

Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Request

Date of Meeting: June 16, 2009

Date Submitted: June 3, 2009

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Commissioner Kessler

Subject: Request Board Consideration of Taking Action on Matters Concerning the Paving of Old Bethel Road

Statement of Issue:

This agenda item requests the Board to consider taking action on matters concerning the paving of Old Bethel Road.

Background:

Old Bethel Road is a road of considerable length and to a greater or lesser degree parallels Spring Creek Highway. Its southern most boundary is Wakulla-Arran road and its northern most boundary is Bloxham Highway. The road paving section that has been approved by the Board is from Wakulla-Arran Road extending north to Gavin Road and from Gavin Road turning east to Spring Creek Highway. This project has a long history dating back many years. One of the obstacles that prevented the paving was a lack of right of way in order to establish a road with its necessary swales in order to capture and redirect storm-water runoff. Another obstacle was the type of road that was to be developed.

Previous Boards had considered making Old Bethel Road into an alternative road for commuting to and from Tallahassee. Old Bethel Road traverses a residential neighborhood. There are many children. This present Board has reversed the decision to turn Old Bethel Road into a highway and has decided that it should be kept a country road with a low speed limit and that wherever possible the overhead canopy will be preserved. The Board has voted to use eminent domain procedures if needed to further County projects.

Analysis:

At present, as of June 2, 2009, the right of way for this intended section of road has been agreed upon by all the necessary land owners except for one land owner. Negotiations will continue with this owner even after this item is submitted for inclusion in the Commissioners Books. Eminent Domain procedure use is one option. There are other options that may be applicable to this project. Another option is for the Board to pave only the areas of the road for which the County has right of way.

Options:

1. Vote to approve the obtaining of all necessary deeds (right of way) and surveys along the route of Old Bethel Road for the properties for which ROW has been agreed upon and pave all of the agreed upon project from Wakulla –Arran Road to Gavin Road to Spring Creek Highway with the exception of the one section of road not agreed to if this one property owner refuses to give right of way.

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2. Vote to approve the obtaining of all necessary deed (right of way) and surveys along the route of Old Bethel Road and use eminent domain procedures to address of the possible one outstanding right of way issue and start the road paving on all sections where right of way has been obtained.
3. Board Direction

Recommendation:

Option #1 & #2