

Lowe's on hold in NSB

By JOEL ADDINGTON

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NEW SMYRNA BEACH - Opponents of the Lowe's project at the corner of State Road 44 and Myrtle Avenue got some good news yesterday: The project is on hold.

Florida East Coast railroad - or FEC - owns the 15-acre site and Lowe's representatives said last week they intended to buy the property.

However, City Planner Gail Henrikson, who met with Lowe's engineers yesterday, said FEC is being bought by another company and has put a hold on all projects planned on FEC property.

"It was huge relief," said Myrtle Avenue resident Rosi Karnes about hearing the news.

Karnes has led a campaign against the proposed Lowe's location for more than two years and also has a Web site - www.notolowes.com - dedicated to that purpose.

"I'm not out of the woods yet," Karnes said. "But I feel the light at the end of the tunnel."

Henrikson said Lowe's planned to submit a site plan for the project July 3, but with the FEC buyout, Lowe's representatives weren't sure when that might happen.

Former Myrtle Avenue resident Tim Leonard was also happy to hear about the newest Lowe's development.

"It's a stall. It sounds really good," said Leonard, who grew up on the street and whose mother still resides there. "In the long term though, I'm concerned about any development in that spot. It's only a matter of time until the bike trail is gone, the street gets widened and it will be the next Nova Road or Clyde Morris."