



CITY OF GROVELAND  
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GROVELAND, FL 34736

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*"The City with a future, watch us grow!"*

Groveland City Council  
City Manager Report  
January 2, 2015

**Pending Action Items:**

- SR 50 Realignment Update: With the support of City Council the city has started a Letter Writing Campaign to FDOT with the hope that our efforts will incentivize FDOT to include the SR 50 Realignment project in their tentative 5 year work plan. This plan is extremely important because it includes the department's funding priorities. If this project is over looked we could be looking at our Downtown Master Plans being placed on the back burner; which could place the completion of this project beyond the next 10 to 15 years. With safety issues related to the volume of traffic going through our downtown, and the continued development of the coast to coast trail, it is critical that the SR 50 realignment project continue to move forward. Attached is a letter that I have submitted, it is a bit lengthy and I certainly don't expect this type of letter is needed from everyone, but it gives some back ground that might be helpful to you as you write your letters or comments. We have received good press on this issue and we need the help of our citizens to keep it going.  
(Please: submit a letter on our website or email: [Redmond.jones@groveland-fl.gov](mailto:Redmond.jones@groveland-fl.gov) )
- The Villa City DRI Application – No new updates at this time.

**Report from the Desk of the City Manager:**

- Hunt Industrial Park Update: At this time, we are working through a preferred sewer delivery option that involves acquiring a privately owned lift station. The station sits on public land and appears to be the only lift station in the city that is privately owned, held and ran. The builders of the station have offered to sell the station to the City and at this time the proposal is under review. Once staff can make recommendation(s) regarding this aspect of the project, a request for consideration or information will come to City Council for approval. Continuing with the "all the above approach to this project" Ms. Walker is currently working on developing a Tax Relief policy that can be brought to City Council, and if approved can be applied to this project. Mr. Lucas and Mr. Berger are working on applying an existing amortization policy / finance policy that would allow for a five year model. Currently, the model uses interest being set at a prime rate. I have directed staff to prepare strategies that would include a five year amortized zero based interest rate, to be recommended for special consideration which would require City Council Approval . Once we get a better understanding of the financial position of the project (site plan and/or review a project pro-forma), staff will be in a better position to lock down and recommend an overall incentive package / development agreement that would equate \$187,000. Although we have clear economic development policy regarding cash infusions, staff will be looking into using the commitment of previously unused economic development dollars to meet our economic development agreement goals.

- The City Manager’s Office continues to accept new ideas from citizens, city staff, and community stakeholders, as the City moves forward with establishing itself as a “Premier City”. The city will continue to benchmark programs, initiatives, and services against the top 10 small communities that have been identified by CNN Money “America’s Best Places to Live”. These communities are not only thriving economically, they are also maximizing family friendly amenities, well ran government, and strong community involvement. Anyone interested in learning more are encouraged to contact the City Manager’s Office at (352) 429-2141 x250.
  1. Sharon, Massachusetts - (781) 784-1500 [www.sharonma.org](http://www.sharonma.org)
  2. Louisville, Colorado - (303) 666-6565 [www.louisvilleco.gov](http://www.louisvilleco.gov)
  3. Vienna, Virginia - (703) 255-6300 [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov)
  4. Chanhassen, Minnesota - (952) 227-1100 [www.ci.chanhassen.mn.us](http://www.ci.chanhassen.mn.us)
  5. Sherwood, Oregon - (503) 625-5522 [www.sherwoodoregon.gov](http://www.sherwoodoregon.gov)
  6. Berkeley Heights, NJ - (908) 464-8150 [www.berkeleyheightstwp.com](http://www.berkeleyheightstwp.com)
  7. Mason, Ohio - (513) 229-8500 [www.imaginemason.org](http://www.imaginemason.org)
  8. Papillion, Nebraska - (402) 597-2000 [www.papillion.org](http://www.papillion.org)
  9. Apex, North Carolina - (919) 249-3400 [www.apexnc.org](http://www.apexnc.org)
  10. West Goshen Township, PA - (610) 696-0900 [www.wgoshen.org](http://www.wgoshen.org)
- Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC) Update: January 13th – The City Manager's Office has been presented with an exciting citizen idea. The development of a Permaculture Community Garden Park. A Groveland Citizen has asked for assistance from the city in pursuing a Permaculture Community Park. Open to the public will be a presentation to the RAC with the expectation of gaining RAC recommendation that could be brought to the City Council in late February or early March.

**Projects in the Funnel / Staff Work Room**

*(written only)*

*These are projects, tasks, ideas, or concepts that are under some level of staff research / project development / task implementation. Descriptions will be limited, this section is just to give the council and the public a glimpse some of the running activities, projects, task, and/or research that staff are engaged in (that may not typically rise to being reported on in the City Manager's Report).*

- Neighborhood Grant
- Permaculture Community Garden
- Fishing Pier
- Operation Letter Writing Campaign
- HwY 27 Welcome Sign (basic)
- Lights at Wilson Lake Pkwy
- Capital Budget to the RAC
- AMEC Running Ledger
- Osprey Cove Property Maintenance Inquiry
- Paint ??? / Refurbish Gazebo / Lake David Center
- Light Receptacles / Ryan's Electric
- Presentation from Jim Stivender
  - Sampey Road
  - Libby #3
  - Trailer Pad (Turnpike)
  - Hart (drainage issue)  
@ Baldwin / SR 50

**Follow up / Reminder Items:**

- None

**Events:**

- Box Car Racing --- **January 3rd & 31st, 2015...** C/M Box Car Racing has had difficulty raising the needed sponsorships to pay for the needed Police Coverage required at these racing events. This is a fixed cost that is required due to the street closure and the number of people that attend these events. Our early agreements with C/M Box Car promised city support to assume this cost for two races. Since this short-fall was discovered during the holiday break and the first race of the year is January 3rd; I authorized \$ 500 from the City Manager Discretionary Budget, to cover this short fall should funds not be raised in time. I have also committed staff to assist in C/M Box Car sponsoring efforts.
  - With regards to the concerns expressed regarding initialing the city purchased box cars... the City and C/M Box Cars have reached an agreement that these cars will be initialed with large City of Groveland (Sponsor) Logos. On other news: the Box Car Racing Partnership Agreement (between the City and C/M Box Car) is in its final stages of negotiation and is expected to be brought before City Council at our next meeting.

Redmond Jones II  
City Manager

Attachment



December 17, 2014

Susan Sadighi  
Intermodal System Development Manager  
719 South Woodland Boulevard  
Deland, Florida 32720

Re: Comment regarding FDOT's Five Year Work Plan

Dear Ms. Sadighi:

Please let me introduce myself, my name is Redmond Jones and I serve as the City Manager for the City of Groveland. I have grave concerns that the 50 realignment project is not in the Florida Department of Transportation tentative Five Year work plan (reference: District Five Work Program Public Hearings 2014).

The City of Groveland has updated its Downtown Master Plan which focuses on creating a pedestrian friendly setting; encouraging intense commercial development and redevelopment; and anticipates developing a trail head for the Coast to Coast Trail, which is critical to central Florida's economic development efforts. We also expect that the 50 realignment project will complement the additional residential in-field development program we will have for people who may want to live and work downtown. If SR 50 is realigned and constructed, Broad Street and Orange Street (the portions of SR 50 currently running through downtown) will be returned to the City of Groveland's jurisdiction and no longer will be part of the state road system. Not only will this be critical for our downtown redevelopment efforts; it will give the City of Groveland the opportunity meet the amenity desires of the fastest growing community in Lake County.

The economic development opportunities are evident; However, what prompts me to write this letter are the safety issues that will go unaddressed without the realignment project moving forward. I have been in Groveland for a year, and we have already experienced an incident of a pedestrian killed by downtown traffic. It is unfathomable to think that this project could finish design, be number one priority on the Metropolitan Planning Organization's list and not even make FDOT's five year tentative work plan. SR 50 runs east-west through the heart of Groveland. In the downtown area (from east of Ivey Street to SR 33), SR 50 is a pair of two, one way travel lanes in each direction (Broad Street serving westbound traffic and Orange Street serving eastbound traffic). SR 19/SR 33 runs north-south through

downtown Groveland, intersecting with SR 50. Both roadways experience heavy truck traffic, which is a challenge to creating a pedestrian friendly environment. These major traffic arteries all converge in our downtown... It is unsafe and needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

To facilitate a more walkable downtown, the realignment segment of SR 50 would redirect SR 50 to the north of downtown on a new road alignment. This change, shifts the truck traffic onto a new roadway and allows the existing SR 50 roadway to be modified to provide improved access to downtown businesses and manageable car traffic. This change would also include a new intersection of SR 50 and SR 19; thereby addressing and improving the turning movement deficiencies experienced today by the heavy truck volume.

The turning movement issues at SR 50 and SR 19 are at dangerous levels. I can personally attest to this fact, because I was in an car accident at this very intersection in August of 2014. The congestion at this intersection is extremely heavy causing several near accidents and collisions frequently.

The realignment of SR 50 is a local priority project and I can't understand how it wouldn't be a FDOT priority as well. This project is included in the City of Groveland's Comprehensive Plan, Lake County's Comprehensive Plan, the Lake-Sumter MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan, and involves the Coast to Coast Trail (a project campaigned on by the Governor).

From a technical stand point the investment has already been made. The Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study for SR 50 (from CR 565/Villa City Road to CR 565A/Monte Vista Road) analyzed the realignment of SR 50 through Groveland during the PD&E study. In that PD&E study several realignment options were considered and evaluated. The PD&E Study's recommended "Build Alternative" (Truck Route Alternative) supported the City's vision for downtown while also providing an improved state highway that serves regional movements.

To announce in a presentation to the Lake-Sumter MPO that this project is not included in FDOT's Five Year work plan and would likely wait until 2025 is beyond belief. It is not a task that I do often, but unless the presented tentative work program is revisited, I will sternly oppose any plan that doesn't include this critical project. To be clear I am requesting that the Right-of-way acquisition be funded and construction plans move forward before we suffer another downtown pedestrian fatality in the mist of high volume downtown traffic.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. I trust you accept the tone of this letter as a genuine passionate concern for the citizens and visitors who rely on transportation access and movement in Groveland. Should you have any questions, comments, or concerns; please do not hesitate to contact me or my office.

Respectfully Submitted,

Redmond Jones  
City Manager  
City of Groveland  
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