



Economic Development Council
of Okaloosa County, Florida

RESOLUTION

A resolution of the Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County, Florida to ensure mission readiness and economic viability of Eglin AFB's transportation support system. A failed or compromised transportation system hinders mobility which results in which excessive delays compromising military operations and economic viability.

WHEREAS, the world's largest Air Force Base, the Eglin US Air Force Base, is located in the Northwest Florida Panhandle. Eglin is a center of Armament Research and Development and is a primary installation for Air Force weapons development to include every fighter, bomber, and fighting vehicle in the US Air Force. It is also home to Special Operations Commands of both the Air Force and Army.

WHEREAS, Eglin supports major military operations throughout the entire world for the protection of our Nation's Defense, and any compromises to Eglin operations result in unacceptable compromises to our Nation's Weapon Capabilities Testing, Fighter Aviation Capabilities, and Major Special Operations.

WHEREAS, industries of the region are among a globally-competitive support system for emerging aerospace and defense technologies that also support research in areas such as electronics and micro-electronics, nano-technology, composite and exotic materials, advanced power systems, computing, robotics, uninhabited systems and avionics.

WHEREAS, the primary transportation corridor on Eglin is Florida State Road 85 (SR 85); also designated in Florida's Strategic Intermodal System (SIS), a statewide network of high priority transportation. The present capacity of the SR 85 corridor is not sufficient to meet the needs of the Eglin mission, nor the needs of the state's SIS system. If additional capacity is not added to SR 85, Mission Critical Operations will be compromised and Regional Economic Development will be stopped.

WHEREAS, Okaloosa County, Florida through cooperative working relationships, has developed a consensus among multiple agencies to develop an overall capacity improvement plan for the SR 85 corridor. As one potential source of support, Okaloosa County is looking to the Office of the Secretary of Transportation for the award "Grants for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery" (Tiger Grants). Given support from the Tiger Grant program and with the regional consensus developed by Okaloosa County, capacity improvements along the SR 85 corridor will ensure our Nation's defense is not compromised and also ensures economic viability of the Northwest Florida Region is maintained.

THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County that

The EDC fully supports the Okaloosa County Tiger Grant application to ensure the successful implementation and completion of the critical transportation system requirements of Hwy 85.

ADOPTED on the 4th day of September, 2009 by the Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County .

APPROVED BY:

Paul Hsu
EDC Chairman

WITNESSED BY:

Kay Rasmussen
Director of Defense & Economic Initiatives

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