

Board of County Commissioners

Sumter County, Florida

209 North Florida Street, Suite 3 • Bushnell, FL 33513-6146 • Phone (352) 793-0200 • FAX: (352) 793-0207
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July 11, 2007

Ms. Janet Tutt, VCCDD District Manager
3231 Wedgwood Lane
The Villages, Florida 32159

Re: Buenos Aires Boulevard between El Camino Real and US 27 / 441

Dear Ms. Tutt;

During the July 10, 2007, Board of County Commissioners meeting the Board considered the attached report prepared by Public Works outlining five options intended to facilitate cart access to the commercial establishments along the north side of the subject roadway. The Board selected and approved Option 2 unanimously. As a result, we are requesting the VCCDD take the necessary action to remove the "No Carts Beyond This Point" signs along the south side of Buenos Aires Boulevard.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Bradley Arnold
County Administrator

cc: Commissioner Hoffman
Attachment

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SUMTER COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION

REPORT ON BUENOS AIRES BOULEVARD

Existing Conditions:

Buenos Aires Boulevard currently is a 4 lane undivided roadway connecting El Camino Real to US Highway 441 / 27. A twenty-four hour traffic count was performed over June 28 and 29, 2007. The vehicle counts were 4,794 west bound and 4,634 east bound for a two way total of 9,428 during the non-peak season. A three day traffic count was taken over subsequent weekend; the east bound counter hose came loose, as a result only the west bound count was considered accurate. The three day count was 15,921 this equates to an average of 5,307 vehicles per day. The paved traveled way is 48 feet wide and type "F" curb and gutter exist along both sides of the roadway. The intersections of Buenos Aires Boulevard with El Camino Real and US 441 / 27 are fully signalized. A 60 foot right-of-way exists from El Camino Real northeast to Bella Cruz Drive. A 67 foot right-of-way exist from Bella Cruz Drive northeast to US 441 / 27 to facilitate the raised median. The posted speed limit is 30 MPH.

Cart Access:

Presently cart traffic, by means of tunnel cart traffic under El Camino Real immediately south of Buenos Aires Boulevard, is able to ingress and egress all of the commercial properties south of Buenos Aires Boulevard. Posted signage "NO CARTS BEYOND THIS POINT" precludes cart traffic from proceeding north of Buenos Aires Boulevard.

Purpose:

This report has been prepared by Public Works to provide possible solutions to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration to facilitate the cart traffic

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north of Buenos Aires Boulevard. Five options are listed below along with staff's opinion concerning this matter.

Option 1: *Keep the existing conditions "As Is"*

Pros: No potential increase in tort liability for the County.

Zero cost.

Cons: Continued citizens complaints

Option 2: *Request the VCDD District 1 to remove the existing cart probation signage along the south side of Buenos Aires Boulevard.*

Pros: Zero cost. Sign removal by the VCDD.

Cons: Increase in potential tort liability for both The Villages and the County.

Option 3: *Approve the installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of Bella Cruz Drive and Buenos Aires Boulevard.*

Pros: Access provided to the existing gas station only

Cons: Increase in potential tort liability for the County.

Improvement not currently budgeted.

Estimated cost for the improvement is \$210,000.

Access will be provided at a point source only.

Option 4: Part 1. *Modify the existing traffic signal at the intersection of Buenos Aires Boulevard and El Camino Real.*

Part 2. *Re-configure Buenos Aires Boulevard to a two lane divided with cart paths on each side of Buenos Aires Boulevard from El Camino Real east to Bella Cruz Drive.*

Pros: Continuous access provided along both sides of Buenos Aires Boulevard from El Camino Real to Bella Cruz Drive to cart traffic.

Cons: Increase in potential tort liability for the County by mixing cart and vehicular traffic.

Greatly reduce the maximum capacity of Buenos Aires Boulevard which is designated as a county collector road.

Estimated cost for the signal modification \$ 2000
Estimated cost for the striping modification \$ 11,000
Total Estimated Cost: \$ 13,000

Option 5: Part 1. *Modify the intersection of Buenos Aires Boulevard and El Camino Real to a roundabout.*

Part 2. *Re-configure Buenos Aires Boulevard to a two lane divided with cart paths on each side of Buenos Aires Boulevard from El Camino Real east to Bella Cruz Drive.*

Note: The foot print of the existing roundabout at El Camino Boulevard and Morse Boulevard was overlaid on an aerial photograph of the intersection of El Camino Real and Buenos Aries Boulevard to determine the future right-of-way need of a roundabout at this intersection. During this process it was determined the existing cart tunnel would be impacted.

Pros: Continuous access provided along both sides of Buenos Aires Boulevard from El Camino Real to Bella Cruz Drive to cart traffic.

Cons: Increase in potential tort liability for the County by mixing cart and vehicular traffic.

Improvement not currently budgeted.

Greatly reduce the maximum capacity of Buenos Aires Boulevard which is designated as a county collector road.

Existing cart tunnel under El Camino Real will have to be relocated.

Substantial impact to proposed and existing developments from the acquisition of additional right-of-way for the construction of a roundabout.

Estimated cost for construction of the roundabout between \$750,000 and \$1,500,000
Estimated cost for the striping modification \$ 11,000
Total Estimated Cost: Between \$766,000 and \$1,511,000