

## **RESOLUTION 07-01**

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWEST FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR AUTHORITY (NWFTCA) REQUESTING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT WILL INCLUDE THE US HIGHWAY 98 CORRIDOR, AS DEFINED BY FLORIDA STATUTE 343.085, FROM THE ALABAMA LINE THROUGH WAKULLA COUNTY, IN THE STRATEGIC INTERMODAL SYSTEM.**

WHEREAS, the NWFTCA is charged with improving mobility on the U.S. 98 corridor in Northwest Florida to enhance traveler safety, identifying and developing hurricane evacuation routes, promoting economic development along the corridor, and implementing transportation projects to alleviate current or anticipated traffic congestion; and

WHEREAS, Florida's Strategic Intermodal System, a system of the state's high-priority commercial airports, spaceport, deepwater seaports, freight rail lines and terminals, passenger rail and intercity bus terminals, navigable waterways, and highways, was established in 2003 to enhance Florida's economic competitiveness by focusing limited state resources on those transportation facilities that are critical to Florida's economy and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, US Highway 98 is the only east/west principal arterial and coastal highway south of Interstate 10, which provides freight mobility connections the urbanized areas of Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Gulf, Franklin, and Wakulla Counties; and

WHEREAS, the inclusion of the US Highway 98 Corridor from the Alabama line through Wakulla County on the Strategic Intermodal System will help NWFTCA, FDOT, and local governments, in partnership with the military, to address air, water, and road transportation needs that are critical to mobility, including military mobility and national defense; and

WHEREAS, the inclusion of the US Highway 98 Corridor, from the Alabama line through Wakulla County, on the Strategic Intermodal System will serve the purpose of furthering the accomplishment of the legislatively mandated Master Plan and the fulfillment of the directive to enhance traveler safety, identify and develop hurricane evacuation routes, promote economic development along the corridor, and implement transportation projects to alleviate current or anticipated traffic congestion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NORTHWEST FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR AUTHORITY THAT:

The NWFTCA requests the Florida Legislature and Governor to support legislation that will include all of the US Highway 98 Corridor, as defined by Florida Statute 343.805, from the Alabama line through Wakulla County, on the Strategic Intermodal System so that transportation improvements can be planned and funded more effectively.

RESOLVED this 18th day of January, 2007.

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Randall A. McElheney, Chairman

ATTEST:

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