Lely Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2021

The Lely Traffic Committee met on April 20, 2021 in the Players’ Club Private Dining Room from 2:30 to 4 pm.

In attendance were: Collier County Commissioner Rick LoCastro; Tony Khawaja, Collier County Growth Management; Lt. Dave Bruening, Collier County Sheriff’s office; and Lely Residents Jim Ahern; Jan Face Glassman; and Anne Marie Bularzik.

Many thanks to Anne Marie for taking our minutes!

The following issues were discussed:

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| Issue | Details | Action |
| 1. Parking of car carriers and other vehicles in the turn lanes on Lely Resort Roads. A specific incident occurred with a car carrier parked in the left turning lane for Mustang Island coming from Rte 41 by the Horses. The car carrier created a blind spot for cars turning left from the other direction as well as those exiting Mustang Island. | Vehicles should not be parking in “turn lanes.” It impairs driver visibility and can lead to accidents. | A note should be sent to all Lely HOA Presidents asking them to inform their residents of the following procedures related to solving this problem. If possible, a common area for parking these vehicles for drop off/pick up should be designated for the community:  If a person needs their vehicle transported, they should arrange with their car carrier to meet them in a large parking lot area out of traffic, such as the old Kmart / Freedom Plaza parking lot.  If a resident sees car carriers or other cars/vehicles parked on our roadways in turning lanes, they should call the **NON EMERGENCY number at the Sheriff’s office - 239-252-9300** to report the vehicle so that the Sheriff can come out to address the issue. |
| 1. The intersection on Lely Resort Blvd – where traffic crosses from Mustang Island to Lely Island Estates- | The yellow elephant tracks/striping have helped to direct traffic turning at this intersection.  The 2 weeks of traffic data collected with the flashing speed signs has been reviewed. The general observation is that the posted speed limit does not necessarily reflect how people drive.  The posted speed on Lely Resort Blvd. is 30 mph. The average speed being driven was 35. 85% of the drivers were driving at or below 40 mph. 15% of the drivers were going over 40 mph. with approximately 60 people driving between 40 – 73 miles per hour in the 2 week period. Because the average speed was 35, we discussed whether the speed limit should be increased on Lely Resort Blvd, but the opinion was a strong NO.  The discussion again surfaced about a 4 way stop at this intersection. Based on the analysis, a 4 way stop is not indicated for this intersection.  Another solution discussed was making the the exit from Mustang Island a RIGHT turn only. Anne Marie noted that many residents are not in favor of this solution.  The cost of modifying the median with concrete directional lanes for a permanent right turn only is about $200k. We discussed trying a temporary ‘right turn only’ using temporary poles as was done originally by the Horses. We are not sure it would be well received nor be worth the expense to the County.  However, there are still times when multiple cars are in the median crossing area. Tony suggested that only one car should be crossing/turning from Mustang Island or Lely Island Circle through the median at a time. He mentioned a trial of signs restricting traffic in the median to one vehicle. | Tony Khawaja will provide signs to be added to the stop sign coming out of Mustang Island and the stop sign for drivers exiting Lely Island Estates that will indicate that only one car should be in the middle of the intersection at a time. Kevin Carter from the LCDD will secure them to the stop signs in both locations. Once the signs are installed, this will become “enforceable” by the Sheriff. If the Sheriff’s deputies see multiple cars in the middle of the intersection, they may ticket those drivers exiting Mustang Island or Lely Island Circle who fail to observe them.  The signs should be ready in 2 weeks, ie. around May 4th.  Once the signs are posted, the LCDD should notify the Sheriff’s department so that they can begin enforcement. |
| 1. Exiting Mustang Island, a section of the the median on the right is too high and restricts visibility especially for vehicles which are lower. | The median height impacts visibility. It should be under 2 feet in height from the base of the road to the top of the mound/and area where any plants are. Kevin Carter was called and was asked to have this section lowered.  As a note, higher shade trees need to have a 7’ clearance under them so that the area between 2 ‘ and 7 ‘ is clear for drivers to see. | Kevin said he will have plans drawn to lower the section which is in excess of 2 feet. The irrigation system will likely need to be reworked where the median is lowered. |
| 1. Bicycle safety continues to be an issue with both pedestrians and vehicles. | After our meeting with the MPO and the County, Grand Lely has been removed from the National Bicycle trail proposal. We will continue to monitor the proposal and to avoid additional bicycle traffic in Lely Resort from any changes that are made to that proposal.  Issues continue with bicycle riders failing to ride safely on sidewalks with pedestrians. In addition, bicycle riders are not riding safely in traffic. Much of the problem is about education of the ‘rules of the road’. The Sheriff and County are willing to provide meetings on bicycle safety. | Jan will talk with Denise and Brian about the possibility of including a safety discussion with the Sheriff and County in the fall in a fitness program or other meeting. |
| 1. Residents continue to have issues with drivers ignoring the Flashing crossing at Players Cove. | The county has installed digital counters to display the speed for drivers, as they did on Lely Resort Blvd.  Lt. Bruening noted that the biggest issue is distracted driving.  The cost of LED lights on the actual crosswalk is extremely expensive. The LED’s are easily damaged.  A preferable route would be eduction. The FDOT does have video which the County can provide to us. Pedestrians should hit the button and then wait for the lights to flash before stepping into the street. | Jan will talk with Bill Sneddon, Players Cove HOA chair, about the video and how to get it out to the residents there. |
| 1. Right turn lane from Grand Lely onto Collier Blvd. | There is a ongoing discussion about the need for a right turn lane for those vehicles turning right from Grand Lely onto Collier Blvd.  The real question is whether a dedicated right turn lane is warranted. Where it is an existing intersection, there would need to be a capacity analysis done to determine how close it is to needing a lane. One item to look at is whether the queue of cars is too long at the light. For example, how many cycles does it take to get through the light. While the volume may be there today so that the turn lane may be warranted, it is important to remember that does not mean that it is required.  What is important is what eventually happens for development on that corner. If the right turn lane can be added as the development is done, then it can be done at minimal cost. If, for example, the development only has exits onto Celeste and onto Grand Lely, that will increase the flow into the right turn onto Collier and make an additional case for the developer adding the turn lane. | Commissioner LoCastro will speak with Stock Development to determine if there are any plans for a sale/development of this property and make them aware of the Lely residents’ concerns and desire for a right turn lane to be part of the plan when that land is developed. |
| 1. Triangle Blvd and US 41 | The work on this will start on April 22, 2021 and it will take a year. Copies of the plans are attached. | Completion of project to be in April 2022. |

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