



PONTE VEDRA BEACH
Citizens Traffic Task Force

Citizens Traffic Task Force Community Newsletter

Spring 2024

The Citizens Traffic Task Force Board includes representatives from:

The Ponte Vedra Municipal Service District

The Ponte Vedra Community Association

The Palm Valley Community Association

Sawgrass Master Association

Sawgrass Players Club Master Association

The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach

Marsh Landing Master Association

Ponte Vedra Lakes Owners Association

A1A Repaving May Create Opportunity to Complete Intersection Improvements

Everything, including the surface of our favorite roadways, has a lifecycle. During a meeting last month with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), the CTF learned that Scenic Highway A1A through Ponte Vedra Beach, is starting to show its age and will soon qualify for repaving funds. This could be great news for the efforts of the CTF to have the intersections on A1A at Solano Road, Sawgrass Village and TPC Boulevard redesigned to accommodate current and future traffic volumes. Those efforts have been ongoing since 2017 when the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (NFTPO), with help from St. Johns County (SJC), funded a study of potential improvements to traffic flow along A1A. While the CTF has been successful since that time, raising almost \$10 Million from the Florida Legislature, the cost of intersection construction has escalated dramatically. According to FDOT, if the CTF can bundle and align its A1A intersection improvements with the repaving schedule the cost of those intersection improvements can be reduced by at least 50%.

According to FDOT the timing of repaving A1A through PVB is still several years away. Right now, the expectation is that approval to make this an active project will likely come in the budget for FY2025 (established July 1, 2024) or FY2026. Once approved, the planning process will take an additional two years.

Until these intersection improvements are completed, the CTF will continue its annual requests for funding from our Legislative Delegation and will do its best to keep the A1A Intersection Improvement Project a top priority for SJC, FDOT and the NFTPO.

CTTF Asks SJC for Origin-Destination Study in Ponte Vedra Beach and Palm Valley

From its inception in 2014, the members of the CTF Board have had to learn a great deal about the complexities and costs associated with managing roadway planning for a rapidly growing region. Hard lessons have included, the astronomical cost of building and maintaining roadways, the difficulty in achieving consensus on the changes that are needed, and, most painfully, the typically decades-long planning timeline to implement those changes. Thankfully we also have been exposed to new technologies that help facilitate better long-term roadway planning. Such was the case when the CTF was introduced to England, Thims & Miller (ETM) a company that helps communities and businesses understand where their traffic is coming from and where it is going. Once the CTF looked at examples of their work, we recognized how valuable it would be for everyone, including our residents, to have factual information about the volume and sources of the traffic moving in, to, and through Ponte Vedra Beach/Palm Valley (PVPV).

As a result, the CTF asked SJC Public Works to fund what is called an “origin-destination study” for PVPV. The county was immediately receptive and requested the study from ETM which is already in progress. The CTF recently had an opportunity to review preliminary findings from the study and observed that the information, so far, focused on “pass-through traffic” and needed to also give attention to traffic patterns within



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PVPV. Additional data points have now been requested that will provide the missing perspective and include findings specific to Palm Valley Road (CR210), Roscoe Blvd./Solano Road and Mickler Road. Once the analysis has been completed, the CTF will work with SJC Public Works to identify the most important findings from the report and communicate those findings to the PVPV community. The CTF strongly believes that understanding the real sources of our traffic will facilitate informed discussion on the future roadway improvements that are needed. There is much more to come in this exciting program.

Update on Improvements to the SR A1A and Mickler Road Intersection

The A1A/Mickler Road Intersection improvements are continuing to progress primarily along the Mickler Road side. Utility relocations and upgrades are ongoing in addition to pavement work, with construction along A1A anticipated soon after the break for The Players Championship. Storm drainage pipe and structures will be a large part of the upcoming work, and there have been ongoing discussions with the FDOT regarding bicycle and pedestrian access and safety throughout the entire project area. The plans were revised in late 2023 to eliminate the left-turn lane into the Portofino development and shorten the overall length of the improvements on the Mickler Road side. By doing so, several mature oak trees, originally scheduled for removal, were saved. A big “Thank You” to the leadership at SJC Public Works for listening to the suggestions of the local community. It is anticipated that the overall intersection improvements at A1A/Mickler Road will be completed in Fall 2024.

Update on County Road 210 and the Mickler Road Roundabout

While traffic volumes at the roundabout have decreased slightly since 2019, the intersection continues to fail, measured by time through the intersection, at certain times of the day. Recognizing that, the St. Johns County Public Works Department has been developing a new intersection design intended to solve these problems long-term. The County is developing a website for the Mickler Roundabout improvements which will allow for input and feedback and function as a virtual public meeting. Depending upon the feedback received, the existing design may be subject to modification. The website will have narrative information about the project development timeline, sketches, supporting information, and a survey. The website is expected to be live for three weeks, with a few weeks needed after its closing to summarize and document the information. The design of the intersection is currently at 90 percent pending the virtual meeting feedback. If the design moves quickly to the 100 percent level, it is anticipated that the bidding process could be underway in late 2024.

The Citizen’s Traffic Task Force Newsletter is produced in collaboration with St. Johns County’s Public Works Department. St. Johns County is dedicated to providing the highest level of service to the residents in Ponte Vedra Beach and Palm Valley. For more information regarding upcoming projects, visit www.sjcf.us. To contact the CTF, email cttfboard@yahoo.com.