



Florida Department of Transportation

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SECRETARY

July 25, 2016

Paula Wiggins, P.E., MBA
Transportation Planning Manager
Transportation and Real Estate
1001 Sarasota Center Blvd.
Sarasota, FL 34240

RE: Section: 17020 / 17110 / 17070; Signal ID: 894
U.S. 41 at S.R. 72 Intersection Safety and Land Use

Dear Ms. Wiggins:

This letter is being provided to Sarasota County in regards to the growing safety and operational concerns related to the intersection of U.S. 41 and S.R. 72. The department has a responsibility to provide a safe and efficient roadway for our residents and the thousands upon thousands of visitors and tourists that come to our great state each year. Sarasota County is one of the larger tourist areas within the state with many new residents moving to this county annually. Often, when areas of concern are identified, we contact the local municipalities to establish a coordinated effort.

The intersection of U.S. 41 and S.R. 72 is included on the "High Crash Segments" list for Sarasota County and over the past five years there has been a constant increase in crashes within this segment. Crashes have increased on average 30 percent per year with an astonishing 175 percent total increase between 2010 and 2014. Having reviewed the crash data for this area, it became very clear why coordination efforts for this area are so vital.

The high crash rate previously mentioned encapsulates our concerns for safety. As for our operational concerns, significant increase in traffic for eastbound or westbound will only cause additional delay and congestion. During peak hour, the traffic queues regularly reach past Stickney Point Bridge. The PM peak Level of Service for the intersection is currently "F", even after completely retiming 30 signals along this corridor in 2015. The eastbound left turn movement has up to 75 percent more volume than the roadway design can accommodate. To simply maintain the current Level of Service with additional traffic added, cycle lengths would need to be significantly adjusted.

Ms. Paula Wiggins, P.E., MBA

July 25, 2016

Page 2

The department met with key county staff on May 12, 2015 to discuss our previously mentioned concerns regarding this intersection and the surrounding parcels land use. Specifically, the parcel(s) making up the northwest quadrant of the intersection of U.S. 41 and S.R. 72 north to Upper Glencoe Road and from the intersection west to Glencoe Road. It was during this meeting and via the permitting process, that we learned of the possible approval to re-zone this northwest quadrant.

In conclusion, we believe that access types, safety concerns, and operational limitations of this intersection should be given special consideration when determining or planning the future land use in this area. We appreciate your consideration in this matter and offers thanks to Sarasota County staff for their willingness to work with us. If you have any additional questions, please contact me, or Nathan Kautz, P.E., Access Management Engineer, at (863) 519-2347.

Sincerely,



Keith Slater, P.E.

Traffic Services Program Engineer

RKS:ca

cc: Shanon Rodden, E.I., Technical Specialist
L.K. Nandam, P.E., Director of Operations
David Wheeler, P.E., Interim District Traffic Operations Engineer
Nathan Kautz, P.E., Access Management Engineer
Selina Carroll, Access Management Specialist
Mark Clark, Access Management Specialist