



ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
Board of County Commissioners

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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RECEIVED

JUN 29 2007

June 25, 2007

Ms. Melissa Dobbins,
District Manager
Heritage Landing Community Development District
3434 Colwell Avenue, Suite 100
Tampa, Fl. 33614

Suite 200

Re: Intersection of Heritage Landing Parkway and Steamboat Drive

Dear Ms. Dobbins:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding traffic safety at the intersection of Heritage Landing Parkway and Steamboat Drive. As referenced in your letter, a traffic accident occurred at the intersection on May 3, 2007. The accident appears to have been caused by driver error and the official accident report does not identify any environmental or roadway factors as contributory causes.

The County's Traffic Operations Section recently completed a traffic safety evaluation at the intersection. Our investigation included data collection and tabulation of vehicle speeds, hourly and daily traffic volumes typically used in a multi-way stop analysis, and a field review of pedestrian crossing signage and markings.

The intersection did not meet the minimum volume requirements in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) needed to justify a four-way stop. Research studies have shown that pedestrian safety is compromised at unwarranted four-way stop signs due to poor compliance with the unwarranted stop condition. It has also been shown that departing vehicle speeds at unwarranted stop signs exceed pre-stop conditions, further compromising pedestrian and vehicle safety. Therefore, a 4-way stop is not recommended at this intersection.

We found that prevailing speeds on Heritage Landing Parkway were five to nine miles per hour greater than the posted speed limit of 25 mph. This information has been forwarded the Sheriff's office along with our request for intensified enforcement. The Sheriff's office has indicated that they will emphasize enforcement at this location. Increased enforcement is among the most effective ways to address excessive speed.

To assure that motorists approaching the intersection can see other approaching vehicles and pedestrians, landscaping and other vegetation that might block the view has been cleared.

Our field inspection found no pedestrian warning signs at or in advance of the delineated pedestrian crossing on Heritage Landing Parkway at Steamboat Drive. High emphasis pedestrian warning signs were installed by our Traffic Operations Section on June 15, 2007.

Traffic Calming may be of benefit to the community and will be addressed through the County's Traffic Calming Program. Your letter will suffice as official notice from the community requesting the County to initiate a traffic calming study for the Heritage Landing Community. Greg Kennedy, Traffic Operations Manager, will be contacting you shortly to arrange an informal information exchange meeting between our Traffic Calming Specialist and the community.

Sincerely,



Joe Stephenson
Public Works Director

xc: Board of County Commissioners, St. Johns County
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Robert Porter
Wes Haber
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