



VILLAGE OF TEQUESTA

January 25, 2015

Dear neighbors and friends,

Saturday morning's *Palm Beach Post* "Point Of View" section contained a letter regarding the future of U.S. 1 in the Village of Tequesta. The writer offered her observations concerning the possible reduction of traffic lanes from six to four and expressed her views on why a reduction would be a bad idea. She also suggested that neither I nor others are in agreement with the direction to take regarding this concept.

It is important to understand that the concept of a U.S. 1 lane reduction in Tequesta is still in the exploratory stages. The Village Council of the Village of Tequesta has only recently begun to gather information on this topic, and has yet to make any decisions on how to proceed. The following is a brief explanation of the fact finding and decision-making process, and some of the reasons that support taking a hard look at the concept.

The information gathering and evaluation process is being directed by the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC), an agency which provides transportation planning and technical assistance to local communities. TCRPC, in conjunction with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), has initiated broad community outreach, which to date has included individual interviews and an interactive public workshop that was attended by more than 80 people. All correspondence, including letters, emails, and articles published in local newspapers, have also been forwarded to TCRPC for inclusion in this process. TCRPC is also compiling current data in the form of current and projected traffic counts, road capacity, pedestrian use and safety statistics.

The section of U.S. 1 being studied by TCRPC is less than 1.3 miles in length. It runs through the heart of the Village of Tequesta between County Line Road to the north and the junctures of Alt. A1A and Beach Road to the south. This small section of highway is the only stretch of U.S. 1 between North Palm Beach and northern Hobe Sound, a distance of 24 miles, which has six lanes.

The residents of the Village of Tequesta and surrounding communities strongly support and patronize Tequesta restaurants, retail centers and businesses on the U.S. 1 corridor. These are the folks who are turning into the shopping plazas, the stand-alone buildings and the residential streets where cars are advancing behind them at 45 mph, or faster. With the exception of an entrance lane to the Publix shopping plaza near the northern border of Tequesta, there are no right turn lanes for motorists to safely exit the flow of traffic prior to turning. Nor are there roadway shoulders for disabled motorists or law enforcement officers to utilize for pulling over.

VILLAGE COUNCIL

ABBY BRENNAN

Mayor

abrennan@tequesta.org

VINCE ARENA

Vice-Mayor

varena@tequesta.org

STEVE OKUN

Council Member

sokun@tequesta.org

TOM PATERNO

Council Member

tpaterno@tequesta.org

FRANK D'AMBRA

Council Member

fdambra@tequesta.org

VILLAGE MANAGER

MICHAEL COUZZO

mcouzzo@tequesta.org

561.768.0465

345 Tequesta Drive

Tequesta, FL 33469-0273

561.768.0700

www.tequesta.org



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This stretch of U.S. 1 is experiencing an increase in pedestrian traffic as well. More people are riding bicycles, jogging and walking. Tequesta is enjoying a marked increase in young individuals and families moving into our Village and neighboring areas. Unlike sections of U.S. 1 located north of County Line Road or south of the drawbridge in Jupiter, this section of the roadway has no bicycle lanes, and the existing sidewalks are very near speeding traffic and perilous intersections.

At a public workshop on Monday evening, February 2, 2015, TCRPC will present its findings to the Village Council. This will be the first presentation to Village Council on this topic and no action will be taken at the workshop. In order to comfortably accommodate all members of the public, the meeting will be held at 7:00 PM at Tequesta's First Baptist Church, 423 Tequesta Drive in Tequesta.

I cannot stress enough that the Village Council is still in the process of studying the concept of a lane reduction on U.S. 1, and that no decisions have been made. As always, the views and opinions of our residents are critically important to our deliberations and will ultimately drive our decision on how to proceed.

Please be part of the process and attend the public workshop on Monday, February 2, 2015, 7:00 PM at Tequesta's First Baptist Church, 423 Tequesta Drive. You need not be a Tequesta resident to attend. All interested parties are welcome.

For more information, please email Anthea Gianniotis at Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council at anthea@tcrpc.org or visit the Village of Tequesta website at www.tequesta.org. The members of Village Council can also be reached by using the email addresses found on the first page of this letter or by calling (561) 768-0460.

Best regards,

Mayor
abrennan@tequesta.org