

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

At 9:15 a.m. or as soon thereafter as possible

Do your comments refer to an item  
on today's agenda  not on today's agenda

The Board of County Commissioners welcomes your comments. Your presentation will be limited to two (2) minutes. If appropriate, the matter(s) you present will be placed on a future commission agenda.

It is requested that you complete this form and return it to the receptionist prior to the beginning of the Citizens' Comments portion of the agenda.

Name: DONALD BEAVIS  
Address: 11900 COETER ROAD COETER / FL 34215  
Phone: (Home) 941-792-4385 (Work) \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of problem or concern:

RESTRIAN SAFETY ~~and~~ CROSSING COETER ROAD

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Name: Charles Tasket  
Address: 1900 Carter Rd Carter 34215  
Phone:(Home) 761 8773 (Work) \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of problem or concern:

Widening of Carter Road in Carter

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Name: Richard CURREATH  
Address: 4919 1235T W CORTEZ  
Phone: (Home) 794-6647 (Work) \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of problem or concern:

CORTEZ Aids MDERMS PROJECT

3/9/01

FOOT

**From:** Barbara Tyler  
**To:** l:"Jericulb@aol.com"  
**Subject:** Commissioners Meeting, 3/13/01

Dear Mr. Culbreath:

Read your e-mail and agree with you on safety issues and maintaining the identity for Cortez.

I would hope we can work together to address these issues. I believe not a continuous turn lane but one that creates raised pedestrian walk ways with a pedestrian caution light for cars to stop will help. In any case, I do not want to diminish the great heritage of Cortez at all. We both seem to agree something needs to be done to provide for the safety of pedestrians and preserving Cortez. Now we must figure out what is the best plan. Your comments are welcome and the BCC allows 2 minutes under Citizens Comments.

Thank you for your input and look forward to seeing you Tuesday.

Sincerely,  
Joe McClash  
Chairman



RECEIVED

MAR 7 2001

*jm*

FDOT

Board of County Commissioners  
Manatee County

From: <Jericulb@aol.com>  
To: <joe.mcclash@co.manatee.fl.us>  
Date: Wednesday, March 07, 2001 1:21PM  
Subject: Commissioners Meeting, Tuesday 13 March 2001

Commissioner McClash: I intend to be at the commission meeting to speak about the items of concern outlined in the letter to FDOT in Bartow(Mr. David Twiddy), below. I have other concerns as well. Other Cortezians, equally concerned about this project and it's impact on Cortez Village are due to appear also. We are hopeful that we can be heard during the public comments portion of the meeting.

Thank you,

Richard Culbreath

Richard E. Culbreath  
4419 123St W, P.O. Box 75  
Cortez, FL 34215

Thursday 12 Oct. 2000

Mr David Twiddy, Secretary  
Florida Department of Transportation  
District One Headquarters  
P.O. Box 1249  
Bartow, FL 33831-1249

Mr. Twiddy:

I am a native of Cortez. The home in which I was born, 66 years ago, now on the National Historic Registry, is in jeopardy. Twice, it has been set back from the Cortez Road due to a widening project. There remains very little parking space there and the house cannot be moved further from the road.

A project is proposed to again widen the Cortez Road from 119th Street W to the Cortez Bridge to provide some sort of left-turn lane. On the surface, a left-turn lane seems a nicety. However, this nicety, for all its intent and purpose is a nightmare in the making.

It will not be a convenience for people making left turns, but simply a device to move traffic more rapidly through this area. This idea seems to stem from the fact that some drivers now pass on the right, running off the pavement and on to the non-paved shoulder, rather than be held up for a few seconds. THIS IS A MOVING TRAFFIC VIOLATION according to my last reading of the Florida State Drivers Handbook and the traffic safety officer who attended one of the recent citizens meetings in Cortez.

*E mail  
with you read your email and agree  
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I would like we can work together  
to address these issues. I believe  
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pedestrian walks ways with  
cars to stop well  
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great diminish at all the  
we look seem to agree  
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done - to provide for  
safety of pedestrians and  
we preserve Cortez. We  
what is the best plan  
your comments are welcome  
and the BCC allow  
2 min under  
Citizens Comm  
De*

Contrary to the comment of our outgoing County Commissioner who represented this area, there is a lot of pedestrian traffic in this area. People of all ages cross the road for a variety of reasons. Our only grocery/convenience store is located on the north side and the Post Office and other businesses on the south. All ages live, work, and socialize here. Walkers, joggers, bicyclists, and skateboarders are abundant.

One of our at-large County Commissioners stated that if something isn't done, someone is going to get hurt. His opting to widen the road would accommodate drivers who are now breaking the law by passing on the right-hand road shoulder. People have been hurt and people have been killed on that stretch of road due to careless driving and speeding. Widening the road for a turn lane will encourage the speed and reckless driving. Please, do not appease them.

Traffic calming is a far better solution and the least costly. Caution lights similar to those at St. Armands Circle in Sarasota, and/or SR70 at Myakka City, with strobe for visibility; signs that mark the area as residential with pedestrian traffic; and, more speed-limit signs. I have seen a police car with a dummy in it. Something of that nature will have an effect. I recommend trying that tactic and interchanging with a real officer on occasion, with a radar gun.

It is far more difficult to make a left turn on to the Cortez Road. For this reason, many of us want the light at 119th Street West to be re-done and synchronized so that traffic from the non-aligned North and South sides can safely (and legally) turn onto Cortez Road. The present markings at that light render it illegal to make a turn into or out of the Village there. I question whether that is a legal marking. It promotes a hazardous condition.

Some of us feel that another light is necessary at 124th Street West. This will facilitate traffic going to/from the Coast Guard Exchange, and because it is the safest and driest of the outlets from the village.

Widening that stretch of road will only move traffic closer to the doorsteps of the existing residences and businesses. This would be a catastrophe.

While home on vacation from the military, I was awakened one night when a speeding driver lost control, rolled, and landed into a trailer across the street from my birthplace.

On another occasion, a speeding car, estimated to be doing over 100 MPH by road workers on night shift, lost control, went into a ditch, hit a culvert and flipped, taking out a light pole, and landed in a neighbour's yard, killing both passengers. Please don't encourage speed just to promote a left-turn.

Still another speed-careless driving-(and I believe alcohol related) accident. The yard at my birthplace is now small because of the previous setbacks for road widening. A driver lost control and ran through the yard, barely missing a Sable Palm and other small trees. His speeding car dug ruts through the yard as he continued on into the adjacent yard and plowed into an historic home. The car knocked the home off its foundation, and the stairs were destroyed. That building is now gone--lost because of a careless, speeding driver. There was some luck involved. Luck that no one was in the building to get hurt, and yes, luck that he was aimed in that direction instead of into the porch at my birthplace.

The Cortez Road was originally built so that the Commercial Fishermen could get their fish to market by truck. We still have trucks entering and exiting the village. Some are very large, and a barrier will only impede them.

The island barriers in the area are unkempt, unsightly, poorly maintained and just don't work. Quite often, they are torn out to accommodate a new entrance/exit. This is a waste of money.

Where there is heavy traffic, drivers don't hesitate to drive up on or over barriers. This is readily evident where 43rd Street and Cortez Road intersect. It is a common practice. I've seen a police car drive up on one, just to make a routine turn. No sirens or lights.

Just a routine turn.

The two-lane situation isn't going away without spending a tremendous amount of money. There must be traffic merger somewhere. The bridge? The island? Or, Cortez, where it is now? Why not keep the merge where it is and install caution and traffic lights; traffic calming devices; and have better law enforcement of existing traffic laws.

I've heard and read the phrase "Cortez Village is worth saving", many times. Of course it is. Our heritage and history are vital to us and are a part of Florida's history. However, a great number of people traveling Cortez Road don't even know we exist. Their purpose and destination are elsewhere.

The road was not intended as a corridor, yet a corridor is being planned from east to west (or vice versa) via SR70. Unless and until an alternate route is designed and planned to Longboat Key via SR70/53rd Ave across Long Bar to Longboat Key, traffic will continue from 53rd to Cortez Road via 75th Street, thence through this residential area. More traffic will cause more problems.

Last year, more than 25,000 cars tried to jam onto the islands to watch firework displays on the night of July 3rd. On weekends and holidays, traffic is often backed up several miles, especially during tourist season. These traffic backups/delays are not caused by the two-lanes at Cortez, nor the bastle bridge opening for boat traffic. They are caused by too many cars trying to crowd onto barrier islands with not enough space to accommodate them. Widening the Cortez Road will just add to the problem because more cars lined bumper-to-bumper will further impede making a left-turn of any sort.

These are most of my concerns about the widening of the Cortez Road. I'm sure others have concerns equally important to them. I'd be glad to reiterate these and hear others at a DOT meeting with the residents of the Cortez, Bradenton Beach area.

I know that it sounds contradictory to say we have traffic congestion and speeding, but they do exist--to the extreme--and the results are often tragic. My concerns are for safety first, and I don't feel that widening the road to create a left-turn lane or lanes is the answer. I also fear for children playing in yards in that area if traffic is



moved so  
dangerously close.

My 89year-old mother could talk volumes about many, many other accidents she has witnessed. She sees traffic violators daily, mostly speeders, but a lot of recklessness.

Judging by the antics of some drivers, I have no doubt that they are impaired by drugs, alcohol, or both. It's scary.

My mother still lives in the old home and I am in fear now that another car could plow into her living room or the porch she has enjoyed over the years--the one that careless, drunken, speeding driver just missed. Please don't widen that road and move traffic any closer.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues.

Sincerely

Richard E. Culbreath  
4419 123rd St. W, P.O. Box 75  
Cortez, FL 34215

Richard E. Culbreath  
4419 123rd St W, P.O. Box 75  
Cortez, FL 34215

Thursday 12 Oct. 2000

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Florida Department of Transportation  
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P.O. Box 1249  
Bartow, FL 33831-1249

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1 3/7 Dent

**From:** Barbara Tyler  
**To:** "Jericulb@aol.com".GWIA.MCGW41  
**Subject:** Re: Commissioners Meeting, Tuesday 13 March 2001

Thank you for your e-mail. I will see that Commissioner McClash receives it.