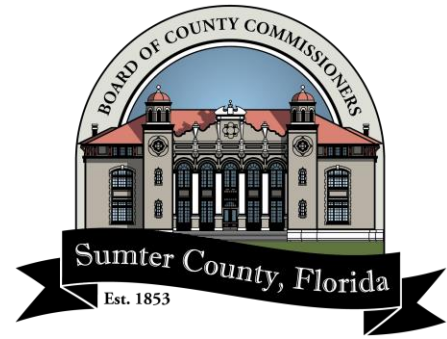


Board of County Commissioners Sumter County, Florida

7375 Powell Road • Wildwood, FL 34785 • Phone (352) 689-4400 • FAX: (352) 689-4401
Website: <http://sumtercountyfl.gov>



Memo

To: Bradley S. Arnold, County Administrator
From: Deborah L. Snyder, P.E., PTOE
Public Works Director/County Engineer
Date: January 2, 2024
RE: **Morse Boulevard Roadway Change Proposals Review**

As requested, Sumter County Public Works staff reviewed multiple proposals for roadway changes on Morse Boulevard and provide the following responses below.

Proposal One:

The following is Public Works input for the proposed three foot buffer island along Morse Boulevard.

- a. **Resident:** A resident has provided renderings of changes to Morse Boulevard, which include three feet buffer islands on both sides of the roadway. This would require the roadway to be widened by six feet. The resident also provided a cost estimate for the implementation of their proposed renderings, which came out to almost \$1.5 million.
 - i. **Staff Response:** The primary concern of this roadway is the conflicting merging/crossing maneuvers between golf carts and automobiles at intersections. The addition of three-foot separators to the roadway as shown in the renderings would not address this concern. The proposed buffer islands would be more applicable if there were sideswipe crashes between vehicles and golf carts/bicycles. After reviewing the crash history of Morse Boulevard over the last three years (10/26/2020-10/26/2023), it has been determined that sideswipe crashes are very low on this roadway.

Roberta Ulrich, District 1
(352) 689-4400
7375 Powell Road
Wildwood, FL 34785

Andrew Bilardello, District 2
(352) 689-4400
7375 Powell Road
Wildwood, FL 34785

Craig A. Estep, District 3
Chairman
(352) 689-4400
7375 Powell Road
Wildwood, FL 34785

Jeffrey A. Bogue, District 4
2nd Vice Chairman
(352) 689-4400
7375 Powell Road
Wildwood, FL 34785

Don Wiley, District 5
Vice Chairman
(352) 689-4400
7375 Powell Road
Wildwood, FL 34785

Bradley S. Arnold,
County Administrator
(352) 689-4400
7375 Powell Road
Wildwood, FL 34785

Gloria R. Hayward, Clerk & Auditor
(352) 569-6600
215 East McCollum Avenue
Bushnell, FL 33513

County Attorney
The Hogan Law Firm
Post Office Box 485
Brooksville, Florida 34605

Proposal One – Staff Summary:

The primary concern with this section of Morse Boulevard is the conflicting merging/crossing maneuvers between golf carts and vehicles at intersections. While adding the proposed buffer island will give golf cart drivers and bicyclists a greater separation distance from automobiles, these separators as shown will not address any concerns of conflicting merging/crossing maneuvers at intersections.

Proposal Two:

The following is Public Works input for the multiple proposals from resident Mr. C.K. Bondar.

- a. **Resident:** *Better and extensive police patrol with barrage of speeding tickets to speeders.*
 - i. **Staff Response:** Increased law enforcement is outside the power of the Public Works Department and is to be handled by the Sumter County's Sheriff's Office.
- b. **Resident:** *Elimination of left turns off the roadway. Both for Golf carts and motorists. NJ solved this with their 270 turning areas. We can do the same. To turn left, first turn right into a connecting street and pull up to Morse and wait for a break in the traffic.*
 - i. **Staff Response:** Eliminating left turns is not practical in this area. The aforementioned "270 turning areas" or jug-handle turns, would not be feasible within the limited right-of-way.
- c. **Resident:** *Cut-off all unnecessary commercial traffic using Morse as a "cut-thru" to 441.*
 - i. **Staff Response:** Morse Boulevard is classified as a major collector constructed to carry all traffic including trucks. A truck restriction would require the truck traffic to find alternate routes, which may lead these vehicles to travel through neighborhoods. Referencing the Sumter County Code of Ordinances, restricting truck traffic (commercial traffic) on a roadway should be based on if the road is suitable for use by trucks in excess of twenty-six thousand pounds gross weight. Truck traffic restrictions are specified by the weight of the vehicle, not the appearance or what the vehicle is carrying. In this case, Morse Boulevard can handle trucks of this weight, therefore restricting truck traffic would not be applicable.
- d. **Resident:** *Install a lowering arm across the incoming traffic from 466 and a similar arm to golf carts crossing over towards Summer landing.*
 - i. **Staff Response:** After speaking on the phone with the resident, it appears that he was proposing a barrier arm for golf carts making a southbound left from Morse Boulevard to the golf cart path which eventually crosses under C 466 heading towards Lake-Sumter Landing. After reviewing the crash history of

this golf cart turn lane on Morse Boulevard, it has been determined that there have not been any crashes in this section over the last three years (10/26/2020-10/26/2023). This shows that the problems/concerns of this portion of Morse Boulevard are more perceived than actual. Implementing the proposed barrier arms would not solve a crash problem which does not exist.

Proposal Two – Staff Summary:

- a. Public Works staff agrees that Morse Boulevard could benefit from increased law enforcement to address any speeding issues in the area.
- b. Even though eliminating left turns may work in certain scenarios, it would not be practical in this case due to limited right-of-way.
- c. Morse Boulevard was constructed and classified to carry all traffic including truck traffic (commercial traffic), and should not prevent those vehicles from using the roadway.
- d. While lowering arms (barrier arms) can be effective in calming traffic, their use in the proposed scenario is not necessary due to a perceived concern of crashes occurring.

If there are questions regarding this analysis please let me know.