

Regular Workshop – June 21, 2012  
Agenda Item 8

Agenda Item: Florida Department of Transportation Discussion Regarding Feasibility of Installing Gulf of Mexico Drive Crosswalks

Presenter: Town Manager  
L.K. Nandam, PE, District Traffic Engineer, FDOT  
Gary Amig. P.E. FDOT

Summary: Representatives of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will be present to discuss crosswalk warrants and feasibility of crosswalk installation along Gulf of Mexico Drive.

Attachments: 5-8-12 Memo, Public Works Director to Town Manager

Recommended  
Action: Pending discussion, provide direction to Manager.

## MEMORANDUM

Date: May 08, 2012

**TO:** Dave Bullock, Town Manager  
**FROM:** Juan J Florensa, Public Works Director  
**SUBJECT:** Florida Department of Transportation Discussion Regarding  
Feasibility of Installing Gulf of Mexico Drive Crosswalks

---

The Town of Longboat Key is an ideal place to walk and bicycle. Residents and visitors alike take advantage of our eight-foot wide sidewalk along the east side of Gulf of Mexico Drive to walk and exercise. The four-foot wide bike lanes adjacent to the roadway/pavement also provide an excellent, exclusive lane for those bicyclists that need to travel and recreate at a faster pace. As a matter of fact Longboat Key is considered a "prime" competitive locale for biking enthusiasts in this region. It is not unusual to see large numbers of cyclists furiously pedaling down Gulf of Mexico Drive in the early morning or afternoons. This mix of pedestrian, cyclists and motor vehicles typically, happily coexist with one another. Even during our busy winter season when traffic and visitors on the Key nearly double, accidents are rare.

Recently, however, a car versus pedestrian accident occurred with tragic consequences. A 73 year old female visitor to the Key was hit by a car and died at the scene. The victim was attempting to cross Gulf of Mexico Drive on January 27, 2012, at approximately 6:30 PM. According to the police report, she had gotten off of the SCAT/MCAT bus in the vicinity of the Islander Club Condominium after an afternoon of shopping in St. Armand's Circle. She was crossing Gulf of Mexico Drive from east to west when she was struck by a southbound vehicle. The driver was not charged. The police report states she was wearing dark clothing and that it was nearly dusk. She was not in a designated pedestrian crosswalk.

There are currently two officially designated crosswalks on Gulf of Mexico Drive. One is located near the 200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive at the traffic signal at Longboat Club Road and the other is the traffic signal intersection of Bay Isles Parkway (Publix). There is also a pedestrian crossing tunnel near 2105 Gulf of Mexico Drive by the Sunset Beach Condominium. This pedestrian tunnel was built many years ago by the Arvida Corporation.

Gulf of Mexico Drive is a State of Florida owned and maintained public road with a posted speed limit of 45 miles per hour. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is the state agency responsible for its maintenance and operation and thus has total jurisdiction and control of this public right-of-way.

Public Works staff has contacted FDOT to explore different options to enhance the safety of the travelling public whether they are cyclists, pedestrians or motorists. FDOT staff will address other feasible options.

While designated mid-block (i.e. not at signalized intersection) crosswalks are an attractive option to enhance pedestrian safety, education of cyclists, pedestrians, and motorists is also important. Moreover, crosswalk installations must meet FDOT criteria for placement, design, and location. It makes sense to install crosswalks near or at bus stops. But consider this: there are 46 bus stops along the northbound lanes of Gulf of Mexico Drive and 43 southbound. How many of these locations could be marked as crosswalks? Additionally, there are other pedestrian crossing generators throughout the Town such as beach accesses and tourism resorts whose facilities are located on both sides of Gulf of Mexico Drive.

FDOT representatives have agreed to attend the June 21, 2012, Town Commission Workshop to provide an overview of alternatives for a safer environment and to answer questions from the public and Commission.

Please let me know if you require additional information on this issue to provide to the Town Commission or have any questions.



**End of Agenda Item**