



OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202

March 18, 2021
4:00 P.M.

STATEMENT

Statement from CM Brenda A. Priestly Jackson, Council Member-District 10, Jacksonville City Council

RE: Ordinance 2021-186 Deappropriating funds from the Soutel Drive Road Diet and Appropriating \$3,260,596 in Funds for Various Capital Improvement Projects in District 10 and appropriating future CIP funding for the Soutel Drive Road Diet variously other Capital Improvement Projects in District 10; Amending the 2021-25 5 Year CIP to Reduce Funding for the Soutel Drive Road Diet and Provide Funding for the Projects Identified by the Public Works Department Consistent with Infrastructure, Roadway, Drainage and Other Projects in District 10.

On March 17, 2021 I introduced legislation to amend the CIP and stop the Soutel Drive Road Diet and reappropriate the funding included in the 2021-25 Year CIP for the Soutel Drive Road Diet to various Capital Improvement Projects in District 10 identified by the Public Works Department, consistent with addressing infrastructure, roadway, drainage and other needs in District 10.

The CIP identified for funding in District 10 are:

- 1) Soutel Drive and New Kings Road Intersection Improvements (\$3,000,000);
- 2) Old Kings Road at Dixie Street drainage system repair (\$250,000); and,
- 3) Cain Lane and Able Street drainage system repair (\$10,596)

Additionally, all future years CIP funding previously allocated to the Soutel Drive Road Diet will be transferred to the following CIP projects in District 10:

- 1) Cain Lane and Able Street drainage system repair (\$169,403);
- 2) Zora Street drainage system repair (\$180,000);
- 3) Frye Ave., West drainage system repair (\$150,000);
- 4) Ellis Road drainage system repair (\$230,000);
- 5) Old Kings Road (\$70,000);
- 6) West Side Blvd. (\$130,000);
- 7) Davell Road (\$140,000);
- 8) Jack Horner Land and Miss Muffet Lane (\$100,000);



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- 9) Harlow Blvd. and Mother Hubbard Drive, S. (\$150,000);
- 10) Sibbald Road Sidewalk Extension (\$2,200,000);
- 11) Various sidewalk repairs (\$505,000);
- 12) I-10 to Romana Blvd. drainage improvements and channel lining (\$1,000,000); and
- 13) Ramona Blvd. to Lenox Ave. (\$3,000,000).

I want to thank former CM Reggie Brown for securing the funding for infrastructure needs in District 10. I want to thank Mayor Curry for his support of our District 10 neighbors and me when requesting to stop the Soutel Drive Road Diet and reallocate the funding to other CIP needs in District 10. I also want to express my sincere gratitude to the neighbors of District 10 who are helping me shape a shared vision with resources and funding for District 10. My service as your elected Council Member would not be possible without you. I am grateful that this CIP appropriation will remain in District 10. I committed to advocating zealously for these CIP funds to stay in District 10.

In closing, I share that I believe that the extensive study and research on the needs of Soutel Drive and the goals of improving safety, walkability, encouraging economic development and much more were supported by the CIP funding in September 2017. However, it is abundantly clear that the current adversity to the Soutel Drive Road Diet is overshadowing any advantages to pursuing it further at this time. The request to stop the Soutel Drive Road Diet has overshadowed my goals of furthering community engagement in the project.

Therefore upon the passage of Ordinance 2021-186 amending the CIP, I look forward to continuing our service together with neighbors throughout District 10 as we continue to address our goals of educational access, economic opportunities and jobs and an improved quality of life that allows each neighbor to thrive and grow.

BPJ/kh