



## **Santa Rosa Boulevard Improvements**

The FDOT Brooks Bridge Replacement Project Development and Environmental Study have been complete and aesthetics workshops have taken place. The design has been carefully vetted and the replacement with a state-of-the-art bridge is imminent. With the careful design of the bridge and upcoming multi-modal bike bath construction that will take place from Brooks Bridge to Marler Bridge, the time is right to improve Santa Rosa Boulevard traffic flow, safety standards and aesthetics. Click [HERE](#) to view the conversation and animation of the Brooks Bridge replacement.

### **August 31, 2021 Town Hall**

The participants were overwhelmingly pleased with the effort Public Works Director Jason Autrey and County Engineer Scott Bitterman have put into the project. Nearly 100 citizens attended by zoom and in-person, allowing for the opportunity to view, ask questions and share feedback. This marks the third town hall gathering of the topic. After almost two years of reviews by year-round residents, we are pleased with the overwhelming support of the proposed Okaloosa Island improvements for Santa Rosa Boulevard.

The audience applauded in favor of stormwater improvements and infrastructure improvements, including a multimodal path and bicycle lanes for enhanced safety of motorists and pedestrians. The county also considered input from Eglin Airforce Base in the concepts, by implementing a gradual decrease of lanes at the West end of Santa Rosa Boulevard instead of the abrupt 4-lane stop at the Eglin gate. While the majority of the audience was in favor of the improvements proposed, a few expressed resistance to changes. Click [HERE](#) to watch the town hall.

### **Improvement Concepts**

Through analysis of traffic patterns, input from residents and community partners, and expert advice of county engineers an improvement concept will be presented for approval by the Board of County Commissioners. Motor vehicle lanes will range from 5 lanes at the heaviest point of entry, down to 2 lanes headed West, approaching the end of public access at the Eglin Airforce Base access. Make sure you view the attached videos so that you can see how the lane changes make for a better traffic flow.

Pedestrian-friendly features will be integrated into the design, such as sidewalks and a multi-use path, in addition to aesthetic landscape features. Click [HERE](#) for renderings of improvement concepts.

### **Coffee with Carolyn**

Check out my new weekly Facebook segment, Coffee with Carolyn! My interview with Public Works Director Jason Autrey regarding the Santa Rosa Boulevard improvement concepts will supplement the information contained in the video above.

Thank you for your input and attendance at the workshops. Your voices were heard, and we look forward to bringing to fruition the choices the citizens have made. It is a privilege to serve as your County Commissioner.