



Florida Department of Transportation

RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

1074 Highway 90
Chipley, Florida 32428-0607

JARED W. PERDUE, P.E.
SECRETARY

May 8, 2024

Honorable Tracy Andrews, Mayor
City of Chipley
1442 Jackson Avenue
Chipley, Florida 32428

Re: Various City Project Issues

Mayor Andrews:

Please accept the following responses to the issues that were submitted during our meeting on April 18, 2024. They are listed below in quotes as they were provided. The response in italics is to the specific issue presented, however items may have been addressed following the development and submittal of the list of issues.

1. "Why was the county allowed to resurface South Boulevard without milling? There are 9 inches of asphalt over the original pavement. The driveways have had to all be reconnected, the drainage grates have not been raised, and water pools on the city streets because it can't get to lower ground. Washington County UCRP dollars provided by FDOT. Was this project overseen by FDOT."

The specific scope of the project was developed by the county, therefore questions as to the design of the project should be addressed to the County. The project was submitted for funding by the County during the SCRAP application process. Also, the project scope is typical for these types of projects. The project was assigned a FDOT Project Manager for contract administration type oversight.

2. "Why didn't FDOT replace the entire sidewalk on US 90 since there are so many ADA violations? There are a lot of correct slabs on US 90, and you can see the bad shaped at this section from 2nd St. to 3rd Street."

Per the FDOT's standard process the sidewalk was reviewed, and the final ADA report prepared in July 2021. Sidewalk conditions can change during the 3-year design process. Sidewalks are typically replaced in non-compliant sections and not for the entirety of a resurfacing project. During the construction activities, the department can perform a review of the remaining sidewalk and can address significant issues not included in the original ADA report. However, the resurfacing project scopes have been reduced to primarily address pavement rehabilitation needs and other areas must be addressed with other funds such as maintenance funds, safety funds, or even local funds. As you know, these other funds are limited as our infrastructure needs greatly outpace the available funds.

3. "We have been notified of safety issues and ADA compatibility issues at Our Desert Island resulting in a customer in a wheelchair to turn over. There is a pole in the sidewalk at an area with cracks making it difficult to navigate. The sidewalk and driveway connection have cracks greater than 1/4". A customer in a wheelchair flipped over on the US 90 sidewalks at Our Desert Island. Now they have to help him across US 90 at 2nd St because the ramp appears to not be in compliance. Most of the sidewalks and driveway connections along Highway 90 were replaced in the ongoing resurfacing project. However, they did not touch the one at our desert island."

I have asked our design and construction team members to review this location again to address deficiencies created during the construction project.

4. "Fisher Arnold presented the Chipley Redevelopment meeting at City Hall on April 11th. We received several comments from business owners concerning safety issues on Highway 77 and Highway 90. Lack of lighting on US 90 was a major concern. The business owners have been holding festivals and a monthly "Thursday Night Lights", and pedestrian safety is a major concern of ours. On highway 90 just west of 77, there are two areas where lighting could be added on existing poles. SR 77 and US 90 could use lighting in all quadrants."

Lighting is to be added at all four quadrants of SR 77 and US 90.

5. "We also need pedestrian crosswalks and flashing pedestrian signs like the ones in front of FDOT so people can get across highway 90 at 7th and 5th streets. Please also consider them at 2nd street now that Dollar General will open by April 30th."

I asked my team to review the request and the following was determined:

7th and 5th Streets are not appropriate locations for midblock crosswalks due to their proximity to the signalized intersection at SR 77/US 90. Additionally, the hill just west of 7th Street poses sight distance issues that would prohibit the installation of a midblock crossing. The 2nd Street crossing is controlled by the traffic signal so it will not be appropriate to also add flashing lights/beacons.

6. "Why did FDOT have US 90 W. of 77 shut down to one lane on the Monday and Tuesday after Easter? This backed up the southbound traffic on 77 from US 90 all the way past old Bonifay Road, which traffic turning southbound off of Campbellton Highway could not turn. Therefore, a lot of the traffic diverted to our city streets."

The construction contractor performed a lane closure to mill turnouts and to bore under US 90 for signalization in accordance with approved contract requirements.

7. "Please send this to Kimberly Toole at the DOT and request a new flashing lights sign here on Highway 90 to warn drivers of the congested intersection ahead and make it solar to help address safety issues at fifth Street and 77."

District Traffic Operations is evaluating this sign request.

8. "Since the opening of the 1901 restaurant downtown, there is a big need to have a mid-block pedestrian crossing close to the business alleyway south of Blossoms and the 1901 gallery. I've watched people run through traffic, and almost get hit. It should justify having the lighted pedestrian signs and mid-block crossing like in front of the DOT. Would you please contact them and let them know about the safety issue?"

Just south of Blossoms/1901 Gallery is not an appropriate location for a midblock crosswalk due to the proximity to the signalized intersection at SR77/Church Avenue.

Thank you for the opportunity to address some of the city's concerns. If additional information is needed, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Also, thank you for the improved relationship between the city and the department that only comes through your leadership and willingness to openly discuss concerns as we work together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'P' followed by a horizontal line that ends in a small arrowhead.

Phillip Gainer, P.E.
District 3 Secretary