

7. OLD BUSINESS

- b. Staff report and direction regarding the proposed Dunlop Road Shared Use Path

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
ATTACHED**

Memorandum

DATE: January 4, 2011
TO: City Council
THROUGH: City Manager Judie Zimomra
FROM: Public Works Director Gates Castle *GJC*
RE: Proposed Dunlop Road/Wooster Lane Shared Use Path

Big Arts representatives have presented an Option 6 (copy attached) for the subject path. The main features for the option are:

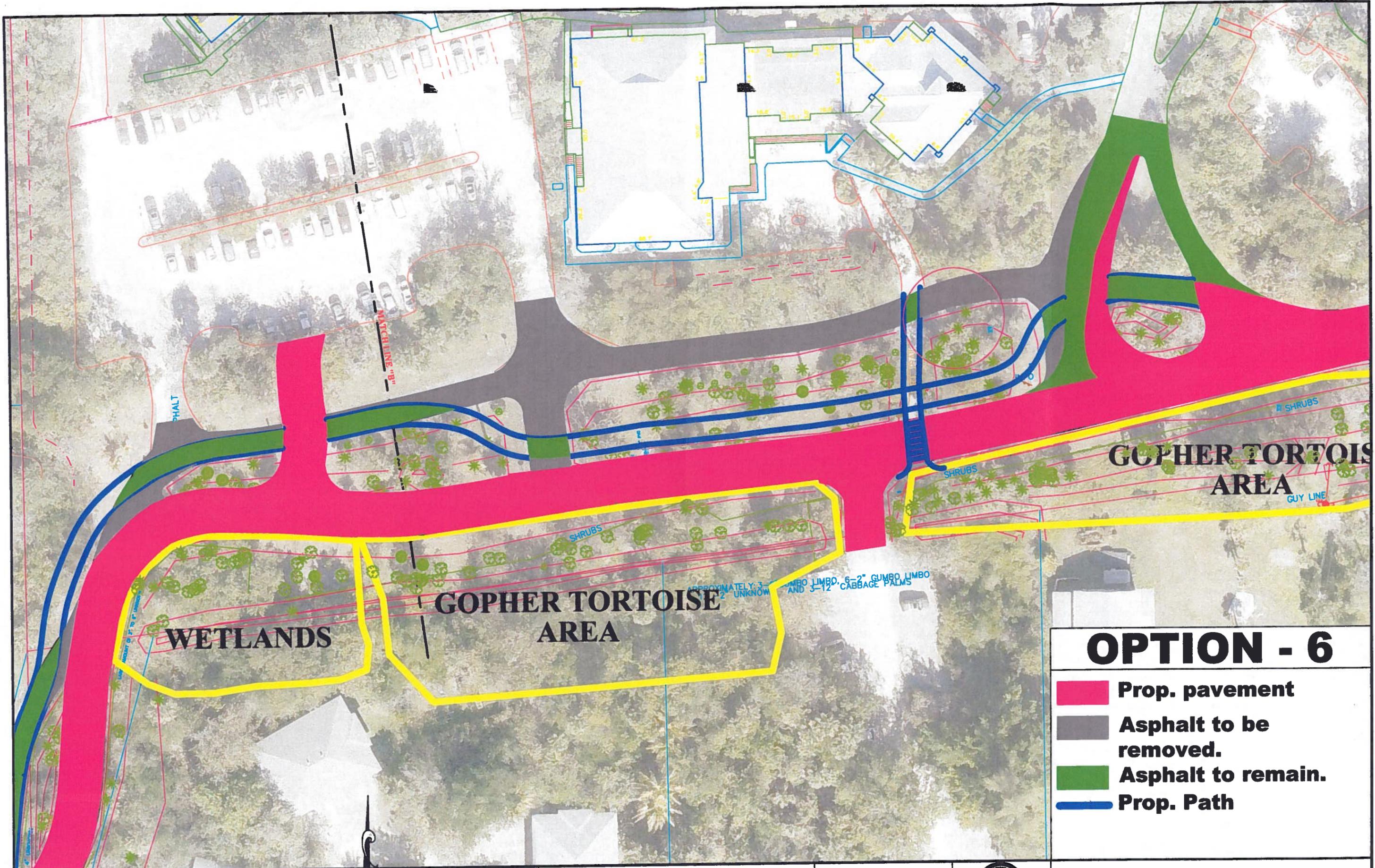
1. Current westbound lane in front of BIG Arts would be eliminated
2. Eastbound lane would be widened to the north to accommodate both east and west bound traffic so not to encroach into the gopher tortoise habitat
3. Shared use path would be located north of the roadway with crossovers in front of the Library, at BIG Arts and on Wooster Lane.

A staff analysis of Option 6 is as follows:

1. The proposal is cost effective with the estimated cost being only slightly more than Option 3
2. Construction is possible without violating any engineering standards.
3. Safety of the path users is a major concern since all path users would have to:
 - a. Cross the road twice at mid-block crosswalks
 - b. Cross five additional driveways (four at City Hall and one at Historic Village/BIG Arts parking lot) not crossed in other options.

Public Works staff can't support Option 6 due to the safety concerns with the path being located in the north side of the road

C: City Attorney Ken Cuyler



OPTION - 6

- Prop. pavement
- Asphalt to be removed.
- Asphalt to remain.
- Prop. Path

REVISION NO.	REVISION	DATE	DRAWN	CHECKED	APPROVED

City of Sanibel
 800 Dunlop Road
 Sanibel, FL 33957

DATE: DECEMBER 15, 2010
 SCALE: 1"=20'
 DRAWN BY: JMH CHECKED BY: SBK
 APPROVED BY: GATES D. CASTLE



DUNLOP RD. - WOOSTER LN. SHARED USE PATH

SEC. - TWP. - RGE. 26-46-22	PROJECT FILE Dunlop - Wooster Shared Use Path 000	SHEET NUMBER OPTION 4
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RECEIVED BY

10 DEC 30 AM 11:55

CITY OF SANIBEL
ADMIN./LEGIS.

To: Judie Zimomra, Sanibel City Manager

From: BIG ARTS Facilities Committee
Judy Baum
Dick Boehning
Ralph Clark
Penny Wilkinson, Chair
Chuck Bonser, President

Date: December 30, 2010

Re: **Requests and Recommendations to the City of Sanibel regarding the Shared Use Path – Option 6 Proposal**

The Facilities Committee, joined by Judy Baum and Chuck Bonser via conference call, met today and requests that the City of Sanibel review and take into consideration the following items relative to **Option 6:**

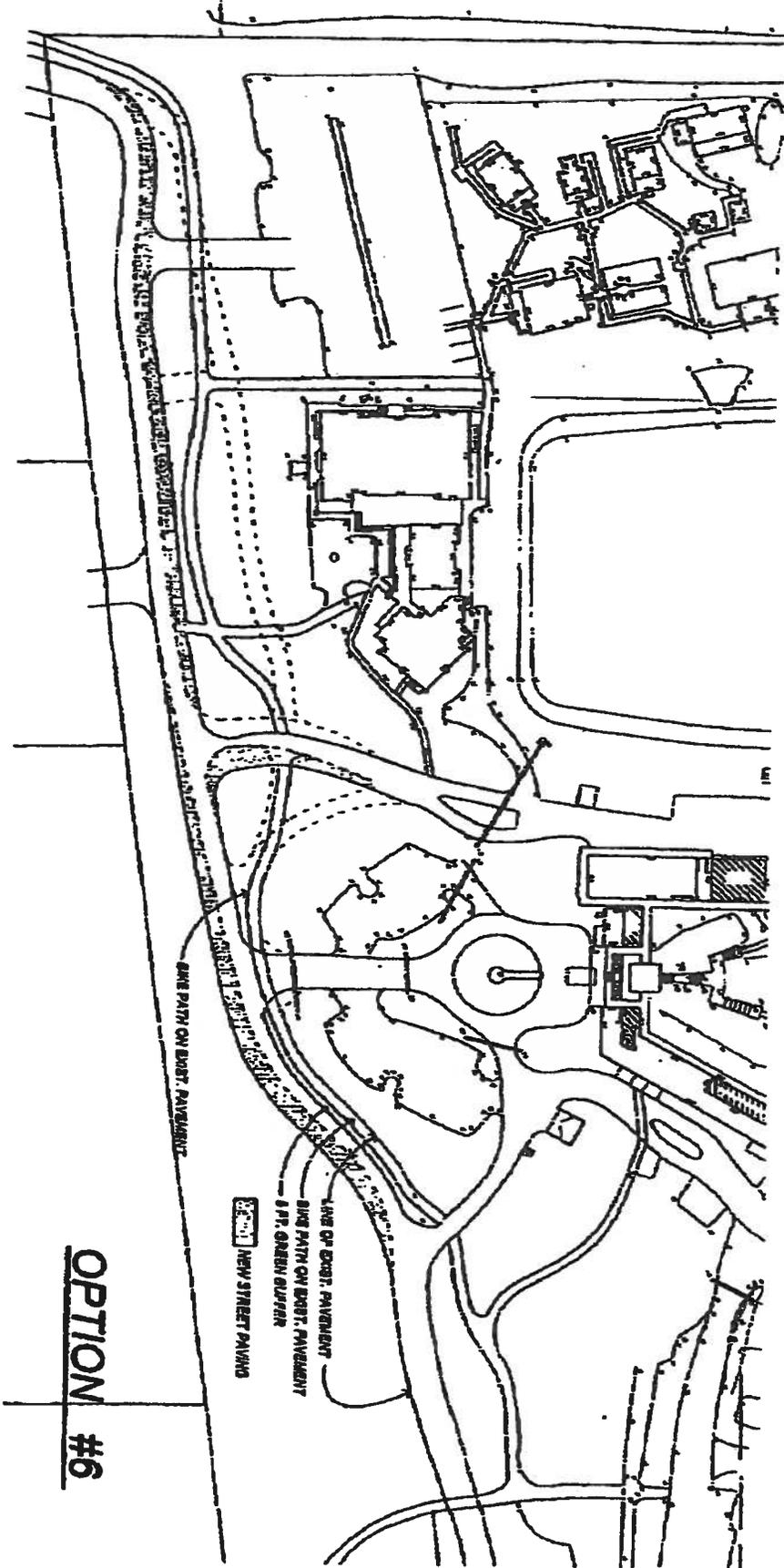
Roadway system, Option 6:

- Where Dunlop Road is currently split into two lanes with a median, the current westbound road will be eliminated. A two lane roadway will be built immediately north of the existing eastbound road system. This new westbound lane will be contiguous to the existing eastbound road.
- This will be cost-effective since only one roadway will have to be built rather than two as planned in earlier options under consideration.
- Importantly, the location of the two lanes will have no impact on the Wetlands or the Gopher Tortoise habitat since those areas are not being affected.
- This new roadway will have minimal impact on vegetation and save important native plants that are mature and irreplaceable.
- From a safety standpoint, this plan will put traffic as far away as possible from facilities where people congregate. There will be less distracting traffic noise.
- This plan will open up green areas for the future use of Sanibel residents and visitors alike.

The Shared Use Path, Option 6:

- This Option 6 shows that the Shared Use Path will be placed on the **North side of Dunlop Road** from the crossover to the Library going westward in front of City Hall, BIG ARTS, and the Historical Village and Museum; then the shared used path will go on the **West side of Wooster Road** until crossing over to the south side of Wooster Road just west of Mahogany Way.
- We request that the City suggest where the cross-over should be placed on Wooster Road.
- We request that the City determine the best place for the Shared Use Path cross-over in front of the Sanibel Library.

- BIG ARTS is asking the City to slightly alter to the **south** the two-lane roadway in front of City Hall so that the Shared Use Path can remain on the **North side** of the road with minimal or no impact to the current vegetation buffering the City Hall parking lot.
- BIG ARTS requests that the Shared Use Pathway in front of BIG ARTS be designed to protect and preserve, as much as possible, the most native trees, particularly the strangler figs. We realize that this cannot be a straight East/West line and propose that a newly constructed meandering pathway will be even more attractive and inviting for both bikers and pedestrians to use through the shade of the mature strangler figs, buckthorns, etc. Saving the mature Strangler Figs has always been a significant part of our vision for BIG ARTS. Not only will these Strangler Figs be saved, they'll be enjoyed by those using the Shared Use Path for future generations.
- At this time BIG ARTS requests that no new additional interconnectivity path be added. This will eliminate duplication of pathways, minimize moving vegetation, cost the City less money, and allow preservation of green space close to BIG ARTS.
- BIG ARTS requests that new solar path lighting be installed to light our current pathway located near Phillips Gallery. The same lighting should continue across the bridge access way as it leads into the City Hall parking area that BIG ARTS patrons often use. This solar lighting should match the lighting being developed for the Shared Use Path.
- BIG ARTS requests that solar lighting be installed at the cross-over from St. Michael's Church parking lot entrance across the new two lane road and onward along the existing shell path that leads pedestrians into Boler Garden at BIG ARTS. When regrading for the new roadbed, we ask that careful consideration be given to this pathway area that currently collects rainwater and creates deep puddles on the path.
- BIG ARTS requests that the new double lanes going back to the Police Station be straightened out and moved as far eastward as possible [**~10– 12'**] thus making a straighter T-shape. This would require the City to move several cabbage palms but would open up more green space near the existing pathways and Phillips Gallery. This could provide extra shaded areas for benches in future plans.
- BIG ARTS accepts the City and Police Chief's proposed new entranceway into the joint parking lot of BIG ARTS & the Sanibel Historical Village and Museum. The traffic flow will be reconfigured to be one-way and parking will need to be realigned. The entrance will also be the exit so the existing two entrance and exits will be eliminated.
- BIG ARTS requests that consideration be given to creating a bike corral and resting place with possibly a bench near the new entrance/exit to the parking lot.
- BIG ARTS agreed in a meeting today that we are prepared to move forward with a new, formal vegetation plan to create a different pathway off the Shared Use Path into BIG ARTS and the Sanibel Historical Village and Museum. This entrance could be placed where the existing entrance to the parking lot is now located once the current parking lot entrance is eliminated. As the City changes the entrance and traffic flow of the joint parking lot to a different location, BIG ARTS is committed to making the landscaping as attractive and inviting as possible. We are willing to work with the Sanibel Historical Village and Museum as well as the City to address this important opportunity and create the best design for a new pathway into both organizations. It would be our intention to use as much as possible the relocated native plants from areas of construction.



OPTION #6

Carol J. Reed

From: Karen [krichards2@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2011 11:47 AM
To: sancouncil
Subject: vote

Please vote for option #3 on the issue of the shared use path on Dunlap Road.

Thank you.
Karen Richards

Carol J. Reed

From: cshell art [cshellart@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 02, 2011 12:55 AM
To: sancouncil
Subject: proposed dunlop road shared use path

Attachments: gopher tortoise run over by car.JPG; gopher tortoise run over by car2.JPG

good morning -

attached are photos of a gopher tortoise who was run over on 11/30/10 *in a parking lot on sanibel*. she was the largest gopher tortoise crow staff had ever admitted - close to 17 pounds - and they estimated she was about 80 years old. sadly, her carapace and internal organs were so severely damaged the only thing crow veterinarians could do was put her out of her pain.

this is a graphic example of how tortoises suffer from interactions with automobiles

it's my impression that the city is planning to add a shared use path to dunlop road for the express purpose of *improving safety* for bicyclers and pedestrians who use that area - and for the wild animals who live there. accordingly, i urge you to support option #3, which is endorsed by all city department heads; separates bicyclers, pedestrians and wildlife from automotive traffic; eliminates the necessity for path users to cross a number of busy driveways; and preserves the existing median and traffic-calming curves.

to the best of my knowledge, crow has never had to treat a gopher tortoise who interacted with a bicycler or pedestrian. in fact, i've observed bikers, walkers, etc., stop in their tracks when they see a gopher tortoise, gaze upon the creature with awe and reverence, and whip out their cameras for this special photo opp

it would be criminal to add an additional lane of automobile traffic next to gopher tortoise habitat along dunlop road, especially now that the level of activity along that road has increased dramatically. gopher tortoises are a protected species - residents of a sanctuary island are especially beholden to safeguard them.

thank you for voting for option #3 of the proposed dunlop road shared use path - claudia burns, sanibel resident, a.a.r.a.





Carol J. Reed

From: Linda Jennings [ljennings@caci.com]

Sent: Monday, January 03, 2011 10:25 AM

To: sancouncil

Subject: Support Option #3

Council Members,

I urge you to support option #3, which is endorsed by all city department heads. This Option separates bicyclers, pedestrians and wildlife from automotive traffic; eliminates the necessity for path users to cross a number of busy driveways; and preserves the existing median and traffic-calming curves. This is necessary particularly in light of the gopher tortoise killer there recently.

Sincerely,

Linda Jennings
1398 Middle Gulf Dr.
Sanibel, FL 33957

Carol J. Reed

From: maverick21150@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, January 02, 2011 10:31 AM
To: sancouncil
Subject: Shared Use Path - Dunlop

Dear Sanibel Council Members,

I am writing to urge you to vote yes on option #3 for the proposed Dunlop Road shared use path this week.

Having just visited the Farmer's Market today by bicycle, I can say that it was scary for me and my friend, as the cars came perilously close to us and made for a dangerous situation. I use the shared use paths on a regular basis to ride my bicycle, and I absolutely love what they do in allowing people to enjoy the island and wildlife that surrounds them in a much safer environment. With the library, city hall, historical museum and Big Arts along Dunlop road, it only makes sense to have a shared use path in this area, ultimately improving safety. A path will also encourage people new to this area or visiting the island to take this route and discover the library and the historical museum which they probably would have never found had there not been a path. It is also my understanding that there are a number of gopher tortoises living along Dunlop road. As we all know, they are not fast moving creatures. By allowing a shared use path, this will give them one more opportunity for a pedestrian or biker to warn oncoming traffic of their existence on the road and hopefully save them from being hit by an automobile.

Thanks so much for the work and service you give to our island community as a member of the Council. I hope you will consider voting Yes to putting a shared use path along Dunlop Road.

Birgie Vertesch
239-395-5358

Carol J. Reed

From: armand ball - alphaball%40comcast.net [alphaball@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 02, 2011 11:06 AM
To: sancouncil
Subject: Dunlop Road Revisions

Dear Friends:

Having read all of the material related to the Dunlop Road revisions, I would like to urge you to adopt Option #3. This appears to remove traffic further from the wildlife area we are trying to protect and does not add as much additional paving.

This road has always been a scenic, relatively quiet area friendly to the wildlife nearby -- - let's not make it another Periwinkle Way.

Thank you.

Armand Ball

Carol J. Reed

From: Carol Strange [carol@seashells.com]

Sent: Sunday, January 02, 2011 8:25 PM

To: sancouncil

Subject: bike path

#3 seems like the best option, inconveniencing least and will be a big improvement enjoyed by many.
Thanks

Carol Strange

Carol J. Reed

From: Judie A. Zimomra
Sent: Friday, December 31, 2010 5:04 PM
To: 'pennywilkinson1@gmail.com'
Cc: Pamela Smith; sancouncil; 'KBRSR@comcast.net'; 'MickDenham@aol.com'; 'mharrity@aol.com'; 'jenna6596@embarqmail.com'; san.dir
Subject: Re: Withdraw Option 5 from Agenda Item 7b

City hall closed today, we will post your request to withdraw 5 and add 6 on monday

----- Original Message -----

From: Penny Wilkinson <pennywilkinson1@gmail.com>
To: Judie A. Zimomra
Cc: Bonser, Chuck <bonser@indiana.edu>; Boehning, Richard <richardboehning@aol.com>; Baum, Judy J. <jj2727rb@aol.com>; Clark, Ralph <rclark50123@comcast.net>; Harder, Lee Ellen <LHarder@bigarts.org>
Sent: Fri Dec 31 16:46:55 2010
Subject: Re: Withdraw Option 5 from Agenda Item 7b

Judie -

To clarify my earlier email about withdrawing Option 5, BIG ARTS still wishes to have Option 6 on the agenda.

Before noon Thursday, December 30, I hand-delivered the revised BIG ARTS Recommendations and Drawing for Option 6 that we discussed in meeting with Staff on Wednesday. The revised documents have not been posted yet; I assume they will be posted first thing Monday morning.

Thanks again.

Penny Wilkinson

On Fri, Dec 31, 2010 at 11:57 AM, Penny Wilkinson <pennywilkinson1@gmail.com> wrote:

Judie -

BIG ARTS requests that Option 5 be withdrawn from Agenda Item #7b regarding the proposed Shared Use Path scheduled under Old Business at next Tuesday's City Council meeting, January 4, 2011.

Thank you,

Penny Wilkinson

BIG ARTS Facilities Committee Chair

Carol J. Reed

From: Judie A. Zimomra
Sent: Tuesday, December 28, 2010 11:23 AM
To: Bill E. Tomlinson; Chuck Bonser, BIG Arts; Dick Boehning, BIG Arts; Gates Castle; Jimmy Jordan; Judie A. Zimomra; Judy Baum, BIG Arts; Lee Ellen Harder, BIG Arts; Penny Wilkinson, BIG Arts; Ralph Clark, BIG Arts; Rob Loflin
Cc: sancouncil; 'KBR SR@comcast.net'; 'MickDenham@aol.com'; 'mharrity@aol.com'; 'Jim Jennings'
Subject: FW: Dead Trees in Front of Historic Village Parking Lot

Please find a report from Public Works Director Gates Castle regarding the trees removed along Dunlop Road. No trees have been removed in anticipation on the construction of the Shared Use Path Project.

Please contact me if you have follow-up questions.

Judie Zimomra
Sanibel City Manager

From: Gates Castle
Sent: Wednesday, December 22, 2010 11:34 AM
To: Judie A. Zimomra
Subject: Dead Trees in Front of Historic Village Parking Lot

Judie

The City's contractor cut down several dead trees in front of the Historic Village parking lot including 1 palm, 1 Gumbo Limbo and 2 Strangler Figs. The stump of one of the figs was left because the contractor said that one side of the trunk had some life and thought it might re-sprout. Only dead material was removed.

Gates

Carol J. Reed

From: islanddream95@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, December 22, 2010 3:49 PM
To: sancouncil
Subject: Wooster de-vegetation

"They paved paradise and put up a parking lot..."

One role of local government is to protect property values and quality of life. I feel both my property value and quality of life are under siege.

First there was the town center fantasy with suggestions such as: increase density, re-route Periwinkle across Dunlop/Wooster or make it one-way. Now there is the "shared use" extension along Wooster. I vehemently object to the options that would decrease the already minuscule vegetation island on Wooster, which serves as a traffic calming device, to an insignificant sliver and put the two lanes of traffic on one side – even closer to our property at Lake Palms Condominiums. Is this for pedestrian/cyclist safety or the convenience of drivers so they can drive faster and not be cautious? I maintain the latter. I maintain that these options will result in faster vehicular speeds, increased noise and traffic. The Wooster/Dunlop route will then become a cut-off from Periwinkle to Palm Ridge all resulting in decreased property value and quality of life. Please could I live in peace? Why is a complete circuit needed? The only access needed is to the Library, after that there is an inner connection to City Hall and Big Arts.

Why are you proposing to spend this money when the rest of the "shared use" path is in such need of upgrading and resurfacing – the city obviously has neither the money nor personnel to keep it in good condition. There are lumps and bumps and water catching depressions, scars from debris removal machines after Charley. There are utility covers to avoid, in addition to vehicles often parked on the path.

Roads have been re-surfaced, but not the "shared use" path. If the response is that Lee County does the roads that just re-enforces my point – we don't have the funds to maintain what we now have. Many cyclists take to the road to avoid the "hemorrhoid" path. The path north of Wulfert Road is particularly woeful. Public Works does a great job, but it's obvious they just don't have the funds.

Regretfully, a long standing doctor's appointment necessitated my missing the Council meeting on this subject.

Respectfully,
Gloria Hannan

"They paved paradise and put up a parking lot, With a pink hotel, a boutique, And a swinging hot spot.

Don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what you've got till it's gone?
They paved paradise and put up a parking lot.

They took all the trees and put them in a tree museum.

And they charged all the people

A dollar and a half just to see 'em.

Don't it always seem to go

That you don't know what you've got till it's gone?

They paved paradise and put up a parking lot."

Carol J. Reed

From: Judie A. Zimomra
Sent: Monday, December 06, 2010 12:50 PM
To: 'mphdoc@centurylink.net'
Cc: 'Tom Sharbaugh'; Patti Sousa; 'millerlawfl@earthlink.net'; judy baum; 'bonser@indiana.edu'; sancouncil; 'KBRSR@comcast.net'; 'MickDenham@aol.com'; 'mharrity@aol.com'; 'Jim Jennings'; Bill E. Tomlinson; Jimmy Jordan; Gates Castle; Rob Loflin
Subject: FW: Collected information from Contact the City

Dear Mr. Hannon - On behalf of the Sanibel City Council, thank you for your email regarding the alignment of the proposed Shared Use Path along Dunlop & Wooster Roads. Your email has been received by each member of City Council as well as the respective Staff & organizations.

Again, thank you for taking time to provide your input. It is rewarding to work in a community where citizens take the time to share their thoughts with the elected officials.

Judie Zimomra,
Sanibel City Manager

The following information was collected:

Sender name:
Michael Hannan
Subject:
Proposed Shared-use Path
Message:

December 3, 2010

Rather than wait until the end of this letter, I thought I'd introduce myself up front so you'll understand my perspective. I'm a ten-year, year-round Sanibel resident and Board President of the Lake Palms Condominium Association. I'm also an avid cyclist who averages approximately 150 miles a week riding all over the Island.

Given the reaction that the Town Square project received, I'm at a loss to understand the motivation for proposing a new shared-use path through Wooster Lane and Dunlop Road. My confusion and frustration stems from the following:

- Spending \$400,000 dollars creating a new shared-use path given the general condition of the existing, shared-use paths on the Island (many of which I avoid using – riding on the road instead – because of their poor condition);
- Lowering the already much reduced property values (because of the economy) of the Lake Palms Condominium Association by replacing verge with blacktop leading to an increase of traffic noise and increased traffic;
- Removing large portions of the divider islands; blacktop where now stands native vegetation doesn't seem consistent with the Sanibel Plan;

- Necessitating cutting down recently city-planted vegetation; and
- Reconfiguring the road, making it an appealing alternative for those traveling up-island, especially on those many occasions when either the theater is in session or the Community House or the adjacent park is the venue site for various Island functions, compromising what is currently (and has been for the ten years I've lived here) a nice quiet area, where gopher tortoises and ibis are currently abundant.

As an alternative – if there must be one – consider extending the path in front of the theater to run up the west side of Dunlop Road around the bend where it will end at a marked crosswalk to the Library, which already has direct access to City Hall, the two most likely destinations of bike and pedestrian traffic.

While this would still require cyclists and pedestrians to use the existing roadway beyond City Hall, it is a small price to pay for not reducing our already beleaguered property values, saving native flora and fauna, and maintaining a quiet spot on the Island.

Sincerely,

Michael Hannan
395-2245
mphdoc@centurylink.net
Email:
mphdoc@centurylink.net