

**CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA
RESOLUTION 2017-63**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA SUPPORTING THE EXPLORATION OF A TOLL INTO THE FLORIDA KEYS FOR NON- RESIDENTS TO OFFSET TOURIST IMPACTS, PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF WATER QUALITY AND SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT TO MITIGATE AGAINST RISING SEA LEVELS

WHEREAS, the Florida Keys are an extremely popular tourist destination, with approximately 80% of visitors entering the Florida Keys by via U.S. Highway One; and

WHEREAS, the percent of those driving into the Florida Keys with a personal vehicle has increased by 12.8% from 2015 to 2016 and

WHEREAS, Monroe County's US-1 has earned an All-American Road Status; and

WHEREAS, the Keys home to two (2) National Parks, seven (7) Florida State Parks (including Keys Overseas Heritage Trail), four (4) Wildlife Sanctuaries and a National Marine Sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, The City of Marathon recognizes the importance of and supports maintaining a quality destination to ensure and protect its environmental and economic health; and

WHEREAS, the Keys have experienced a measurable increase in tidal flooding and is considered ground zero for experiencing the destructive impacts of global climate change and sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, the City of Marathon recognizes the vital importance of tourism to all municipalities and unincorporated areas of the Florida Keys and believes tourists can contribute to reserving the destination by alleviating the negative impacts of the vibrant tourist-based economy; and

WHEREAS, tolls have been collected along the Overseas Highway twice in its history (1927 ferry boat from No Name Key to Key West and the 1938 Lower Matecumbe); and

WHEREAS, since 1926 Monroe County has operated and continues to operate a toll on Card Sound Road; and

WHEREAS, there is some precedent in Florida for using funds derived from tolls for non-transportation purposes;

WHEREAS, the Village of Islamorada has adopted resolution 17-04-30, which asks the four other municipalities in the Florida Keys and the County to jointly support a feasibility study for establishing "US-I toll lanes coming into the Florida Keys to assist in funding transportation improvements, water quality improvements, and other pressing needs within the Florida Keys." and

WHEREAS, the Board of Monroe County Commissioners also adopted a Resolution in support of an exploration of a toll into the Florida Keys for non-residents to offset tourist impact, protection and improvement of water quality and to support infrastructure investment to mitigate against rising sea level.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA:

Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein.

Section 2. The City Council supports the exploration of a feasibility study for establishing toll lanes on U.S. I coming into the Florida Keys for non-residents to offset tourist impacts, for the protection and improvement of water quality, to support infrastructure investment as mitigation against global climate change and sea level rise, and for other pressing needs within the Florida Keys.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, THIS 8TH DAY OF AUGUST 2017.

THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA


Dr. Daniel Zieg, Mayor

AYES: Bartus, Coldiron, Cook, Zieg
NOES: None
ABSENT: Senmartin
ABSTAIN: None

ATTEST:


Diane Clavier, City Clerk

(City Seal)

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY FOR THE USE
AND RELIANCE OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA ONLY:**



David Migut, City Attorney