

## Hoffner Avenue

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Wed 1/4/2023 12:09 PM

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Mayor and Council: After the discussion at the meeting last night about Hoffner Avenue and the traffic problems, I do not think that the City can do anything without the cooperation of Orange County simply because Orange County controls the roadway between the white lines. Resolving the traffic issues on Hoffner needs to be a combination of enforcement and physical improvements to the roadway. BIPD already knows what needs to be done with enforcement so for now, I will only focus on what needs to be done for the physical changes necessary to calm traffic.

There are three phases that I believe are necessary to address the issue:

1. **Planning:** The City cannot do this planning in a vacuum and it is ineffective to plan by email. In order to effectively solve the issues, we need to have all parties at the table. I am suggesting that there be a joint workshop convened by the end of January with the City Council and City Staff, and Commissioner Uribe, Orange County Public Works Director and Orange County Traffic & Engineering staff. The responsibility for coordinating the meeting should start with Mayor Fouraker contacting Commissioner Uribe and imploring her to agree to hold this joint meeting and for her to direct her staff to clear their calendars to schedule this meeting. If she cannot direct the staff as a single Commissioner, Commissioner Uribe needs to express to the BCC the importance of this joint workshop. Her staff can then work with the City staff to schedule this meeting by the end of January.

Providing her with photos of the most recent accident and information on traffic stops provided by BIPD should be enough to convince her that this issue is of extreme importance and immediacy. If support is needed to bring her to the table, then all elected officials should contact Commissioner Uribe and express the immediacy and importance of the meeting. The proposed agenda would have topics of short-term improvements; long term improvements; agency responsibilities; funding; and timelines.

2. **Short-term improvements:** There are a few short-term improvements that can be done within the next month for effective traffic calming. One proposal is for Orange County to install Jersey barriers at trouble spots on Hoffner, or allow the City to install them. These could be replaced with a raised median a later time (long-term improvement). Jersey barriers would significantly reduce or eliminate illegal passing and provide a measure of protection from crashes or an out-of-control car crossing the double yellow line as we saw in the most recent accident. They may also provide some measure of slowing traffic down. Jersey barriers can be moved to trouble spots fairly quickly. Yes, there will be complaints about the "ugliness" of the barriers, but it is short term and we are choosing safety over aesthetics. We can also install removable "rumble strips" at areas where traffic needs to slow down, such as the curves. A rumble strip is a great way to alert drivers to dangers ahead. They create a visual, audible, and physical alert to drivers in traffic areas where caution is critical. The strips alert the driver both by causing a tactile vibration and the audible rumbling.

3. **Long-Term (permanent) improvements:** MetroPlan Orlando provided separate concept drawings for the east side of Hoffner and the west side of Hoffner. They also developed a memorandum to support their concepts. We need to move forward with these concepts and impress upon Orange County that they have been vetted by the MetroPlan Orlando staff. Orange County might request (or require) that a traffic study be done for these improvements. Traffic studies, although important, will not reveal anything that we don't already know through our work done by MetroPlan Orlando or our Transportation Plan. A study will delay moving these improvements forward and might be a waste of resources (time, money and personnel) in this instance. Orange County already has statistics and data on Hoffner that can be used in place of a traffic study. Once these concepts are approved, we can move forward with construction documents and bids by the end of the budget year. I think we also need to request funding from the state and federal government to assist in funding these plans. Having both governments move these projects forward, we will stand a better chance at receiving state and/or federal assistance.

Again, the first step is to get Commissioner Uribe on-board. I will speak with Mayor Fouraker about how he wants to approach this. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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