



RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT OKALOOSA COUNTY
“GRANTS FOR TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT
GENERATING ECONOMIC RECOVERY” APPLICATION

WHEREAS, through cooperative working relationships, Okaloosa County, Florida, has developed a consensus among multiple agencies to develop an overall capacity improvement plan for the SR 85 corridor; and

WHEREAS, Florida's Great Northwest, a sixteen county regional economic development organization serving Northwest Florida including Okaloosa County, endorses the multiple agency consensus, the SR 85 corridor improvement plan, and the positive economic impact of SR 85's expanded capacity regarding the military, the defense-related community and improved residential and commercial economic viability; and

WHEREAS, Eglin Air Force Base, the world's largest air force base and located in Okaloosa County, is a center of armament research and development, a primary installation for Air Force weapons development and home to special operations commands of both the Air Force and Army; and

WHEREAS, because Eglin Air Force Base supports major national defense military operations throughout the world, any compromises to Eglin AFB operations will result in unacceptable compromises to our nation's weapon capabilities testing, fighter aviation capabilities and special operations forces; and

WHEREAS, the primary transportation corridor on Eglin Air Force Base is Florida SR 85; and

WHEREAS, the present capacity of the SR 85 corridor is not sufficient to meet the needs of Eglin Air Force Base's mission nor the needs of the state's Strategic Intermodal System, causing excessive transportation delays, a halt to regional residential development and a complete stop to regional business development; and

WHEREAS, development of additional capacity along the SR 85 Corridor will support mission critical operations at Eglin Air Force Base that ensures protection of our nation's defense; and

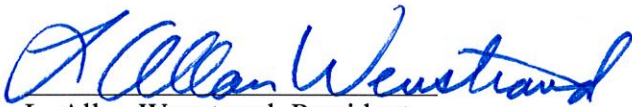
WHEREAS, SR 85 corridor capacity improvements will maintain one of the components of Florida's Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) which is a critical transportation link in Northwest Florida and the state of Florida; and

WHEREAS, Okaloosa County has applied to the Office of the Secretary of Transportation for the award of a transportation grant through the "Grants for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery," for the development of these capacity improvements along the SR 85;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Florida's Great Northwest, as follows:

1. Florida's Great Northwest is in complete support of Okaloosa County's multiple-agency consensus and of the actions and efforts of the Okaloosa County consortium as it continues the development of an overall capacity improvement plan along the Florida State Road 85 Corridor at Eglin Air Force Base.
2. Florida's Great Northwest formally requests that any and all assistance from the State of Florida and the United States of America, whether such assistance takes the form of funding, permitting or any other form of assistance, be made available to the multiple-agency, Okaloosa County consensus.
3. That a copy of this resolution be provided to all elected officials representing Okaloosa County within the Florida Executive and Legislative branches and the United States Congress.

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED this 11 day of September, 2009.



L. Allan Wenstrand, President