

# GRIFFEY ENGINEERING, INC.

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January 8, 2024

Sean O'Keefe, Town Manager  
Town of Howey-in-the-Hills  
101 N. Palm Avenue  
Howey-in-the-Hills, FL 34737

RE: Hillside Groves SR 19 Access Connection

Dear Sean:

This letter is a follow up to our meeting with the Florida Department of Transportation on January 3, 2024. We, along with Morgan Cates and Tom Harowski, met with several of the FDOT staff responsible for the planning, design and permitting of road improvements and access connections. The purpose of the meeting was to review the access configuration for the Hillside Groves development, and to discuss the other projects and improvements along SR 19 through the town.

Regarding Hillside Groves, they told us that the proposed three lane connection (one inbound and two outbound lanes) complies with the FDOT Design Manual. A four lane road (two inbound and two outbound lanes) with a median does not comply with their standards, and that the projected traffic volumes do not necessitate four lanes. The width restriction is primarily due to safety concerns, particularly for cyclists and pedestrians. This is a reasonable concern since the project is being designed to promote bicycle and pedestrian usage. The FDOT staff said that they were not inclined to waive the width standards because they saw this connection application as the first phase of the development. When the commercial portion of the project comes forward, the access connection will be reevaluated and repermited by FDOT. If the existing and proposed traffic volumes at that time warrant the additional inbound lane, they would approve it.

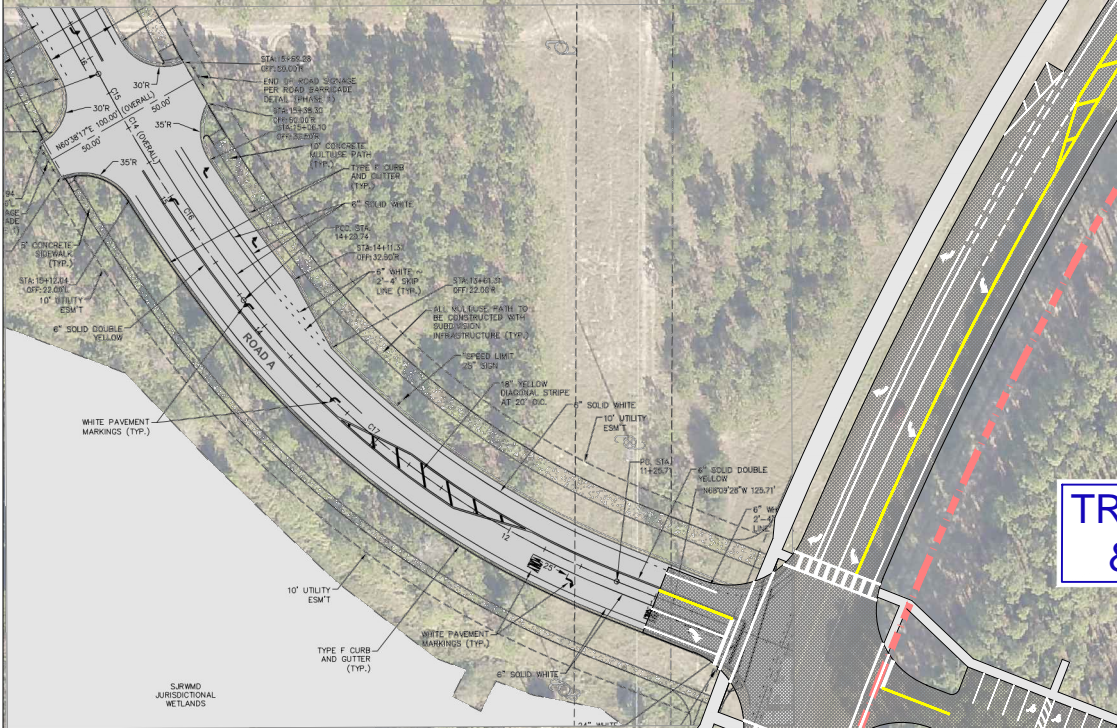
During the meeting they stated that their preferred configuration for this connection would be a roundabout. I have since reviewed the location and have determined that a roundabout could be constructed there. I have attached two exhibits for this connection. One shows the standard connection with turn lanes (as depicted in the construction plans), the other is a roundabout intersection. My opinion is that the roundabout is the best option for this access connection. The advantages of the roundabout include: It will slow down the traffic coming into town and FDOT said that we could reduce the speed limit on SR 19 from the roundabout to Florida Ave.; It will reduce the number and severity of potential crashes at the new intersection; It will improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists; It will provide a safe connection between the Pine Park trailhead and the Central Lake Trail; It will function as a gateway feature; And it will eliminate the need for a future traffic signal thus eliminating a perpetual cost to the town for operation and maintenance.

Sincerely,



Donald A. Griffey, P.E.

# HILLSIDE GROVES SR 19 ACCESS CONNECTION STANDARD 55 MPH CONNECTION w/ TURN LANES



TRAILHEAD & PARK

CENTRAL LAKE TRAIL (12')

SR 19

