



DeSoto County
Board of County Commissioners
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March 10, 2026

Marybeth Soderstrom
Staff Services Director
Heartland Regional Transportation Planning Organization
555 E Church Street
Bartow, FL 33830

Re: Request for Congestion Management Funding
US 17 at CR 760/SW Welles Avenue Signalization Project

Dear Ms. Soderstrom,

Please accept this letter as the DeSoto County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) request for Congestion Management Funding. The BOCC appreciates our cooperative relationships with the Heartland Regional Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) in assisting in meeting the transportation needs of our residents, businesses, and tourists. As you know, DeSoto County is a diverse agricultural community and a designated Rural Area of Opportunity. The BOCC respectfully requests the priority projects identified below be funded without any county match.

Congestion Management (CMS) provides a transportation-funding program to improve traffic operations and safety by using strategies to reduce travel demand or implement operational improvements which can be implemented in a relatively short timeframe. This project has been identified in the FDOT's 2022 ICE Analysis as requiring intersection control. This project is a needed congestion and safety improvement and will have local and regional impacts.

1. **US 17 (SR 35) at CR 760/SW Welles Avenue Signalization Project.** The attached Map CMS-1 displays the location of this priority project.

In summation, the BOCC respectfully requests this important project be considered for funding and inclusion in the FDOT Five-Year Work Program and HRTPO Transportation Improvement Plan.

Thank you for your continued cooperation with DeSoto County. If you need additional information regarding this listing, please contact Michael Giardullo, P.E. County Engineer at (863) 491-7543.

Sincerely,

Steve Hickox, Chairman
DeSoto County Board of Commissioners

