

RESOLUTION 2025 - 02

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LABELLE, FLORIDA, OPPOSING FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT) SR80 CROSSWALK EAST OF MARTIN STREET AND REQUESTING THE REMOVAL AND RELOCATION OF THE PROJECT DUE TO HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS, AND TO EXPRESS THE CITY'S CONCERN OVER THE LACK OF CITIZEN INPUT IN THE APPROVAL PROCESS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of LaBelle, Florida, is deeply committed to ensuring the safety, well-being, and quality of life for its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has approved the crosswalk project without prior consultation or input from the citizens of LaBelle; and

WHEREAS, this project has generated significant public concern due to potential health and safety risks it poses to the residents of LaBelle, as well as, the disruption to traffic flow in and out of nearby businesses that have been in operation for many years; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission acknowledges that public feedback is a critical part of the decision-making process for infrastructure projects, and that the lack of community involvement in the planning and approval of this project has caused an outcry among LaBelle residents; and

WHEREAS, it is further noted that FDOT has indefinitely delayed a similar project in Clewiston due to substantial outcry from Hendry County residents, reflecting the critical need for the Department to consider community concerns when planning and executing such projects; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission believes that the health, safety, and quality of life for the citizens of LaBelle should be prioritized above all else, and as such, the City of LaBelle hereby respectfully requested that FDOT reevaluate the project and relocating it to a safer and more suitable location at the September 12, 2024 City Commission Meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LABELLE, FLORIDA:

- Section 1.** Opposition to FDOT Crosswalk: The City Commission of LaBelle expresses its opposition to FDOT's crosswalk, due to serious health and safety concerns raised by the LaBelle community.
- Section 2.** Request for Removal and Relocation: The City Commission formally requests that FDOT remove this project from its current location and relocate it to an alternative location that better protects the health, safety, and interests of the LaBelle residents.
- Section 3.** Call for Community Involvement: The City Commission urges FDOT to involve the citizens of LaBelle in the planning and approval process of future infrastructure projects to ensure that the voices of our community is heard and taken into consideration.
- Section 4.** Effectiveness: This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED and **ADOPTED** this 13th day of February 2025.

Julie C. Wilkins, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tijauna Warner, MMC, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

Derek Rooney, City Attorney

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

VOTE:

Commissioner Akin	_____ (Yes)	_____ (No)
Commissioner Ratica	_____ (Yes)	_____ (No)
Commissioner Spratt	_____ (Yes)	_____ (No)
Commissioner Vargas	_____ (Yes)	_____ (No)
Mayor Wilkins	_____ (Yes)	_____ (No)