



Agenda Report

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson
Way
Viera, FL 32940

New Business - Miscellaneous

J.6.

1/7/2020

Subject:

Letter to the Florida Department of Transportation Concerning A1A Crossovers.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Dept/Office:

District 3

Requested Action:

To approve and send attached letter to the Florida Department of Transportation, on behalf of the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners.

Summary Explanation and Background:

On December 22, 2019, twelve-year old Sophia Nelson was struck and killed by a motor vehicle while attempting to cross A1A. Sophia was using and FDOT Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) crosswalk. These crosswalks create a false sense of security, and action needs to be taken to ensure this incident does not happen again.

Clerk to the Board Instructions:

Send letter on behalf of the Board to the Florida Department of Transportation.



Tammy Rowe, Clerk to the Board, 400 South Street • P.O. Box 999, Titusville, Florida 32781-0999

Telephone: (321) 637-2001
Fax: (321) 264-6972
Tammy.Rowe@brevardclerk.us

January 8, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Commissioner Bryan Lober, District 2

RE: Item J.6., Letter to the Florida Department of Transportation Concerning A1A Crossovers

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on January 7, 2020, approved and authorized you to sign the Letter to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) concerning the State Road A1A crossovers, with the addition of requesting FDOT to look at putting High-Intensity Activated Crosswalk (HAWK) traffic lights on S.R. A1A and Ellwood Avenue; to include the information from the FDOT Letter on a Letter to Governor Ron DeSantis and Brevard County Lobbyist Ron Book, on behalf of the Board, adding the request to expedite reducing the speed limit on S.R. A1A in the Cities of Indian Harbour Beach and Satellite Beach, and the Towns of Indialantic and Melbourne Beach; and authorized you to sign the Letters to the Governor and Lobbyist Ron Book.

Upon execution of the amended Letter to FDOT and the Letters to the Governor and Lobbyist Ron Book, please provide copies of each to this office for inclusion of the official minutes.

Your continued cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK

Tammy Rowe

Tammy Rowe, Deputy Clerk

/ds

cc: Each Commissioner
County Attorney
Assistant County Manager Denninghoff



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

January 15, 2020

Secretary Kevin J. Thibault
Florida Department of Transportation
605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450

Dear Secretary Thibault,

Brevard County is mourning the recent tragic death of Sophia Nelson, a twelve-year old girl who was struck and killed by a motor vehicle while attempting to cross Highway A1A at Ellwood Avenue on a newly installed FDOT Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB).

Sadly, this senseless death has proven out the fears many residents have had regarding these yellow flashing lights. These RRFBs give a false sense of security to the pedestrian and do not indicate to motor vehicle operators to stop.

The Brevard County Board of County Commissioners requests that the Florida Department of Transportation immediately remove any recently installed RRFBs and halt any current or proposed construction of additional RRFBs along the A1A corridor.

Additionally, the Board requests that your department consider installing High-Intensity Activated Crosswalk (HAWK) traffic lights on S.R. A1A at Ellwood Avenue in Satellite Beach.

Respectfully,

Bryan Andrew Lober

Bryan Lober
Chair, Brevard County Board of County Commissioners

cc: Mayor Frank Catino, City of Satellite Beach
Mayor Dave Berkman, Town of Indialantic
Mayor Scott Nickle, City of Indian Harbour Beach
Mayor Jim Simmons, Town of Melbourne Beach
Brevard County Legislative Delegation



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

January 13, 2020

Ronald L. Book, Esquire
Ronald L. Book, P.A.,
18851 N.E. 29th Ave.,
Aventura, FL 33180,

RE: State Road A1A Pedestrian Crossings
Brevard County – Request to State of Florida for HAWK (red light) crosswalks.

Dear Mr. Book:

Brevard County is mourning the recent tragic death of Sophia Nelson, a twelve year old girl, who was struck and killed by a motor vehicle while attempting to cross State Road A1A in Satellite Beach using the newly installed FDOT Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) crosswalk. The flashing yellow lights which are part of RRFB crosswalks are supposed to indicate to drivers that they should stop when someone is planning to cross the street. Unfortunately, the motor vehicles did not stop when Sophia used the flashing yellow light system and she was struck and killed. Prior to the accident that claimed Sophia's life, a young boy, also 12 years old and in 6th grade, was killed on Post Road in the Melbourne area while using the same type of flashing yellow lights at a pedestrian crossing. Brevard County residents have presented testimony and videos to the County Commissioners that indicate that motor vehicles frequently ignore the flashing yellow lights and continue through the crosswalk area despite the presence of pedestrians.

The RRFB crosswalks provide a false sense of security to our County's pedestrians and do not clearly indicate to motor vehicle operators that they must stop. In fact, the flashing yellow lights only seem to cause confusion. On the motion of Brevard County Commissioner Curt Smith, District 4, and a unanimous vote of the Brevard County Commission, authorized me to contact you to ask that communicate the county's concerns to the governor and other state officials. Specifically, the Board asks that you seek to have all the RRFB crosswalks in Brevard County be removed and replaced with High Intensity Activated (HAWK) Crosswalks which provide a red light to stop vehicular traffic when activated by pedestrians seeking to cross the street. This change is needed immediately along State Road A1A in Satellite Beach, Cocoa Beach, Indian Harbor Beach, Indialantic, and Melbourne Beach. In addition, the Board of County Commissioners urges you take steps to have the State of Florida Department of Transportation consider lowering speed limits on A1A from 45 to 35 mph to improve safety and to take any other actions which might improve pedestrian safety in Brevard County.

Respectfully,

Bryan Andrew Lober

Bryan Lober

Chair



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

January 13, 2020

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: Request for HAWK (red light) Pedestrian Crossings in Brevard County

Dear Governor DeSantis:

Brevard County is mourning the recent tragic death of Sophia Nelson, a twelve year old girl, who was struck and killed by a motor vehicle while attempting to cross State Road A1A in Satellite Beach using the newly installed FDOT Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) crosswalk. The flashing yellow lights which are part of RRFB crosswalks are supposed to indicate to drivers that they should stop when someone is planning to cross the street. Unfortunately, the motor vehicle did not stop when Sophia used the flashing yellow light system and she was struck and killed. Prior to the accident that claimed Sophia's life, a young boy, also 12 years old, was killed on a Post Road in the Melbourne area while using the same type of flashing yellow lights at a pedestrian crossing. Brevard County residents have presented testimony and videos to the County Commissioners that indicate motor vehicles frequently ignore the flashing yellow lights and continue through the crosswalk area despite the presence of pedestrians.

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Respectfully,

Bryan Lober
Chair

Donna Scott

From: Workman, Ritch <Ritch.Workman@brevardfl.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2020 2:27 PM
To: Prasad, Billy; Donna Scott
Subject: RE: Item J.6., Letter to FDOT concerning A1A Crossovers
Attachments: A1A crosswalk removal req.docx

Donna,

Please find attached the letter as submitted to the Board for approval. Please make the changes that were requested by the board.

Thank you,
Ritch

From: Prasad, Billy
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2020 9:52 AM
To: Workman, Ritch <Ritch.Workman@brevardfl.gov>
Subject: FW: Item J.6., Letter to FDOT concerning A1A Crossovers
Importance: High

From: Donna Scott <donna.scott@brevardclerk.us>
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2020 9:51 AM
To: Prasad, Billy <Billy.Prasad@brevardfl.gov>
Subject: Item J.6., Letter to FDOT concerning A1A Crossovers
Importance: High

Hi Billy,

Did your office create the letter to FDOT? If so, it needs the addition of the below, and scanned back to me for retrieval of the Chair's signature. If not, please advise whom you think did create the letter.

Tobia – Suggested to Carbon Copy the Cities and Legislative Delegation at the House and the Senate that these lights are currently installed or will be installed.

Pritchett – this is an FDOT road, she thinks if Commissioner Smith goes before the TPO board to try and make some changes, we'll have the TPO support. She really likes the High-Intensity Activated Crosswalk (HAWK) traffic light and she recommends at the bottom of the letter that we go ahead and request a traffic light installed. Maybe they can start with a couple of roads by looking at them, but she thinks those HAWK lights are a good idea. We just got back from over in Clearwater and they have them everywhere for pedestrian crossing and you stop, because it is right in front of you. That's what I was going to ask, that we add that to the letter and she will go ahead and request that we approve this letter with the addition of that we just ask the FDOT if they would look at maybe putting in a HAWK traffic light and we could start with this corner here of A1A and Ellwood Avenue. Maybe they could do an analysis on A1A.

Thank you,
Donna Scott
Assistant Clerk to the Board
X-49120 / (321) 637-2001

Under Florida law, all correspondence sent to the Clerk's Office, which is not exempt or confidential pursuant to Chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes, is public record. If you do not want the public record contents of your e-mail address to be provided to the public in response to a public records request, please do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact this office by phone or in writing.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

January 9, 2020

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: Request for HAWK (red light) Pedestrian Crossings in Brevard County

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Respectfully,

Bryan Lober
Chair



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

January 9, 2020

Ronald L. Book, Esquire
Ronald L. Book, P.A.,
18851 N.E. 29th Ave.,
Aventura, FL 33180,

RE: State Road A1A Pedestrian Crossings
Brevard County – Request to State of Florida for HAWK (red light) crosswalks.

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Respectfully,

Bryan Lober
Chair

Donna Scott

From: Bentley, Eden <Eden.Bentley@brevardfl.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2020 4:28 PM
To: Commissioner, D2
Cc: Van, Fritz; Abbate, Frank B; Donna Scott; Woodard, Patrick
Subject: Letters for the Chair to execute re: HAWK (red flashing) pedestrian crosswalk lights
Attachments: Pedestrian cross walk letter to Ron Book.docx with edits.docx; Pedestrian crossing signal
-letter to Desantis.docx with edits.docx

Commissioner-

Attached are the letters to Ron Book and Governor Desantis regarding the crosswalks for your signature as chair. We can mail the letters if your staff prefers that we do so.

Eden Bentley
County Attorney
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

old

January 7, 2020

Secretary Kevin J. Thibault
Florida Department of Transportation
605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450

Dear Secretary Thibault,

Brevard County is mourning the recent tragic death of Sophia Nelson, a twelve-year girl who was struck and killed by a motor vehicle while attempting to cross Highway A1A at Ellwood Avenue. She was struck while using a newly installed FDOT Rectangular Rabid Flashing Beacon (RRFB).

Sadly, this senseless death has proven out the fears many residents have had regarding these yellow flashing lights. These RRFB's give a false sense of security to the pedestrian and do not indicate to motor vehicle operators to stop.

The Brevard County Board of County Commissioners request that the Florida Department of Transportation immediately remove any recently installed RRFB's and halt any current or proposed construction of additional RRFB's along the A1A corridor.

Respectfully,

Bryan Lober
Chairman
Brevard County Board of County Commissioners



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

January 7, 2020

Secretary Kevin J. Thibault
Florida Department of Transportation
605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450

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Respectfully,

Bryan Lober
Chair
Brevard County Board of County Commissioners



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

revised
J.L.

January 7, 2020

Secretary Kevin J. Thibault
Florida Department of Transportation
605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450

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Respectfully,

Bryan Lober
Chair
Brevard County Board of County Commissioners