



LEE COUNTY
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

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Writer's Direct Dial Number:

RECEIVED BY

07 FEB 16 2007 11:50 AM

CITY OF SANIBEL
ADMIN./LEGIS.

February 13, 2007

Jim Isom
City of Sanibel
800 Dunlop Road
Sanibel, FL 33957

Re: Sanibel Weigh Station Relocation

Dear Jim:

This is to follow up on our e-mails of the past couple of days. The Board of County Commissioners voted on a Blue Sheet on June 27, 2006 directing the City of Sanibel to remove the existing City weigh station from the Causeway Islands by terminating the 1978 Interlocal Agreement between the County and City. The purpose is to allow the County, through our Parks & Rec Department, to further enhance the use of the Causeway Islands for recreational purposes.

Currently, we are finalizing these design plans. Our goal is to put the project out to bid by July 1, 2007. We, therefore, need the weigh station removed prior to that date.

Therefore, please accept this letter as providing you with the required notice that, effective July 1, 2007, we are requesting that the weigh station be moved off the Causeway Islands.

If there are any questions, please advise.

Sincerely,

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Paul W. Wingard, P.E.
Deputy Director

PWW:lcw

Enclosure (Blue Sheet)

cc: Scott Gilbertson

Jim Lavender

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**Lee County Board Of County Commissioners
Agenda Item Summary**

Blue Sheet No. 20060634

1. ACTION REQUESTED/PURPOSE:

Approve termination of the 1978 Interlocal Agreement and the 2003 Supplemental Interlocal Agreement between Lee County and the City of Sanibel which allows the City's use of a portion of the Causeway Islands for the City weigh station, and direct staff to notify the City by correspondence of the termination in accordance with the Interlocal Agreements.

2. WHAT ACTION ACCOMPLISHES:

Enhances the use of the Causeway Islands for recreational purposes by eliminating the weigh station and the need for trucks to pull off into this area.

3. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval.

4. Departmental Category: 9

A9A

5. Meeting Date: JUNE 27, 2006

6. Agenda:

- Consent
- Administrative**
- Appeals
- Public
- Walk-On

7. Requirement/Purpose: (specify)

- Statute
- Ordinance
- Admin. Code
- Other

8. Request Initiated:
Commissioner

Department: Transportation

Division:

By: Scott M. Gilbertson, Director

9. Background:

In 1978, the Board of County Commissioners approved an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Sanibel granting the City permission to utilize a portion of the Sanibel Causeway Islands to erect and operate a weigh station. The sole purpose of the weigh station is to weigh all trucks going onto Sanibel Island and to accommodate the City charging a road users fee for each vehicle based on a charge per 100 lbs. over a specified weight. The fee is to be utilized by the City for road repairs caused by the additional wear and tear due to the heavier weight vehicles.

In 2003, the Board of County Commissioners approved a Supplemental Interlocal Agreement, whereby the County temporarily took over the operation and maintenance of the weigh station.

Termination of the Interlocal Agreements would not preclude the City from having a weigh station, but would require the location to be moved back onto Sanibel Island.

The original agreement states that the County may request Sanibel to vacate and remove the weigh station at any time. The 2003 agreement requires 90-days written notice prior to the cancellation of the agreement. Staff requests to notify Sanibel of the County's intent to terminate both agreements.

Following the completion of the construction of the new Sanibel Bridges, the County intends to explore the option of making improvements to the Causeway Islands to enhance the use for recreational purpose. A weigh station, along with the associated truck movements into and out of the facility, would not be appropriate for this use.

10. Review for Scheduling:

Department Director	Purchasing or Contracts	Human Resources	Other	County Attorney	Budget Services				County Manager/P.W. Director
					Analyst	Risk	Grants	Mgr.	
SMC 6/12	N/A			[Signature]	[Signature]	[Signature]	[Signature]	[Signature]	[Signature]

11. Commission Action:

- Approved**
- Deferred
- Denied
- Other

RECEIVED BY COUNTY ADMIN:
6/13/06 12:50 PM
COUNTY ADMIN
FORWARDED TO:
6/15/06 9 AM

Rec. by CoAtty
Date: 6/13/06
Time: 11:22 AM
Forwarded to:
11:30 AM
6/13/06



City of Sanibel

Planning Department

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 15, 2007

TO: Judie Zimomra, City Manager

FROM: Robert J. Duffy, AICP, Planning Director

SUBJECT: **Sanibel Weigh Station Relocation and Improvement
– Preliminary Report and Alternative Concepts**

On February 6, 2007, City Council authorized the City Manager to proceed with a study of preliminary on and off-island alternatives for improving and relocating the Sanibel Weigh Station. The firm of Vanasse Daylor has produced the enclosed preliminary report in conjunction with an interdepartmental team consisting of the City Manager, Planning Director, Chief of Police, Director of Public Works and Director of Natural Resources. On February 20, 2007 the preliminary report will be presented to City Council.

To date six alternative have been examined between Punta Rossa, just east of the new Sanibel Bridge and Causeway toll plaza now under construction, and the intersection of Causeway Boulevard and Periwinkle Way. Three alternatives are situated off-island and three on-island.

The enclosed report prepared by Vanasse Daylor locates the six alternatives and provides conceptual plans for two on-island alternatives with corresponding sectional and perspective views. The following report summarizes each alternative and briefly describes key issues for further consideration.

Alternative A: Relocate the Weigh Station East of Toll Plaza

This alternative would provide an opportunity to intercept island bound truck traffic within the approach to the new toll plaza which is currently under construction.

Consideration was given to a potential design that could accommodate vehicular left turns from McGregor Boulevard to Punta Rassa and both east and west bound truck turning movements exiting the relocated weigh station. Appropriate approach signage and other features could be included along McGregor Boulevard and Summerlin Road as part of a unified signage system that could be planned in conjunction with Lee County.

However, this location is highly constrained due to existing mangroves and roadway drainage features and is not viable for further study. Lee County DOT has also indicated that design and construction associated with the Sanibel Bridge and Causeway toll plaza approach will not be able to accommodate weigh station improvements.

Alternative B: Incorporate Weigh Station as Part of Toll Plaza Design and Operations

The second off-island alternative would incorporate the relocated and improved weigh station as an integral part of the Sanibel Bridge and Causeway toll plaza. A toll lane and booth would be modified to include a new scale and the approach signage leading to the weigh station lane and attended booth would be located and designed as part of a unified sign program to be accomplished jointly with Lee County.

Lee County DOT has indicated that this alternative is not feasible due to the current toll plaza design and the status of construction.

Alternative C: Improve the Weigh Station at its Present Location on the Causeway Island

Vanasse Daylor and City staff previously prepared conceptual plans (See September 2006 Report) that would improve the weigh station in conjunction with the approved engineering plans for the Sanibel Bridge and Causeway project. The conceptual plans demonstrated that the architectural, landscape and operational improvements to the weigh station would be complementary to an overall master plan for public park and recreational improvements on the causeway island, including the installation of an additional public restroom on the west side of the island.

Lee County has indicated that the weigh station will not be compatible and is no longer necessary for Bridge and Causeway operations and therefore must be relocated by August.

**Alternative D: Relocation of Weigh Station West of Causeway
Boulevard Right-of Way and North of Chamber of
Commerce**

This alternative would enable the weigh station to be designed and constructed in conjunction with the completion of Span C of the Sanibel Bridge and Causeway project and the associated shared use path, landscaping, drainage and storm water retention features.

However, this preliminary alternative would require construction to occur within the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Conservation District and, based on Sec. 3.10.1 of the City Charter, would require an "affirmative vote of a majority of the electors at a referendum called for that purpose."

**Alternative E: Relocation of Weigh Station within the Western
Right-of-Way of Causeway Boulevard and North
of the Chamber of Commerce**

The Concept 01 plan alternative (see accompanying plan) would relocate the weigh station within the western edge of the Causeway Boulevard right-of way beginning at the former entrance to the Bay Beach parking lot, now improved as a required storm water retention facility, and extending along the current Shared Use Path to a point north of the drive leading the existing real estate office. The existing segment of the Shared Use Path would be located to the west within the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Conservation District and would be designed in a more curvilinear fashion that would be more attractive to cyclists.

A new weigh station building, with an interior rest room, would be designed to be residential in appearance and with lighting, utilities and signage installed in a manner that would be sensitive to the nearby residential properties and environmentally sensitive lands. The new weigh station building and scale would be sited at a location that would provide the greatest physical separation and screening from the residential properties to the east of Causeway Boulevard. An extensive linear landscape plan consisting of mature native trees and vegetation would be installed between Causeway Boulevard's shoulder and the new access road extending to and from the weigh station. The landscaping would be designed to improve the visual appearance of the gateway to Sanibel.

The entrance point and new lane leading to the weigh station have been located to address traffic safety, vehicular sighting, deceleration and stacking of trucks entering

the weigh station. The exit point, which will include a stop sign at the intersection with Causeway Boulevard, has been positioned and designed to also address adequate traffic, pedestrian and bicycle safety. Further design efforts will address the feasibility of providing left turns to serve east bound truck movements that may infrequently occur at the weigh station.

The key issues associated with this alternative are as follows:

- Impact on the visual appearance of the gateway to Sanibel.
- Location and design of directional signage, both on and off-island, leading to the weigh station.
- Compatibility of the proposed weigh station design and operations with adjoining residential land uses.
- Final design and operational characteristics of the entrance and exit lanes to and from the weigh station.
- Design of the exit lane at Causeway Boulevard to facilitate left turns for trucks traveling off island.

Alternative F: Relocation of the Weigh Station within the Western Right of Way of Causeway Boulevard Between the Periwinkle Way Intersection and Chamber of Commerce

The Concept 03 plan is similar in design to Concept 01. The plan is primarily located along the western edge of the Causeway Boulevard right of way. This concept does not require the relocation of the existing shared use path since the existing path is located on the east side of Causeway Boulevard.

There are a number of critical issues that impact the feasibility of this alternative.

- The proposed entrance and exit lanes to and from the weigh station projects into the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Conservation District.
- The point where the weigh station exit lane intersects Causeway Boulevard conflicts with the current design and function of the west bound turning lane to Periwinkle Way.
- The point where the weigh station access lane intersects Causeway Boulevard requires the redesign of the entire Chamber of Commerce entrance and exit drive.
- Truck traffic exiting the weigh station can not turn left on Causeway Boulevard to leave the island without traveling west bound on Periwinkle Way.

Sanibel Weigh Station
Preliminary Report
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- Impact on the visual appearance of the gateway to Sanibel.
- Location and design of directional signage, both on and off-island, leading to the weigh station.
- Potential impact of this design on long term improvements to the Periwinkle Way intersection and Shared Use Path Master Plan.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the above report.

C: City Council
William Tomlinson, Chief of Police
Gates Castle, Public Works Director/City Engineer
Robert K. Loflin, Ph.d., Natural Resources Director
Vanasse Daylor