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MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 01, 2006

TO: City Council members

FROM: Judie Zimomra, City Manager

SUBJECT: An Alternate to the Current Shared Use Path Proposal

Vice Mayor Denham requested that you receive this proposal before City Council's meeting tomorrow, Tuesday, May 02, 2006.

JAZ/ps

An Alternative to the Current Shared Path Route Proposal

I would like to propose that Council requests the City staff consider the feasibility of an alternative Shared Use Path route to alleviate the biker and pedestrian safety issues on Periwinkle Way. The alternative route is one that moves the path 8ft or so away from the road, away from the traffic toward the commercial property, enough distance to provide a vegetation buffer to protect the path users from traffic.

The current proposal has a path route which begins just east of the Sanibel Steak House, runs adjacent to the Sanibel river and emerges on Casa Ybel Road. I have a number of concerns with this recommended route; *most importantly* it does not solve the Periwinkle Way bike/pedestrian safety issue, which is high on everyone's agenda. This proposed route leaves the current path in place allowing continued use by both bikers and pedestrians; we therefore will likely continue to have a safety issue. To help the discussion I have attempted to put the pros and cons for each route.

Sanibel River Route	Periwinkle Set Back Route
Safety concerns of separating bikers and pedestrians is only partially solved, the existing path will continue to be used along Periwinkle, it will reduce the bike traffic but it may still remain a popular route for visitors and tourists	Safer. This proposal recognizes that people will want to continue to ride along Periwinkle, so improved safety comes through moving the path away from the traffic. This suggestion may also allow that some of the entry to premises may be eliminated through combining entry ways from the road with adjacent premises, adding to improved safety
Encroaches on sensitive wet lands, brings traffic and people closer to the ecologically important Sanibel River, and possible encounters with gators and other wildlife	No obvious increased environmental impact
Eminent domain, will likely have to be exercised to purchase large tracks of private land to accommodate path route, with no obvious benefits to the property owners	This route will also require encroaching on private property, but less. It is possible however, that working closely with commercial property owners and presenting this as part of our redevelopment effort, bringing customer traffic closer to their premises, possibly improving the presentation of their business in collaboration with Periwinkle beautification and allowing a more relaxed outside dining as part of the plan. This minimal incursion into their property rights may be more palatable, or dare I say attractive to them. To accommodate lost parking, the city might consider providing assistance to expand parking at the rear of their premises
Plenty of space, more attractive, more scenic	Space more limited, but there appears to be sufficient to accommodate this proposal combined with Periwinkle restoration and the Redevelopment initiative. It could be made very attractive
Costs unknown both options are expensive	Costs unknown both options are expensive
	This philosophy may be able to be extended further east on Periwinkle where other dangerous path spots exist