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## **Sarasota County moves to extend North Cattlemen Road**

North Cattlemen Road will be extended from Richardson to DeSoto roads under a series of contracts and resolutions approved today by the Sarasota County Commission.

The county expects to advertise for construction bids in July and award a contract in November. The first part of the project – construction of a land bridge over the waterway in Nathan Benderson Park – is expected to start almost immediately after the contract award and be completed by April 2011 to accommodate the 2011 regatta events in the park. The entire N. Cattlemen Road project is expected to take 18 months to complete.

The board approved a Local Agency Program (LAP) agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for nearly \$14 million in state and federal funding for construction.

The board also approved an Alternative Funding Agreement requiring the developers of the Sarasota Interstate Park of Commerce (SIPOC) Development of Regional Impact (DRI) to provide the local matching funds required in the LAP agreement for construction, as well as the funds for construction engineering and inspection services and project administration. In return, the developers would be eligible for reimbursement from road impact fee credits for improvements already made and future projects, which include adding 250 hotel rooms and 200,000 square feet of commercial space in the SIPOC DRI.

The Benderson developers are Sarasota Associates A-1 LLC, Sarasota Associates B-II LCC, Sarasota Associates C-III LCC, Sarasota Associates D-IV LLC, Sarasota Associates E-V LLC, Honore Associates I LLC and Desoto Road Associates LCC.

The agreement with the developers outlines the terms of construction and payment responsibilities. The Alternative Agreement makes developers responsible for local match funding necessary for this project and all additional funds not available through the LAP agreement.

The total project costs are estimated at \$20 million, which includes the \$13,982,620 in state and federal funding through the LAP agreement.

For more information, call the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000.

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