

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2026-188

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council President at the request of the Mayor

Date of Introduction: March 10, 2026

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS, TEU

Date of Analysis: March 10, 2026

Type of Action: Authorization of stipulation of parties; Provide for oversight

Bill Summary: This bill authorizes the Stipulation of Parties for the permanent closure of 8th Street East Railroad-Highway Grade Crossing, FDOT crossing # 713594W, and the opening of Otis Road Public Railroad-Highway Grade Crossing, between the City of Jacksonville, Norfolk Southern & FDOT. The bill also provides oversight by the Department of Public Works.

Background Information: The purpose of the bill is to permanently close the 8th Street East Railroad-Highway Grade Crossing and to open the Otis Road Public Railroad-Highway Grade Crossing, pursuant to the CIP project entitled "Cecil Mega Site Rail Spur project", which authorized the construction of a new rail spur into the 600-acre City-owned Mega Site at Cecil Commerce Center. Pursuant to Florida Rule 14-57.012, the City must close at least one existing grade crossing to offset the opening of a new one; accordingly, an abandoned crossing at 8th Street East was identified for closure. FDOT requires that a Stipulation of Parties (SOP) for the opening and closure of the respective crossings be executed by the City, Norfolk Southern Railway, and FDOT, and legislation is required to authorize the execution of the SOP by the City.

Policy Impact Area: Railroad-Highway Grade Crossing closure & opening, infrastructure

Fiscal Impact: The costs associated with fulfilling the requirements of the SOP will be paid out of the Cecil Mega Site Rail Spur project account. A rough preliminary estimate is \$1,000,000 and will be refined as design of the Otis Road crossing protection infrastructure progresses.

Analyst: Libby