

# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Town Commission  
**FROM:** Tom Harmer, Town Manager  
**DATE:** April 2, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Longboat Key Position Statement Regarding Proposals for SR 780

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## **Recommended Action**

Establish Longboat Key Position Statement of Proposals for SR 780 Corridor.

## **Background**

At their April 1, 2019 Regular Meeting the Town Commission discussed an upcoming presentation and City of Sarasota staff proposal regarding a “road diet” proposed for SR 780 (Fruitville Road). According to a report on YourObserver.com by David Conway dated March 28, 2019., between Coconut Avenue and Lemon Avenue the road would narrow from four lanes to two lanes, with a roundabout at each of the three intersections: Coconut, Central and Lemon Avenues.

According to the report, the City of Sarasota presentation is scheduled for April 15, and conflicts with the Town Commission’s April 15, 2019 Regular Workshop Meeting. The Town Commission requested a Special Meeting on April 8, 2019, at 1:00 PM to discuss the Town position and response. Town Attorney Maggie Mooney was designated to represent the Commission and share their position at the City of Sarasota meeting.

The Commission expressed serious concerns regarding the impact to the regional transportation corridor that serves the residents of the barrier islands. These concerns include, but are not limited to, evacuation route functionality and capability as well as day-to-day vehicular lane capacity and throughput, particularly during peak season. The impacts would not only affect the Town of Longboat Key, but also those City residents of Bird Key, St. Armand’s, Lido Shores, City Island, and Golden Gate Point. The Commission also requested that we reach out to Sarasota County to understand their position, especially as it relates to emergency management and evacuation routes.

The Town Attorney was directed to submit public records requests to determine ownership of that portion of SR 780 as well as the terms of ownership and responsibility from 301 through to St. Armand’s.

The Commission raised several questions regarding the proposal to narrow the portion of SR 780.

1. Does the Town have a prescriptive or substantive right to maintain existing evacuation route and access to the mainland?
2. Does SR 780 (Fruitville Road) fall within FDOT jurisdiction?
3. Does the County have any authority under the provisions of F.C. 252 specific to their authority in emergency management and barrier islands’ evacuations.

## **Staff Recommendation**

Establish Longboat Key Position Statement of Proposals for SR 780 Corridor.

**End of Agenda Item**