

JAN 30 1984

NO. 84-M-03

ORANGE COUNTY RESOLUTION  
SUPPORTING  
LOCATION OF  
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
DISTRICT OFFICES  
IN  
URBAN CENTERS

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE GOVERNOR'S MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE THAT FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT OFFICES BE LOCATED IN URBAN CENTERS.

PREMISES

1. The Governor's Management Advisory Committee, appointed by Governor Bob Graham, to examine management practices of Florida Department of Transportation, has recommended that Florida Department of Transportation District Offices be located in urban centers.

2. The location of Department of Transportation District Offices in urban centers will facilitate the solution of complex transportation problems by improving relationships and encouraging cooperation.

3. Orange County is one of the fastest growing counties in Florida, embodying the Orlando Urbanized Area, and will increase in population from 500,000 to 1,000,000 by the Year 2000.

4. The rate and size of population growth in Orange County results in complex transportation problems requiring close State-Local cooperation as a basis for their solution.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ORANGE COUNTY:

1. That Orange County supports the recommendation of the Governor's Management Advisory Committee that Florida Department of Transportation District Offices be located in urban centers.

2. That the Florida Legislature do all possible to effectuate the recommendation of the Governor's Management Advisory Committee.

3. That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Bob Graham, Governor.

4. That copies of this resolution be transmitted to Representative Tom Gustafson, Chairman, Florida House of Representatives Committee on Transportation, and:

Senator George Stuart, Jr., District 14

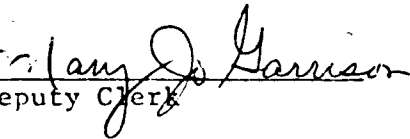
Senator Toni L. Jennings, District 15  
Senator John W. Vogt, District 17  
Representative Carl Selph, District 34  
Representative Thomas B. Drage, Jr., District 36  
Representative Richard T. Crotty, District 37  
Representative Bruce McEewan, District 38  
Representative Fran Carlton, District 39  
Representative Alonzo J. Reddick, District 40  
Representative Daniel A. Webster, District 41

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ORANGE COUNTY THIS DAY  
OF JANUARY, 1984.

ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY   
Chairman, Board of County  
Commissioners

ATTEST: THOMAS H. LOCKER  
Clerk to Board of County  
Commissioners

By:   
Deputy Clerk

# DOT

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centers that are expected to be the focal point for growth and the areas where the most complex transportation problems are expected.

Moving to a bigger city will improve relations with local government officials and the news media, and attract a better-qualified staff, the nine-member committee has suggested.

The claims make DeLand city commissioners bristle.

"This thing is probably one of the most insane things I've ever seen," Commissioner David Rigsby said about the report. He proposed sending a resolution to the Volusia County legislative delegation, the county council and the Florida League of Cities "vehemently" opposing the move.

His motion for a resolution was unanimously supported by the five-member commission.

C.A. Benedict, a district engineer with the transportation department, said it is unknown how many or which employees would be affected by the proposal because it is still under study. He added that the 130 maintenance workers probably would not be shifted. The department has 470 employees in DeLand.

The district headquarters in DeLand serves 12 counties: Orange, Seminole, Volusia, Brevard, Lake, Osceola, Marion, Putnam, Citrus, Sumter, Flagler and St. Johns. There are branch offices throughout the district.

The governor's commission examined the transportation department for nine months to see if it could apply management expertise from private business.

It came up with two plans to relocate personnel.

The first would shift district offices in DeLand, Lake City and Bartow to Orlando, Jacksonville and Tampa. The boundaries of the district would be shifted to create a new district office in Fort Myers.

The second recommendation would establish regional offices in Jacksonville, Orlando and Fort Lauderdale to supervise production activities in those districts. The use of regional offices would require less shifting of personnel from the district headquarters.

DeLand City Manager D. Scott Rohlfs said the report fails to explain whether the shifts would be financially advantageous for the state.

Bill Gray, a district engineer for the department who has worked in DeLand for 24 years, said he would commute to Orlando if the administrative offices were transferred. "There is a better quality of life here. It's quiet — a good place to live, a good place to raise kids, as opposed to Orlando, which is congested and has more crime."

Sam Thurmond, a district construction engineer, said DeLand is centrally located in the 12-county district. "It would mean a little more traveling if the offices were in Orlando. But I'd have no problems with it."

## DeLand frets over idea of losing DOT

By Al Truesdell

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

DELAND — A recommendation that the state Department of Transportation move its district headquarters in DeLand to a larger city, probably Orlando, has angered city commissioners.

Commissioners voted late Monday to send local legislators a strongly worded resolution opposing the recommendation from a citizens committee appointed by Gov. Bob Graham to examine the management practices of the department.

The commissioners' resolution also says it would be an economic hardship on DeLand because of the number of jobs that would be lost. A report by the group called the Governor's Management Advisory Committee will be presented to the state Legislature this spring.

The report says district offices should be located in urban

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# Volusia lawmakers fighting to keep DOT regional office in DeLand

By Rick Tonyan

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

DELAND — Evidence that moving the Department of Transportation's district headquarters to a larger city would be an unnecessary expense will be presented to the Legislature, Volusia County lawmakers said Tuesday.

Members of the legislative delegation joined with a variety of county, civic and political leaders in condemning the proposal to move the DOT's 5th District headquarters from DeLand to a larger city, probably Orlando.

Rep. Sam Bell, D-Ormond Beach, said he will set up a hearing with DOT administrators in the county and require them to estimate the costs of moving the headquarters.

Bell said he will present the cost estimates, along with transcripts of complaints from DeLand area residents, to the Legislature in the spring.

The move was proposed by a citizens committee appointed by Gov. Bob Graham to examine DOT management practices.

DOT's district headquarters should be in centers that are expected to be the focal point for regional growth and transportation problems, the nine-member Govern-

ment Management Advisory Committee said.

The panel said that moving the district headquarters to a bigger city would improve relations with local officials and the news media and attract a better-qualified staff.

Opponents of the move contended that the DeLand headquarters is already at the center of the district.

"They must not have been here in the last 13 years," County Manager Tom Kelly said. "Either they have a sense of humor or they've overlooked some facts."

Rep. Tom Brown, a Port Orange Democrat, pointed out that the committee rec-

ommended moving the 5th District headquarters but said nothing about moving the 3rd District headquarters out of Chipley, which has a population about one-third of DeLand's.

DeLand area civic leaders said that when the Legislature increased gasoline taxes last year, it was supposed to spend the extra money on road projects, not to build new transportation headquarters.

If DOT administrators feel that they need more office space for the 5th District, it would be cheaper to expand the DeLand headquarters than start from scratch in Or-

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just think that the taxpayers of this county and this government deserve a decision."

The county claims that because a state hearing officer held three days of hearings and then recommended against creating the district, the Cabinet should have been compelled to rule on the issue once and for all when the request reached them.

Debra developers decided to withdraw their request before the Cabinet ruled. County Attorney Tom Wilkes compared that to having a jury decide a lawsuit and then letting the loser withdraw from the case before the judge

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## DOT

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lando, DeLand residents said.

"This is outrageous to even think about," said Carl Reynolds, a longtime DeLand area civic leader. "If we need more buildings, let's put them here where you can buy the land for almost nothing."

The DeLand City Commission last month drafted a resolution condemn-

ing the proposed move. County council members are to consider a similar resolution on Thursday.

The DeLand district includes 12 counties: Orange, Seminole, Volusia, Brevard, Lake, Osceola, Marion, Putnam, Citrus, Sumter, Flagler and St. Johns. It has branch offices throughout the district.

DOT estimates that as many as 250 of the 470 employees in DeLand would be moved if the proposal becomes a reality. Maintenance workers probably wouldn't be moved, department administrators say.