



# Agenda Report

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson  
Way  
Viera, FL 32940

## New Business - Miscellaneous

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J.9.

12/20/2022

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### Subject:

Letter to FDOT opposing reducing US1 South of Pineda Causeway (Project #445215-1) from 6 Lanes to 4 Lanes

### Fiscal Impact:

N/A

### Dept/Office:

District 4 Commission Office

### Requested Action:

It is requested that the Board approve and authorize the Chair to sign the attached letter addressed to FDOT District Five Secretary Tyler regarding opposition to reducing US1 to 4 lanes south of the Pineda Causeway, FDOT Project #445215-1.

### Summary Explanation and Background:

As a result of safety concerns FDOT has been working on design plans reducing the number of lanes from 6 to 4 on US from Post Road to the Pineda Causeway. This approach to "calm" traffic, reduce travel speeds and improve safety is commonly referred to as putting a highway on a pavement/asphalt "diet" (a.k.a. a "Road Diet"). FDOT has performed a feasibility study of this concept concluding that it is feasible. However, there are concerns which remain. These include; reducing overall north/south road capacity, "pushing traffic" to Wickham Road, Wickham Road is nearing maximum traffic volume now with no reasonable hope to widen it, the FDOT study concludes that both Wickham Road and US 1 will have about 42,000 vehicles per day in the year 2045 compared to about 38,500 today.

Concerns about the validity of the traffic analysis and that US1 was widened to 6 lanes increasing capacity at great expense and if implemented this "Road Diet" would expend even more tax funds actually reducing capacity are reasons for supporting the requested letter.

While the Town of Palm Shores passed a resolution (see attached resolution) supporting the "Road Diet", there may well be a reasonable alternative to the "Road Diet" which could help calm traffic without reducing capacity, without unnecessarily risking shifting traffic to Wickham Road and without undoing a high cost highway project.

The attached draft letter to FDOT expresses opposition to the "Road Diet". With respect to the Town of Palm Shores concerns, the letter also expresses support for an alternate approach to calm traffic and to improve safety.

It is also important to note that if not altered soon, FDOT plans to let the bid to construct the "Road Diet" in

June 2023.

**Clerk to the Board Instructions:**



**January 4, 2023**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Commissioner Rob Feltner, District 4

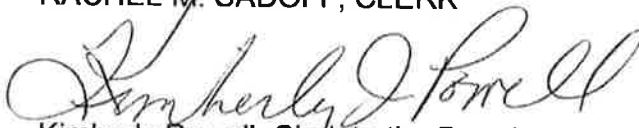
**RE:** Item J.9., Letter to Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Opposing Reducing US1 South of Pineda Causeway (Project #445215-1) from Six Lanes to Four Lanes

**This is to correct the Memorandum dated December 7, 2022.** The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on December 20, 2022 executed and approved Letter addressed to FDOT District Five Secretary Tyler regarding opposition to reducing US1 to four lanes south of the Pineda Causeway for FDOT, Project #445215-1. Enclosed is the fully-executed Letter.

Your continued cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
RACHEL M. SADOFF, CLERK

  
Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board

/ns

Encl. (1)

cc: Each Commissioner



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Rita Pritchett  
District 1 Office  
7101 S. Highway 1  
Titusville, FL 32780

December 13, 2022

Mr. John E. Tyler, P.E.  
District Secretary  
Florida Department of Transportation District Five  
719 S. Woodland Blvd.  
DeLand, FL 32740

**Re: Opposition to Reducing US 1 South of Pineda Causeway from 6 Lanes to 4 Lanes  
(Project # 445215-1)**

Dear Mr. Tyler:

The Brevard County Commission is aware that FDOT is working on design plans to reduce US 1 south of Pineda Causeway to Post Road from six lanes to four lanes (aka a road diet). This is being proposed as part of a larger resurfacing project that will be let for construction bids in June 2023. It is understood that this approach is to "calm" traffic, reduce travel speeds and improve safety at the request of the Town of Palm Shores.

As the Town of Palm Shores is clearly interested in many of the same things the Board of County Commissioners is interested in, in this matter we are not aligned as the Commission is interested in the well-being of the entire community of about 600,000 people as a whole.

Notwithstanding Resolution 2022-04 by the Town of Palm Shores on 25<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2022 supporting the project, the County Commission strongly prefers, recommends, and requests that FDOT evaluate alternatives other than a "road diet" that will help improve safety concerns on US 1 south of Pineda Causeway due principally to speeding. The Commission is aware that FDOT has developed an alternate approach to help calm traffic and improve safety without reducing capacity on this critical corridor.

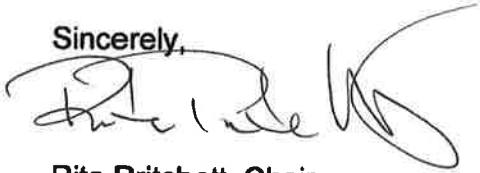
The ability to increase roadway capacity is limited due to lack of funding, which was already expended to widen US 1 to six lanes, and if the "road diet" plan is implemented, even more transportation funds will be expended actually reducing road capacity. As you know, increasing road capacity is needed on many roads in Brevard County including on the nearby parallel roadway, Wickham Road.

The project feasibility study reports that both US 1 and Wickham Road daily trips will only increase by about 3000 vehicles per day by the year 2045 whether the "road diet" is

implemented or not. We seriously question this analysis and the conclusion that Wickham Road will not be impacted due to the "road diet".

The Brevard County Commission is very appreciative of FDOT's efforts and the ongoing partnership we enjoy serving the citizens of the County, and improving the competitiveness, economic vitality, and quality of life of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rita Pritchett", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Rita Pritchett, Chair  
Brevard County Board of County Commissioners

cc: Frank Abbate, County Manager  
John Denninghoff, Assistant County Manager

RESOLUTION 2022-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PALM SHORES OF BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE FDOT IMPROVEMENTS ALONG US 1 PROJECT #445215-1, ADVOCATING THAT NO LOSS OF LIFE IS ACCEPTABLE IN OUR TOWN DUE TO SPEED AND TRAFFIC ON US HIGHWAY 1; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION.

WHEREAS, the growth and vitality of our town requires safe and reliable transportation systems; and

WHEREAS, the life and health of the Town of Palm Shores residents are our utmost priority; and

WHEREAS, FDOT Project #445215-1 project aids in the concept and solution that there is no acceptable number of traffic deaths and serious injuries on our roadways; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Palm Shores recognizes that no one should die or be seriously injured while traveling on our town streets; and

WHEREAS, driver behavior, including speeding, distracted driving and drunk driving, are significant contributing factors to this loss of life; and

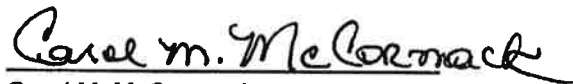
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF PALM SHORES, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. That the Town Council hereby supports the FDOT Improvements along US 1 Project # 445215-1 from Post Road to Miller Cove Road in the Town of Palm Shores.


SECTION 2. That the FDOT is proposing improvements to US Hwy 1 from Post Road to Miller Cove Road. The purpose of the project is to maintain traffic flow efficiently and safely along the corridor, and to provide recommendations developed to reduce the number of lanes and make other improvements to encourage slower driving speeds and upgrading lighting.

SECTION 3. That this resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption and in accordance with the Charter of the Town of Palm Shores

SECTION 4. That this resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Town Council on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2022.

  
Carol M. McCormack  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Patricia J. Burke, MPA, MMC  
Town Clerk

