

Okaloosa County News Release

7/31/2009

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Federal, State, Military Officials & Local Government Combine Forces SR 85 & Duke Field Access Options Discussed

“The evolution of this meeting orchestrated by State Representative Ray Sansom and attended by Florida Transportation Secretary Stephanie Kopelousos, began much earlier with a local request from the Okaloosa County Commissioners,” stated Okaloosa County Commission Chairman Bill Roberts, as he kicked off the meeting.

Today, Florida Department of Transportation officials, Representative Ray Sansom, Mayor Cadle of Crestview, Okaloosa County officials and military officials from Eglin and the US Army met to discuss the flyover for the incoming US Army 7th Special Forces Group entry into Duke and surrounding training areas. Design options, cost, funding and steps needed to proceed were discussed.

Officials are aiming for Defense Access Road (DAR) funding through the Federal Highway Administration to secure the funding for this important project. The next step is to add this flyover to the Okaloosa Walton Transportation Planning Organization (OWTPO) long range goal, and to submit the environmental impact documentation, which is being completed by Eglin Air Force Base.

“This meeting today demonstrates how well this community partners with each other, which is unique and critical in making this viable for the future and on the right track,” stated State Representative Ray Sansom. “Truly the value of partnerships is the way we are getting things done, and we need to accomplish this for our military,” added Transportation Secretary Stephanie Kopelousos.

Meeting attendee list follows-

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SR 85 Improvements & 7th SFG Flyover Meeting Attendees:

1. Mike Ferguson, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the U.S. Army
2. Colonel Arnold Bunch, Vice Commander/Air Armament Center/Eglin AFB
3. Colonel Bill Porter, Vice Commander/96th Air Base Wing/Eglin AFB
4. Colonel Dave Maharrey, Commander/96th Civil Engineer Group/Eglin AFB
5. LTC Gary Bloomberg, U.S. Army
6. Representative Ray Sansom
7. Kris Tande, Office of Mel Martinez
8. Bob Black, Office of Congressman Jeff Miller
9. Secretary Stephanie Kopelousos
10. James M. Rodgers, District Three Interim Secretary
11. James T. Barfield, Director of Transportation Development
12. Renae W. Jenkins, Dir. Transportation Support, D-3
13. Jim DeVries, Pensacola Urban Office, Florida Department of Transportation.
14. County Commissioner Chairman Bill Roberts
15. Mayor David Cadle, Crestview
16. James Curry, Co. Admin.
17. Danielle Slaterpryce, Public Works Director
18. Jeff Fanto, Okaloosa County Growth Project Coordinator
19. Jason Autrey, Public Works Engineering Manager
20. Mike Wing, Crestview Administrative Services Manager
21. Bob Allen, Crestview City Council