



Florida Department of Transportation

11201 N. Malcolm McKinley Drive
Tampa, Florida 33612-6403

RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

JARED W. PERDUE, P.E.
SECRETARY

June 27, 2023

Tierra Verde Community Association, Inc. Board of Directors
1275 Pinellas Bayway
Tierra Verde, FL 33715

Dear Tierra Verde Community Association, Inc. Board of Directors,

Thank you for your letter to Governor DeSantis on June 1st, 2023. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) received your request regarding the separated two-way bicycle lanes along the Pinellas Bayway (SR 679). We appreciate your sharing your concerns and hope that the information provided below answers any questions you may have.

One of the Pinellas Bayway project goals is to make the thoroughfare safe for all users, regardless of the mode of transportation. This Pinellas Bayway Project closes a gap in the existing trails. FDOT has consistently integrated bicycle facilities with local and regional transportation systems and is committed to providing Pinellas Trail continuity along this corridor. This Pinellas Trail segment is consistent with the 2016 Forward Pinellas Master Plan and documented in the Adopted Countywide Trailways Plan.

FDOT presented the project to the Tierra Verde Community Association (TVCA) at a Board of Directors meeting held on March 9, 2020. During the meeting, it was stated that the proposed Pinellas Trail alignment along the existing sidewalk on the east side would likely require the relocation/removal of condominium signs, landscaping, landscape berms, irrigation, sign lighting, etc. all of which currently encroach FDOT Right-of-Way. Residents and Board members strongly objected to the landscape impacts from the Pinellas Trail improvements stating that substantial investment was made by the condominium owners and requested FDOT to explore opportunities to move the proposed trail alignment on-street. FDOT worked very closely with the TVCA Board and meeting attendees to develop an approach that minimized landscape impacts in FDOT Right-of-Way and met current design standards.

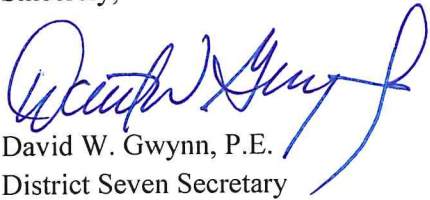
The new separated bicycle lanes are designed consistent with the FDOT Design Manual Chapter 223-Bicycle Facilities, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Separated Bike Lane Planning and Design Guide, FHWA Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, and the National Fire Protection Association Life Safety Code. There is no impact to the response time or access by Emergency Responders. The width

of the roadway, including inside shoulders, is of sufficient width for an emergency vehicle to bypass traffic if necessary.

Drivers should always exercise caution when entering Pinellas Bayway from driveways or side streets as pedestrians or bicyclists on the existing sidewalk or the new two-way separated bicycle lane may approach intersections from the north or south. The new bicycle lanes, which are now separated from the travel lane by a raised concrete island, will mitigate the safety hazards that were created by the frequent illegally parked vehicles where the previous bicycle lanes existed, as documented in the Roadway Safety Audit and crash history data.

Once again, thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention. The District Safety Office will continue to monitor this new facility and is working with law enforcement to educate and enforce traffic law and rules of the road for drivers and bicyclists.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David W. Gwynn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

David W. Gwynn, P.E.
District Seven Secretary
Florida Department of Transportation
11201 N. McKinley Drive
Tampa, FL 33612
813-975-6039