

**Bryan's Brief**  
**June 2016**

It's that time of year again and I hope all are enjoying this great Tallahassee weather! We've been busy this Spring with budget issues and many other concerns as I've outlined below.

**Zika Mosquito Update**

As we head into mosquito season with the added risk and public concern of Zika, I just wanted to provide you a brief update on our on-going efforts in preparation for a possible Zika case, as well as, mitigating the potential for such an incident occurring.

Since early February, our County team has been meeting and coordinating with the Florida Department of Health in Leon County on a Zika virus action plan. The County's plan involves three tiers of response: pre-incident, single case, and clustered area. Across all levels, the "drain and cover" message remains the most effective mosquito breeding prevent method. As we've heard time and time again, it takes just one bottle cap with a few drops of water to become a breeding ground for mosquitos that spread blood-borne illnesses. Be sure to check your property for any containers that may hold water, drain and either remove or cover them.

In addition to developing a tiered Zika virus action plan, our County team has been closely monitoring the spread of Zika in the state of Florida. In Leon County, there has not been a reported case of Zika. But as of May 16, Florida has seen 112 travel-related Zika virus cases. At the time of this article, no Zika virus has been locally transmitted within Florida. Call 606-1400 if you have any questions regarding mosquito control.

**Human Trafficking** – I learned that human trafficking is becoming a major problem here in Leon County and across the State and I proposed an ordinance that was passed May 10 related to human trafficking. You may view it at <http://cms.leoncountyfl.gov/coadmin/agenda/past.asp>, click on the May 10 agenda and scroll down to the public hearing item #13. The proposed Ordinance will require employers of strip clubs or other adult entertainment establishments or a business that offers massage or bodywork that is not owned by a healthcare profession regulated pursuant to Chapter 456, Florida Statutes, to post a public awareness sign. The sign will state the following in English, Spanish and Creole: "If you or someone you know is being forced to engage in an activity and cannot leave -- whether it is prostitution, housework, farm work, factory work, retail work, restaurant work, or any other activity -- call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-373-7888 or text INFO or HELP to 233-733 to access help and services. I've been advised that in the County area, it's primarily labor trafficking but it's something that just can't be tolerated and I hope that all of us will be more aware of this situation. Our County Administrator Vince Long has hired a trainer to teach our employees in the field what to look for and how to report it.

**Mobility Fee** - I regret there's been so much confusion and misinformation regarding the Commission's discussion of a mobility fee. The "mobility fee study" we are proposing has never had any ties to putting a GPS in people's cars – that's a completely separate discussion on the national level about alternatives to a gas tax as electric cars become more popular. They are looking at ways to fund ongoing transportation.

From our perspective, this issue is in regard to how concurrency or impact fees are assessed for new development in Leon County. For example, a new development goes in on a roadway. Everyone knows the increased traffic to and from this development may impact the need to widen the road, add turn lanes or signals, etc. The new developer is required to pay whatever it may take to address the needed impacts. We do not believe you or other tax payers should have to pay those costs.

But suppose the new development did not bring enough traffic to require needed changes at the time it opened. We know that it added traffic, but not enough to change traffic needs, however, the next new development could increase transportation needs. Under our current process, the next developer would be required to pay all the costs for the engineering, design and installation of the transportation needs to accommodate the increased traffic even though previous developments in the area would have also impacted traffic. That's not an equitable process. There should be a way that we can estimate those costs as each development goes in so that all new projects that impact transportation pay their fair share. The study is to see what's being done by other local governments and the cost of that study will be shared between the City and the County with our maximum exposure at \$162,000. Several Florida communities have engaged in developing Mobility Fee structures which require a significant fee study be conducted to ensure that it is both financially and legally viable - the reason for the fee. This has not been approved. The Commission directed that this item be added to the proposed budget for further discussion and consideration. There will also be public hearings on the budget where you or others can publicly comment on issues of this type.

**CRTPA Votes Against FDOT Proposed Killlearn Corridor** Recently FDOT met with the Killlearn Homeowners Association to present the five proposed projects to address the increasing traffic on Thomasville Rd at I10. I was present at that meeting and sent the following in an email to KHOA Board President John Paul Bailey a few days later:

"Let me see if I can set your mind at ease for now. Keep in mind, FDOT is only offering "suggested solutions" at this time and no decision has been made. This will be a long public process. Please understand that right now the four laning of the Killlearn Corridor Proposal is just one of *five studies* proposed by FDOT to alleviate some of the increasing I-10/Thomasville Rd. traffic issues. These are alternatives suggested in lieu of the monster fly-over that FDOT had previously suggested. They will also be presenting it to the Capitol Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA) for their consideration May 16 at 1:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers. You may view the agenda item at <http://crtpa.org/files/115021253.pdf> agenda item 4 C. Look it over and let me know what you think. I welcome all the help I can get on this one.

This project will most likely be approved by a combination of the CRTPA members, the City and County Commissions, FDOT and Blueprint and I look forward to creative solutions as we work with the State and our regional partners in addressing the significant traffic issues at I-10 and Thomasville Road. However, as a County Commissioner, I realize that what makes our community a special place to live, work and raise a family are our incredible neighborhoods. Specifically, I am opposed to FDOT's Build Alternative 5 "Killlearn Estates Corridor" which reflects a four-lane alternative of internal roads within the Killlearn Estates neighborhood. As such, I will continue to strongly oppose any transportation improvements that will negatively impact the character of our well established Killlearn Estates neighborhood."

As all of you may know by now, the CRTPA voted down the Killlearn option and the four other alternatives will be presented at the next CRTPA meeting. They include options for increasing Thomasville Road to eight lanes and building a network of streets within the planned Welaunee development. Deciding on how to proceed will involve conversations with the city of Tallahassee, Leon County and the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency because the Welaunee roads are listed among sales tax projects.

A change has been made to the number of County Commissioners participating on the CRTPA. At the April 26 County Commission meeting the number of County Commissioners was reduced from seven to three: Maddox, Dailey & Dozier with the assurance the other four commissioners will continue to be updated on transportation issues. I've been a member of the CRTPA, and at one point chaired the committee. This by no means is an indication that the four other commissioners will not be involved and informed on CRTPA agendas. You may read the entire agenda item regarding the reduction in members at <http://cms.leoncountyfl.gov/coadmin/agenda/past.asp>; click on the April 26 agenda and scroll down to agenda item 8.

**Review of County Boat Landings** County Administrator Vince Long directed staff to inspect all twenty-five (25) County boat landings to identify additional measures that may be taken to complement safety precautions in these areas. County engineers analyzed each site and found that all 25 boat landings fully satisfy State and County traffic control requirements. Staff has identified several enhancements that exceed existing requirements, standardize the safety features for most of the identified County facilities, and may be fully implemented by the end of the 2016 calendar year. They are as follow:

- 1) To create a demarcation where a roadway ends and a boat landing/campground facility begins, it is recommended a STOP sign be placed with pavement stop bar at all applicable facilities. This will bring to the attention of the driver they are entering an area of congestion and activity with potential pedestrian and vehicular interactions. At these locations, where feasible, an entrance improvement would be constructed with fencing and landscaping within the right of way on each side of the roadway.
- 2) Placement of STOP AHEAD sign to support the STOP sign.
- 3) Placement of a shoulder mounted INFORMATIONAL sign with the name of the boat landing/campground. The location of this sign would have a supplemental plate with a distance to the facility. This distance would vary from 1,500 to 2,500 feet dependent on the length of the roadway.
- 4) Placement of a shoulder mounted DEAD END sign 100 to 150 feet from the turnoff movement onto the roadway leading to the boat landing/campground facility.
- 5) Placement of standard spaced thermoplastic chevron or rumble strip on the pavement approaching the STOP sign at the entrance, consistent with what is currently installed at Bull Headley.

It is projected the sign and pavement marking improvements could be completed in the next two weeks for those landings warranting the improvements, utilizing existing resources within Operations' FY16 budget. Parks and Recreation staff can begin the fencing improvements with existing resources, and phase in the remainder in the proposed FY17 budget. It is anticipated that all improvements could be completed by the end of the 2016 calendar year.

### **Mulch**

For all you gardeners out there, are you aware mulch (made from your yard waste) is available free of charge at the Apalachee Solid Waste Management Facility, 7550 Apalachee Parkway. Bring your shovel and your bags and load up Monday to Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You should expect to load your own vehicle or bags by hand. When available, staff will load pick-up trucks using a front-end loader. Sometimes the loader is busy and not available. Please call 606-1800 to ensure there is an adequate supply of mulch.

## **District IV Projects**

**Thomasville/Proctor Rd Recreation Park Property** – Thought you might like an update on this. As many of you already know, the County bought 100 acres on the corner of Proctor and Thomasville just north of Chiles High. There's money for this project (\$8-10M) that was allocated in the next round of Blueprint tax dollars that will start in 2019. During the April budget hearings, I asked that funds be included in the FY16/17 Budget to begin the process of developing trails in the park property for light passive uses. It's my understanding that staff will ask for citizen input on how we should develop this property. It's still a long time coming, but hopefully we'll make some progress this next fiscal year!

**The Bannerman Road Widening** (Thomasville Rd to 900 feet west of Quail Commons) – The delays we experienced in this traffic project have been addressed. We've shifted the traffic to the south and are presently building the north lanes. These will be the west bound traffic lanes and it's anticipated we will complete the road work by October, weather permitting. Also included will be a 10 foot wide multi-purpose trail located on the northside of the road and will connect to the sidewalk from the Beechridge Tr

extension to approximately 400 feet west of Quail Commons. I'm looking forward to being one of those cycling in that area.

**Sight Distance Issue at Miles Johnson and Miccosukee Intersection** – We're still waiting on the City and the Canopy Roads Committee to resolve their issues. Stand by, I know this has been ongoing for over a year, but it will get resolved at some point

**Timberlane Rd Sidewalk** –The permit to add a sidewalk from Deerlane to Meridian should be under construction starting in June instead of May as we're working on some utility conflicts. We'll coordinate with the City on the pedestrian crossing at Meridian.

**Killearn Acres** – FEMA has asked for additional information and once they review that information, we expect a letter of approval of the map revisions - hopefully within the next two months. Once we receive formal approval, we'll be holding public hearings and meeting with those property owners who are directly impacted. I know I've shared all of this before, but just in case there are some who have not seen it or don't remember - some properties are currently listed as located in the flood zone that should not be, some are not that should be and some we're just correcting the flood elevation. This will allow the insurance companies to better evaluate rates, especially those who are incorrectly included in the flood zone. Once we get their approval, we'll begin to work on addressing localized flooding along Whirlaway, Apollo Tr and Kauai King. A drainage project has already been funded and when we get their response, we'll be in touch with affected property owners. Yes the wheels of government grind slowly especially on the Federal level.

**Orchard Pond Toll Road** – Much thanks to those of you who have made us aware of problems with signage and lighting on the western end of the roadway. Our Public Works staff are working to improve the signage issue and we're working on the possibility of adding street lights. Thanks for being our eyes out there!!! Good news too is that the old Orchard Pond Rd will be developed into a multi-purpose trail. What a great place to walk, run or cycle!

**Killearn Lakes Sidewalk Installation** – The survey of the property is complete, but we've not yet received the conceptual drawings. Once we receive and approve the drawings, a meeting will be scheduled with the Home Owners Association to go over the plans. You may recall that the design is for the installation of a sidewalk on Chadwick from Bull Headly to Deer Lake and from Deer Lake to Journey's End. They'll also connect the sidewalk to the small stretch on Pheasant Run where there is no sidewalk. We are also looking at doing a section of sidewalk on Beechridge Tr. Between Kinhega and connecting to the sidewalk on Lawton Chiles. This is being done under the Safe Routes To School Initiative and is being funded by the local option Gas Tax and Blueprint 2000 allocations.

**Killearn Lakes Unit 2 and Unit 3 - Stormwater Project Improvements** – The actual construction work is complete in these two units, and only a few items are left on the punch list. We're still working on improvements and those are primarily landscaping.

**Killearn Lakes Unit 1** – is under construction with an three to four month completion date if there are no adverse weather conditions to delay construction. The problem we're encountering is that this is a designated wetland area protected by State Environmental Regulations and we're challenged in doing any type construction or restoration in that area. The work is moving very slowly.

**Roadway Restoration** – The culverts under Kinhega need to be replaced and we have completed the permitting process and should be bidding the project by the end of the summer. We should be moving forward with the installation with those culverts beginning April. We've run into some construction/design issues with the replacement of these culverts and you can expect some delays. When the work begins, expect some lane closures. As previously indicated, we will repave Kinhega when the culvert project is complete.

You are receiving this because I have your name or neighborhood association on my mailing list. Many of your family, friends or neighbors may not receive my newsletter. I hope you'll take the time to share this information or let them know they can send an email to me and I'll add them to the mailing list.

I consider it an honor and a privilege to serve as your District IV Commissioner and I commit to you that I will continue to do the best job I can in representing you and our community. As always, I welcome your input and appreciate all of you who act as my eyes in the District. Many of the improvements we've already made, or are currently working on, came from citizen suggestions or observations. As you plan for your neighborhood/homeowner's association meetings, please let me know the dates and times so that I may join you. Please don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions or concerns, [deslogeb@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:deslogeb@leoncountyfl.gov) or 606-5364.

Bryan Desloge