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Mayor

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Chair Nick Girone  
Lake~Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Lady Lake, Florida 32159

**RE: Lake~Sumter MPO 2019 Prioritization Process – SR 50 Realignment Project**

Chair Girone,

Let me begin by thanking the Lake~Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization for prioritizing last year as the top right of way project Groveland's SR 50 Realignment Project. This transformational project will not only correct a major operational bottleneck while enhancing freight movement, it also will allow Groveland's historic downtown to redevelop and will include Phase 3C of the South Lake Trail, also part of the Coast to Coast Trail.


As the Lake~Sumter MPO begins this month the annual process of adopting the *List of Priority Projects*, Groveland appreciates remaining atop of the Right of Way Projects table. Last year, the MPO approved a special table at the request of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). It was the "Top 15 Priority Projects." On that table, the project was listed at #5 and Groveland is appreciative of that ranking.

This year, a prioritization of #1 of the SR 50 Realignment Project on the MPO's special table of the *List of Priority Projects* will afford the project special opportunities. This move would not be at the expense of any other MPO priority. This is because the project is the only high MPO priority eligible for funding through the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) program.

FDOT leadership has conveyed to Groveland the importance of the MPO prioritization process, including the importance of the *Regional List of Priority Projects* annually adopted by the Central Florida MPO Alliance (CFMPOA). The only roadway priorities addressed by that regional group are SIS priorities. Therefore, a prioritization of #1 would communicate resoundingly to that regional group and to FDOT the significance of this SIS project.

The City of Groveland continues to work diligently on multiple strategies to secure funding for the project. First and foremost, Groveland wishes to embrace the MPO process. A special consideration of the SR 50 Realignment Project by the MPO will likely soon result in a successful outcome. The support of you and the Governing Board is most appreciated.

Respectfully,

  
Mayor Evelyn Wilson

Cc: Michael Woods, MPO Executive Director