



Town of Miami Lakes Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor & Councilmembers

From: Edward Pidermann, Town Manager

Subject: Palmetto Expressway Express Lanes

Date: January 21, 2020

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Town Council approve the enclosed resolution to work with FDOT to mitigate the negative affects of the Palmetto Express Lanes and Support Florida HB 829 (2020) aimed at removing the Palmetto Express Lanes.

Background:

During the September 2019 Town Council meeting, Councilman Collazo presented a new business item aimed at engaging Florida Department of Transportation ("FDOT") in conversations regarding the location and operation of Florida State Road 826 (the "Palmetto Expressway") express lanes entrances and exits. The item passed with direction to the Manager to open conversations with FDOT in order to express Town concerns, to seek mitigation of the traffic impact as a consequence of the express lanes. During the December 2019 Town Council meeting the Town Council meeting, Vice-Mayor Rodriguez presented a new business item aimed at supporting Florida House of Representative Bill 829, sponsored by Representative Avila, for the purpose of removing the existing express lanes.

During the aforementioned Town Council meetings, the Town Council deliberated and found that the new express lane entrances at N.W. 67th Avenue have created adverse traffic conditions. These adverse conditions have been exacerbated by the inability to complete necessary traffic infrastructure improvements along the Town's Arterial and Collector roads. Additionally, the Town Council voiced their concern that imposing a fee to ride exclusive express lanes, on existing Palmetto Expressway lanes, was a double taxation to residents whose tax dollars had been allocated towards the construction and maintenance of the Palmetto Expressway.

Accordingly, the attached resolution memorializes the Town Council's direction to Manager and the Town Council's support of Florida's House of Representative Bill 829, for the purpose of mitigating or removing the existing express lanes on the Palmetto Expressway.

Attachments:

Resolution