spent eight years  
14 on active duty in the Army, and then another 18  
15 years in the Air National Guard just through the  
16 woods over here, and someone who has a family  
17 member buried at the cemetery.

18 What I would hope that FDOT will create and  
19 what I think would envision would be a parkway  
20 entrance to the cemetery, something that would be  
21 befitting of the cemetery setting.

22 Don't think of it as the shortest way to get  
23 from Point A to Point B. Put a few curves in it.  
24 Put in things that would slow people down.

25 A tree-lined parkway by its just nature has a

1 tendency to slow down traffic, and anything you can  
2 do that would slow down traffic, would discourage  
3 people from using it as a cut-through from I-95 to  
4 Lem Turner would help the people on Lannie Road.

5 But, more importantly, I think what you really  
6 need is a beautiful entrance to the cemetery to be  
7 appropriate for the destination point.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. HENDERSON: Thank you.

10 Next speaker is Nancy -- I'm sorry -- Tom  
11 Pornovets, followed by Nancy.

12 MR. PORNOVETS: My name is Tom Pornovets.  
13 I've been living off Lannie Road on Ressie Drive  
14 for 33 years.

15 And I'm not against the cemetery road, but I  
16 feel like we're going to have some serious dominos  
17 that are going to fall once we do get a road that  
18 is a direct access from I-95.

19 So two out of your three points: yes, it will  
20 improve access to the cemetery; yes, it will  
21 provide a more direct route to the cemetery from  
22 Jacksonville Airport and I-95; but, no, it will not  
23 reduce traffic congestion on Lannie Road.

24 How many people out here drive to the mall  
25 from out here? How do you get there? You cut

1 through the airport. People from Nassau County cut  
2 through the airport. When this road comes through,  
3 they won't have to go to the airport, they're gonna  
4 use Lannie Road as a through road. That's a lot of  
5 traffic.

6 Another point. It was listed in Jacksonville  
7 newspapers, The Star and the Times-Union. Well, it  
8 might as well be listed in the Nassau County  
9 Record, too, because -- this is not a lie -- how  
10 ironic, I was in the driver's license bureau last  
11 week getting a handicap permit for my wife updated,  
12 and the man next to me started talking about  
13 passing the access through Lannie Road. He said,  
14 "Boy, that will be a great thing when that  
15 happens."

16 This is a small community. Lannie Road is a  
17 small community. Callahan is a small community.  
18 My wife has worked in Callahan many years. Those  
19 people know that this road's gonna go through.  
20 They're not gonna go to the airport.

21 I'm not against access from I-95, but the  
22 domino that's going to fall once that access road  
23 gets put through is the Lannie Road traffic is  
24 gonna increase so bad, how long will it take for  
25 the Department of Transportation to come in and

1 make improvements similar to that road, where it's  
2 gonna have -- it's gonna be safer for the residents  
3 and the people that live out here?

4 Like I say, that airport cut-through, I'm not  
5 sure if you know how much traffic goes up that way.  
6 That traffic will be reduced and our traffic on  
7 Lannie Road will be probably increased tenfold, if  
8 not more. That's just what's gonna happen. Nassau  
9 County will now have a direct route to I-95 and the  
10 River City Marketplace.

11 And if you don't address Lannie Road before  
12 you address the direct access from I-95 to the  
13 cemetery, it's going to be very bad for the  
14 residents out here as far as the speeding and  
15 everything.

16 If you wait until the correction institute,  
17 the times that that shift changes happens, we have  
18 a speedway out here. Well, we'll have a speedway  
19 all the time because people will be cutting through  
20 from Nassau County. And people out here will use  
21 it as well.

22 I mean, I'm not saying -- I think the cemetery  
23 does need to have a direct access, but I think  
24 we're not addressing the additional traffic on  
25 Lannie Road, and I think that's being ignored.

1           So two out of three points I agree with, but  
2           it will definitely not reduce traffic congestion.

3           The only congestion that's gonna be reduced is  
4           the funeral processions. And I honorably stop and  
5           put my hand over my heart whenever those pass by.  
6           And sometimes I cry when I see a hearse go by with  
7           no cars behind it. It just hurts my heart to see a  
8           veteran going to that cemetery without any family  
9           support or friend support. So that's something I  
10          think that no one has addressed, and I know it's  
11          going to happen.

12          Last point -- and I'm sorry I'm being so  
13          longwinded -- also in the Nassau County paper -- I  
14          don't know if y'all know this in Jacksonville; I  
15          haven't see it in a Jacksonville paper -- but the  
16          Florida Department of Transportation is -- they're  
17          working on trying to upgrade Lem Turner Road from  
18          295 to Callahan four lanes. That's on the docket  
19          to be possibly moved up from 2034 to like 2022 or  
20          something for them to start working on that.

21          That's -- obviously that's going to give  
22          another opportunity for us to have a throughway.  
23          So I think the throughway is not a good idea  
24          without improvements to Lannie Road.

25          Thank you.



1 (Applause.)

2 MR. HENDERSON: Nancy Coppen, followed by Mike  
3 Thornton.

4 MS. COPPEN: I'm Nancy Coppen. I live on  
5 Lannie Road right beside the prison. And most of  
6 the points were already hit on.

7 Does FDOT have any plans of fixing Lannie Road  
8 before you get to the cemetery?

9 MR. HENDERSON: Let me get comments first,  
10 then I'll --

11 MS. COPPEN: Well, I'm just saying. I mean,  
12 we all agree. I've been fighting with the City for  
13 the last four years getting the potholes fixed.  
14 All they do is pack it down, and it just causes  
15 more issues for everybody. We've had two  
16 motorcycles go off the road because of the holes.

17 But my concern is for the next three years,  
18 what are you going to do for the front part of  
19 Lannie Road?

20 Thank you.

21 MR. HENDERSON: I do believe I have one more  
22 speaker, Mike Thornton.

23 MR. THORNTON: Good evening, everybody. I  
24 agree with all the well-thought-out comments that  
25 the citizens have made already, and they should be

1       taken into consideration.

2               One thing that shocks me is there's -- looks  
3       like there has been no plans made for people that  
4       want to respect the processions and pull off the  
5       road. You only have a six-foot bike lane, and that  
6       will not accommodate vehicles pulling off the road  
7       to show respect.

8               And I think everything needs to be rethought  
9       and plans made for people pulling off the road on  
10      Lannie Road as well as the new access road.

11              MR. HENDERSON: Thank you.

12              That's the last of my comments.

13              I'm going to try to address the concerns about  
14      the traffic.

15              Whenever you build a new road like this, it  
16      definitely is going to change the traffic pattern.  
17      I think we can all agree on that.

18              The whole idea of this was, as the national  
19      cemetery grows, not just the internments but as  
20      people come to visit and stuff, we were wanting to  
21      take that traffic off of Lannie Road, because  
22      Lannie Road, like this gentleman was saying, it's a  
23      lot of driveways, and you were talking about the  
24      safety. And that was the idea of just getting the  
25      -- getting the -- getting the VA veteran cemetery

1 traffic pretty much off Lannie Road.

2 As far as people from -- this gentleman was  
3 saying coming from Nassau, a change in traffic  
4 patterns, you'll have some, but really it's hard to  
5 predict what that will be. I mean, I respect what  
6 you're saying that it may be.

7 But the main thing we were trying to do was  
8 get the VA traffic off of Lannie Road and, as the  
9 cemetery grows and grows and grows, not only will  
10 there be internments, there'll be a lot of people  
11 coming up here visiting, and that was the goal of  
12 our project.

13 So, with that, I'm going to go ahead and close  
14 the formal part of this hearing, but we'll be glad  
15 to talk with you. We'll hang around and talk with  
16 anybody.

17 And I appreciate everybody coming tonight.

18 MR. SMITH: If I can say one more --

19 MR. HENDERSON: Oh, yeah, come on up to the  
20 microphone. Mr. Adams?

21 MR. SMITH: Smith.

22 MR. HENDERSON: Smith.

23 MR. SMITH: Since the cemetery has been put  
24 in, the traffic really hasn't got any worse. It  
25 hasn't, you know.

1           Fix this road. Fix this road. Widen this  
2 road. Just fix this. Don't -- we -- just don't  
3 bring anybody else in here. We don't want nobody  
4 else coming out here.

5           MR. HENDERSON: Thank you.

6           Thank everybody for coming. We're gonna be  
7 sticking around. If anybody hasn't had a chance to  
8 talk to us, we'll be here for a while.

C E R T I F I C A T E

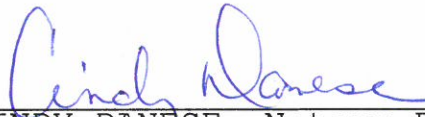
STATE OF FLORIDA )

COUNTY OF DUVAL )

I, Cindy Danese, Notary Public in and for the  
State of Florida at Large, do hereby certify that the  
foregoing pages are a true and accurate recordation of  
the proceedings which took place.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this 22nd  
day of September 2016.

STATEWIDE REPORTING SERVICE

  
CINDY DANESE, Notary Public  
State of Florida at Large.