

BAXTER



Brief

PALM BEACH COUNTY
VICE MAYOR • COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 6



ROAD CONSTRUCTION & TRAFFIC IMPACT UPDATES: NORTHLAKE BOULEVARD

Dear Neighbors,

I want to personally update you on the upcoming full closure of Northlake Boulevard at the CSX rail crossing. Many of you have reached out to me, and I share the frustrations you've expressed.

CSX Transportation, which owns and maintains the rail line, is moving forward with critical rail replacement work this summer. This will require a complete shutdown of both directions of Northlake Boulevard for several days. The reason? The crossing has deteriorated to the point that Amtrak trains have had to make emergency stops and CSX says this can't wait any longer.

Let me be clear: this is not a Palm Beach County project. Although the crossing is on a county road, this work is being directed by CSX, and coordinated by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), as part of a larger state-managed construction effort. Despite our best efforts, the County does not have authority over how this work is executed.

That hasn't stopped me from speaking up on your behalf. I've pushed hard for better solutions like phased work or temporary crossings, but CSX declines any modification to their plan, insisting that the work must be done all at once for safety and technical reasons.

Here are the assurances we have been able to secure:

- Emergency vehicle access will be maintained 24/7 via the SR 710/Beeline Highway access ramp. *This was a priority concern of mine and local first responders, and we pushed hard for it.*
- A detour plan is being finalized, with engineers from the County, FDOT, and municipalities reviewing traffic flows and potential signal timing adjustments.

- We've demanded and secured a commitment for at least 3 weeks' notice before the closure begins.

Public outreach and updates will continue as details are finalized and I will personally ensure our community is kept informed every step of the way. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to [sign up for my newsletter](#) for time sensitive updates.

This situation also highlights a broader issue: why the SR-7 extension is so desperately required. Our western communities have long suffered from a lack of east-west mobility, and when a single crossing like Northlake is shut down, there simply aren't enough viable detour routes.

The SR-7 extension would provide critical redundancy in our transportation network, ease pressure on existing roads, and ensure faster emergency response times when seconds matter. This project has been delayed for far too long, and it's clear that our region can no longer afford to wait.

I know this is going to be inconvenient. ***I don't believe our communities should be sidelined when major closures like this are planned, and I've made that clear at every step.*** We're continuing to advocate for mitigation measures and better coordination moving forward.

If you have questions, need help navigating the impacts, or just want to share your thoughts, my office is here to listen and support you.

My Best,
Sara Baxter
Vice Mayor, Palm Beach County
Commissioner, District 6

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