

## COMMISSION WORKSHOP

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Mayor Woods workshop to order regarding the Department of Transportation (DOT) Overpass for the Railroad. Present were Commissioner Wilbur Waters, Commissioner Carolyn B. Spooner, Commissioner Tommy Chastain, Commissioner Danny Nugent, City Clerk Ricky Thompson, City Attorney Dan Sikes, City Manager Tom Ernharth, Police Chief Jeff Johnson, Fire Chief Tom Rowe from the City and Mr. Bill Henderson, Mr. Dave Larson (Adkins Consulting) from the DOT

Mayor Woods turned the workshop over to DOT.

Mr. Henderson stated this project has been in discussions for some time now but the more we discuss this the better the project will be. Originally there were five (5) concepts and we have narrowed it down to two (2). He made it perfectly clear both of those concepts are still being looked at. The reason for the focus on Highway 100; the two concepts are diametrically different. The only thing they have in common is that both provide an East West overpass over the railroad.

The 144<sup>th</sup> Street concept has very little impact but conversely does not solve the need as Highway 100 does. Highway 100 seems to be a large impact so we are trying to focus on this to see what we can do to reduce these impacts or make things better.

As part of the promise to make things better we hired Mr. Dave Larson who is present and has over 30 years experience at looking at different types of transportation projects and we have asked him to look at this project to get his ideas.

He came up with the drawings before you today and he will discuss what he found out when he came to Starke.

Mr. Larson commented as part of the design we notice some of the unique possibilities that was inherent to the downtown area. There are many important elements to preserve and protect and to reconnect the pedestrian connectivity to downtown. Reinvigorate the properties to the South and reconnect them to the downtown and slow things down a little bit to allow for economic redevelopment to reoccur with this significant transportation project.

We are not just looking at this project as a roadway project but as a city urban design project. The road way became a secondary to the preservations to the downtown grind and connectivity.

We looked at historical East Madison Street and the design team asked several questions; how can it be preserved and brought back to the historical significant into a slower walk-able connected manner.

He presented a slide show of the current area and how the area has changed through time.

The vision for the Highway 100 area is to look to the future with respect to the mix use development, and what can happen in the downtown to reinvigorate the downtown and bring growth back to Starke as the aging population looks for new places to relocate and for the residents here to reengage with the downtown. This corridor was the prime location to connect to that vision.

Chief Johnson inquired if the overpass would be started until after the completion of the by pass, is that correct?

The response was stated correct.

He added in five years, August 2020 the by pass will be completed?

The response was it should be.

Melanie Fuhrman, Manager from Walgreens; she commented on the entrance to Highway 301, which will make it easier for our trucks to get in and out. When the driveway is moved facing Highway 100 and there is only a single lane heading West the trucks, which are full size semis will have to come in off of Call Street. When they come out is there still enough room for them to make that right onto that single lane.

Walgreens wants to see improvements anyway we can, it is good for business. We feel the same way about the traffic as everyone does. We just want to make sure that every business still continues to thrive and there is access to get into everyones business.

As she looks at the design she is questioning the access for the semi trucks that make deliveries throughout the week.

Mr. Larson responded we will accommodate those types of situations.

Commissioner Waters commented on the pictures that the access road is running East to West along with the angled parking is a great improvement from the last meeting.

Mayor Woods referenced the parking and would like it looked at parallel as well as the angled.

Mayor Woods asked if there were any additional questions or concerns about Highway 100?

There was a map of the 144<sup>th</sup> Street and Mayor Woods ask if any discussion needed to be had on that?

Commissioner Spooner commented that differences of using Highway 100 other than 144<sup>th</sup> Street and State Road 16.

Mr. Henderson explained the focus was on Highway 100.

NOTE: Could not hear because of the train and persons not speaking into the microphone.

Mr. Henderson added that he was very happy to meet this evening to discuss this project and if at anytime there are questions or comments please telephone us. If we go forward with Highway 100 there are several details that will need to be worked out. DOT will need the City to be a partner with us.

Commissioner Waters asked if the pictures could be left behind so people can look at them.

Mr. Henderson stated the pictures are on the DOT website but he will leave the pictures. This is not exactly how it will look but will give an idea to people.

The Website address is [www.northfloridaroad.com/starkerroverpass](http://www.northfloridaroad.com/starkerroverpass)

Mayor Woods asked if there was any additional discussion; hearing none, he closed the workshop.

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Travis V. Woods, Mayor  
Commissioner Tommy Chastain  
Commissioner Daniel Nugent  
Commissioner Carolyn B. Spooner  
Commissioner Wilbur L. Waters

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ricky Thompson, City Clerk