



CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA
418 Osborne Street
St. Marys, GA 31558

August 15, 2023

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. INVOCATION: *Councilmember Allen F. Rassi, Jr.*
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- IV. ROLL CALL QUORUM: YES___ NO___
- V. **BUSINESS:**
 - A. **JOINT RESOLUTION OPPOSING GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S PROPOSAL FOR HIGHWAY 17 CLOSURE:** *Robert Horton, Jr. (City Manager)*
Request approval of Resolution opposing closure of Highway 17 while bridges are being rebuilt. TAB "A"
- VI. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** *Real Estate*
- VII. **ADJOURNMENT:**

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: August 15, 2023

TITLE: Joint Resolution Opposing GDOT's Proposal for Highway 17 Closure

PURPOSE: To show support for asking GDOT not to completely close Highway 17 while bridges are rebuilt.

RECOMMENDATION: To support

HISTORY/ANALYSIS: On Monday, August 7, 2023, the City of Woodbine passed a resolution to oppose GDOT's proposal to completely close Highway 17 between Waverly and White Oak for three (3) years due to the reconstruction of the three bridges at Little Waverly Creek, Waverly Creek, and White Oak Creek. On August 15, 2023, the Camden County Board of Commissioners is expected to pass a joint resolution in support to oppose the closing of Highway 17. We are being asked also to support this joint resolution as well.

We are asking GDOT to construct an "on-site detour" at each of the bridges so that traffic mobility is not interrupted. In addition to this, we are also requesting GDOT to come back down to Camden County and hold another public hearing on this project, since the last public hearing for this closure was over five years ago.

As of each of you know, Camden County's public safety and economic outlook will be heavily impacted by a complete closure of Highway 17. Highway 17 is a main corridor through our communities and serves as a significant hurricane evacuation route for all of our citizens. Each of our entities will be affected by this closure.

City Manager:



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Robert A. ...", is written over a horizontal line that serves as a signature line.



RESOLUTION OPPOSING GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CLOSURE OF US HIGHWAY 17

WHEREAS, Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) has announced a proposal to close US Highway 17, in Camden County at White Oak Creek, Waverly Creek and Little Waverly Creek;

WHEREAS, the proposal GDOT has presented will have a severely detrimental impact on public safety, including law enforcement, fire rescue, emergency medical services, as well as public school transportation;

WHEREAS, this GDOT proposal will cause massive traffic disruptions in the event of an accident on Interstate 95, or in the event of a hurricane evacuation, or other mass evacuation events;

WHEREAS, the closure of US Highway 17 would create an extreme financial hardship by extending citizens travel time by an additional 30 minutes due to an impractical GDOT detour;

WHEREAS, US Highway 17 is the only viable alternative for Interstate 95 and is the primary thoroughfare route for access to northern Camden County;

WHEREAS, US Highway 17 is the only northern access for the City of Woodbine, county seat of Camden County;

WHEREAS, US Highway 17 is the primary access route for people that live in northern Camden County and the surrounding counties traveling to Woodbine, Kingsland, St. Marys and Kings Bay Naval Base;

WHEREAS, the closure of US Highway 17 will drastically affect northern Camden County citizen's ability to conduct county government business i.e., court services, tax assessor, and vehicle registration. It will also cause a negative economic impact on Woodbine and northern Camden County essential businesses, agricultural and timber operations, which are still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHEREAS, US Highway 17 is used by many of our senior citizens to access medical services in both Glynn County and Camden County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that all entities request GDOT to alter their proposal of complete closure of US Highway 17. All entities request GDOT to construct an on-site detour to their proposal due to aforementioned concerns. Collectively, we also request that GDOT hold another public hearing in Camden County to address the concerns of the citizens of Camden County.

Ben L. Casey, Chairman
Camden County Board of Commissioners

Kizzi Knight, Mayor
City of Woodbine

Dr. C. Grayson Day, Mayor
City of Kingsland

John F. Morrissey, Mayor
City of St. Marys

James K. Proctor, Sheriff
Camden County Sheriff's Office

Jonathon Blount, Chairman
Camden County Board of Education

Greg Lockhart, Chairman
Camden County Joint Development Authority

Alison Shores, President / CEO
Camden County Chamber of Commerce

