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Army Corps pledges to work with Flagler County to get dunes project completed

August 19, 2020 – Flagler County officials had a successful meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers on Wednesday that resulted in a pledge to complete the dunes project even if it means eliminating a half-block section just north of the South 28th Street boundary.

“The Army Corps of Engineers is definitely going to work with us to move this project forward,” said County Administrator Jerry Cameron. “They are working on an option that – quite frankly – is requiring them to jump through hoops, but they are doing it.”

Currently, the project consists of the 2.6 miles from the north side of South 6th Street to the south side of South 28th Street. Flagler County has successfully secured more than $17 million in state and federal funding for the beach restoration for this stretch.

Flagler County has been working diligently to secure access easements of 141 affected parcels. As of Wednesday, 11 owners responsible for 13 of those parcels had yet to agree to grant access for the project to move forward.

“We have reached a point where these holdouts are preventing us from protecting miles of our beach, our roadway, our businesses, and our residents,” Cameron said. “This is about public safety, so we have to take some last resort measures.”

Property owners that have provided access easements have not relinquished any rights to use and enjoy their parcels, to have walkovers or decks subject to normal permitting requirements, to prohibit the public from traversing their dunes to access the beach, or to sell it to another. They have only granted permission for the work to be done on their dunes, including allowing agencies to replenish and maintain the dunes with sand and native vegetation.

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