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OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL



MEETING MINUTES

Community Meeting Soutel Road Diet

Hosted by Council Member Brenda Priestly Jackson

March 4, 2020

6:00 P.M.

Location: Legends Center 5130 Soutel Dr., Jacksonville, FL 32208

In attendance: CM Brenda Priestly Jackson, John Pappas – Director of Public Works, Laurie Santana – Chief of Transportation Planning, Christopher LeDew – Chief of Traffic Engineering

Meeting Convened: 6:01 P.M.

Council Member Priestly Jackson opened the meeting with greetings and announced the purpose of the meeting is to provide an overview and update of the Soutel Road Diet project. The project started with her predecessor Reginald Brown in 2017 and funding was provided from the general fund in the amount of \$3.4 million dollars. CM Priestly Jackson shared the project name change from Soutel Road Diet to Soutel Drive Traffic Calming. She wanted to highlight the difficulty of community buy-in with a road diet at the same time a food desert study is being conducted around the city. The road calming addresses safety, esthetics and needs of Soutel Drive. CM Priestly Jackson emphasized that the funding is specifically for and will be used towards the Soutel Drive Traffic Calming project. If the funds are not used for the project, they would go to another district. She also provided a recap of other Council Members and organizations that supported the project in 2017.

Laurie Santana provided an overview of the Traffic Calming Concept. The new configuration would include a center turn lane, landscaped medians, pedestrian crossings and bike lanes. The project will extend from New Kings Road to Lem Turner Road and she mentioned past and future traffic calming projects around the city. Laurie put emphasis on why Soutel Drive is an ideal candidate for the project. Data and analytics were performed and the road has a low traffic volume. It was also determined there is a need to reduce safety, speeding and crashes as well as adding pedestrian crossings at bus stops, schools and parks.

Christopher LeDew presented the statistics surrounding the importance of safety related to the project. The project will provide safer for turning traffic and trucks, slows down vehicles, safer for pedestrians, bicyclist. This will reduce crashes by 19% - 47%. The benefits of traffic calming will reduce

conflict points that can cause a potential crash. Additional improvements will included more street lighting, planting of trees and greenery, resurface pavement and fixing broken sidewalks.

John Pappas provided details about the infrastructure under the pavement as part of the project to ensure the drainage, pipe lining and other failures are addressed as well.

Council Member Priestly Jackson will establish a working group of individuals of those who would like to offer input about crosswalks, greenery, lighting and other items.

Council Member Priestly Jackson opened the floor to question and answers at the end of the presentation for constituents who completed speaker cards.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:21 P.M.

Minutes: Completed by Kristen Hodges, District 10 ECA, on Wednesday, May 20, 2020.

The written minutes for this meeting are only an overview of what was discussed. For verbatim comments from this meeting, please listen to audio recording posted on COJ's website at City Council Meetings Online.