



December 6, 2021

Board of County Commissioners
St. Lucie County
2300 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, FL 34982

Dear Commissioners:

We appreciate your hosting our recent joint meeting of November 18, 2021. The information prepared by your staff and ours was extensive and comprehensive. The City of Fort Pierce would like to follow up on the most important topics discussed.

Regarding the Port of Fort Pierce, the city will proceed with the many necessary steps to accomplish the proposed changes in zoning and future land use. We will move as rapidly as possible with all the necessary input from the public.

Regarding annexation, our city will consider the offer of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Commission to assist both our jurisdictions in an annexation strategy that is fair to both St. Lucie County and the City of Fort Pierce. The County proposed consideration of the transfer of twelve roads with 100% of property in Fort Pierce, following evaluation and improvements by the county (August 23, 2021 letter from County Administrator Tipton to city engineer Jack Andrews). St. Lucie County approval of this proposal depends upon the costs of such improvements.

Regarding Delaware Avenue, the underlying ROW belongs to the County, and per our 1982 agreement, the County is responsible for the maintenance of the road bed, bridges, curbs, culverts, drainage pipes; the City is responsible for the maintenance of the landscaped medians, traffic signals, traffic signs, sidewalks, streetlights, pavement markings, on-street parking and landscaping from U.S 1 to 33rd Street. There is general agreement that the most urgent need is to improve drainage and road conditions in the general area of St. Anastasia, from the 33rd Street intersection to the Hartman Road intersection. Since St. Anastasia is a school as well as a church, there was general agreement that sidewalks between 33rd and Hartman should be a priority. The City proposes a staff task force of St. Lucie County, the City of Fort Pierce, the St. Lucie Transportation Planning Organization and the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority to proceed expeditiously and collaboratively to immediately address the drainage, road conditions and sidewalks on Delaware, between 33rd and Hartman Road.

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Regarding Indian River Drive, the underlying ROW belongs to St. Lucie County, with shared maintenance responsibilities similar to Delaware Avenue with the City of Fort Pierce. St. Lucie County is planning major safety improvements between Walton and Midway Roads. St. Lucie County may enact a 25 miles per hour (mph) speed limit on Indian River Drive. The city is planning safety improvements as per our maintenance agreement with St. Lucie County and also agrees to consider 25 mph on the city portion.

In closing, the City of Fort Pierce stands ready to be a trusted and trusting partner in the many projects where collaboration with St. Lucie County is required. Our City staff is expected to provide excellent service at all times. We expect staff communication or performance problems will be reported to appropriate management of St. Lucie County or City of Fort Pierce. Of course, we welcome any information from St. Lucie County Commissioners that will improve the success of our joint ventures.

Sincerely,

Linda Hudson, Mayor
City of Fort Pierce

cc: City Commissioners