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August 23, 2018

Mr. Mike Dew
Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation
605 Suwanee Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450

And

Mr. Gerry O'Reilly
District 4 Secretary
3400 West Commercial Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309

Reference: Project 438042-1, State Road A1A Resurfacing, Restoration, and Rehabilitation Project

Gentlemen:

As a result of Councilmembers receiving hundreds of emails, letters and calls, Project 438042-1 was included in today's Indian River Shores Town Council meeting agenda and was discussed at length. Our Council chambers was overflowing with at least 72 residents from all sections of the Town. Many of those in attendance represented their homeowner's association, which contain over half of the Town's residents. Every Council member spoke, as did many members of the audience on this topic.

The overwhelming majority of the attendees and the unanimous vote of Council addressed two major parts of the project: 1) alter the proposed plan to remove the sidewalk along the East side of A1A, and 2) widen the shoulders of the roadway to allow for 6' or 7' bike lanes.

The Town of Indian River Shores is almost completely built out, and our population is growing very slowly. The current use of the sidewalk on the West side is relatively low and could handle considerably more foot traffic now and in the future.

The current bike lanes, on the other hand, are very narrow at 4' and are used extensively by cyclists. The real safety danger in Indian River Shores is BIKE related. Riders need more room to ride safely.

The Council realizes that the requested plan change to accommodate the removal of the unneeded and unwanted East sidewalk and to increase the shoulder size to 6' or 7' will require a design change, and that will take time to complete. If the project is completed in the next few years, the Council and residents are comfortable with the timing.

In Secretary O'Reilly's letter to Representative Grall, he mentioned there is a section of 50 mph roadway on A1A and that there is no acceptable shoulder width at that speed. If necessary, the Town will assist in taking action to have the speed reduced to 45 mph to facilitate a 7' shoulder in that area.

I cannot state more strongly the clear desire of the entire Town Council and the vast majority of Indian River Shores residents to not build the unneeded sidewalk, and the insistence to improve the safety for cyclists by adding the needed width to the bike lane. These changes to the current proposal, Project 438042-1, will most certainly enhance safety and further FDOT's mission to "Preserve the quality of our environment and our community."

I am happy to discuss this project and its impact on Indian River Shores in more depth with you at any time.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas F. Slater, *for the Council*
Mayor
Town of Indian River Shores

TFS:la

Courtesy Copies:

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Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309

Honorable Senator Debbie Mayfield
1801 27th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960

Honorable Representative Erin Grall
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Members of the Town of Indian River Shores Town Council (via email)
Members of the City of Vero Beach City Council (via email)
Members of the Indian River County Commission (via email)