RESOLUTION NO. 2026 – 22

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF ESTERO, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE CONSTRUCTION BY THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OF A NOISE WALL FOR THE BROOKS COMMUNITY; MAKING RELATED FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has undertaken a widening of Interstate 75 from Golden Gate Parkway in Collier County to Alico Road in Lee County to reduce roadway congestion (the Project) which includes portions of the interstate within the Village; and

WHEREAS, the Project is proposed to include new north and southbound express lanes and will add 6 (3 in each direction) additional travel lanes through Estero south of Corkscrew Road and 4 (2 in each direction) travel lane north of Corkscrew Road; and

WHEREAS, the additional lanes will increase noise along the entire segment of I-75 through the Village, and this increased noise will impact the quality of life for Estero residents that live near I-75; and

WHEREAS, the Project will also remove current vegetative barriers between residential communities proximate to the interstate while at the same time moving travel lanes closer to those communities, thus undermining the aesthetic beauty of those communities; and

WHEREAS, while FDOT is continuing work on the design for the Project, the current design does not provide for noise walls or enhanced vegetation along the majority of the Project within the municipal boundaries of the Village; and

WHEREAS, some of the most significantly impacted communities within the Village are within the Brooks community (consisting of 3,646 homes in the distinct communities of Spring Run, Lighthouse Bay, Copperleaf, Pebble Pointe and Shadow Wood); and

WHEREAS, the Brooks community is one of the core communities within the Village of Estero; and

WHEREAS, the inclusion of noise walls and enhanced vegetation within the Estero portion of the scope of the Project would reduce noise levels for the residents of the Village along the Project boundary, and would help preserve the aesthetic appeal and value these communities currently enjoy; and

WHEREAS, at its meeting of November 19th 2025, the Village Council adopted a resolution supporting the construction of barrier walls to address the issues described above; and

WHEREAS, that resolution was supported by a report and supporting written materials submitted by the Brooks Council of Presidents which reviewed the numerous quality of life, health, and property value impacts, and the design and engineering flaws which FDOT's then design of only a partial-wall proposal would create for many residents and properties within the Brooks; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 presentation pointed out that FDOT's own staff analysis confirmed that "to effectively reduce traffic noise, a barrier must be relatively long, continuous (with no intermittent openings for driveways, etc.) and of sufficient height"; and

WHEREAS, in spite of the Council's 2025 resolution urging the FDOT to revise its Project design to provide for a complete and continuous barrier wall, the latest FDOT proposed design continues to show the majority of the interstate within the Village as having no barrier wall and no enhanced vegetation; and

WHEREAS, based on the information provided by the Brooks representatives, and on additional feedback received by Council from Village residents since the 2025 resolution, and on the Council's own common sense understanding of how the Project will impact existing communities, it is clear that the FDOT's latest proposed design which provides for a majority of the Village's communities not having a barrier wall or enhanced vegetation, while perhaps costing less, would not be effective to significantly reduce the various noise and aesthetic harms noted above created by the Project.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Village Council of the Village of Estero, Florida, that:

Section 1. The Village Council of the Village of Estero urges the FDOT to revise its Project design and scope to include a continuous twenty-two foot wall to be constructed along the entire east side of the Project within the Village, to include the Brooks community from at least mile marker 120 to mile marker 122.

Section 2. The Village Council further urges the FDOT to revise its Project design and scope to include the installation of enhanced vegetation along this same stretch of the Project.

Section 3. The Village Manager is authorized to convey a copy of this Resolution to the Brooks Council of Presidents, the FDOT's District Secretary, and such other state officials as the Manager determines is appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any section, subsection, sentence, clause, provision or word of this Resolution is held unconstitutional or otherwise legally invalid, same shall be severable and the remainder of this Resolution shall not be affected by such invalidity, such that any remainder of the Resolution shall withstand any severed provision, as the Village Council would have adopted the Resolution even absent the invalid part.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

DULY ADOPTED with a quorum present and voting this 9th day of September, 2026.

Attest:

Carol Sacco, CMC, Village Clerk

Joanne Ribble, Mayor