



10/23/2023

To: Mike Woods, Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)  
Date: October 23, 2023  
Subject: Request for Funding - Area Study for the Town of Howey-in-the-Hills

Dear Mr. Woods,

I am writing on behalf of the Town of Howey-in-the-Hills to formally request implementation of Complete Streets elements in the currently proposed resurfacing projects (#452642-1) as well as budget allocation for a comprehensive area study to explore the feasibility and need for alternative traffic routing in our municipality.

In reference to the Lake-Sumter MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) 2045, it is evident that there are significant roadway needs projects to the northeast, northwest, and south leading to and from Howey-in-the-Hills. These routes are highlighted as critical infrastructure components. With the current and projected growth patterns in and around Lake County, it is both inevitable and imperative that we address the pressing challenges posed by the increasing traffic volume, especially from heavy trucks.

Our primary concerns are as follows:

1. **Pedestrian Safety:** The escalating vehicular traffic effectively divides our town in half, making crossing Highway 19 increasingly unsafe, if not perilous. This is of particular concern for our youth and elderly populations, who are at a higher risk in such traffic conditions.
2. **Cut-through Traffic:** Currently, Howey-in-the-Hills is experiencing an influx of cut-through traffic, especially from the Tavares area. This traffic aims to access the turnpike and south Lake County, further exacerbating the congestion and safety challenges within our Town.

Given the aforementioned reasons, we believe that a detailed area study is essential in identifying potential solutions and ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents. We respectfully request that the Lake-

***Town of Howey-in-the-Hills***

Sumter MPO allocate the necessary funds to conduct this study, providing the foundation for informed decisions and future infrastructure improvements.

We genuinely appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your positive response. Please feel free to contact us for any additional information or clarifications.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sean O'Keefe

Town Manager

CC: C. Jack Adkins, District Five Director of Transportation Development (FDOT)

***Town of Howey-in-the-Hills***

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