



October 1, 2009

## Our views: An uphill climb

### St. Johns Parkway advocates should keep pushing for federal funds

If you think building the pyramids was a chore, consider the St. Johns Heritage Parkway in South Brevard.

The proposed road — formerly called the Palm Bay Parkway — has been planned for more than a decade, but no one has a clue when it will be built.

Meanwhile, its need remains acute.

The parkway would alleviate worsening traffic in the Palm Bay, West Melbourne and Melbourne areas, improve hurricane evacuation and become part of an expanded Central Florida road network to meet regional growth.

It's estimated \$360 million price has long been the problem, although advocates say lower construction costs that have been caused by the recession could reduce the cost significantly.

Either way, supporters are right to keep seeking funds through efforts such as a recent lobbying trip that had them knocking on the doors of Congress, including the offices of Space Coast Reps. Bill Posey and Suzanne Kosmas, and other Florida members.

Their goal is to get \$77 million requested by Brevard County, Palm Bay and Melbourne included in an upcoming federal transportation bill.

That remains an uphill fight. But supporters should stay aggressive and Posey and Kosmas should do everything possible to gain at least some money to keep pushing this boulder uphill.

---