

NOKOMIS CENTER REVITALIZATION

Project: TRAFFIC CALMING AND STREET IMPROVEMENTS (TR-8)

Project Type: County

Project and Background Description:

Evaluate options for traffic abatement and other road improvements on residential streets in the Nokomis Center. Improve turning radii at the ends of Avenidas La Isla, Bahia, and La Palma. Widen streets within the existing rights-of-way in the Bay Point Subdivision and in the Nokomis East Subdivision, such as River Boulevard, when the roads are resurfaced in the future. Encourage residents to plant trees along the streets, as part of the County’s Street Tree Program. Evaluate road closures at Bay View Parkway and Sunset Drive to prevent commercial traffic intrusion in the Bay Point subdivision, improving traffic circulation for the commercial areas. Evaluate property owner interest in funding to pay for paving private roads.

Nokomis residents have expressed concerns about through-traffic intrusion, or “cut-through” traffic, especially on Nippino Trail, Pocono Trail, and Colonia Lane west of U.S. 41, and on the residential streets in the Nokomis East neighborhood including Florence Street, Lucille Avenue, Kilpatrick Road, River Boulevard and Riverview Boulevard. Commercial traffic intrusion, from the Chevron Gas Station and from the Honaluana Tiki Bar, is also a concern. Road closures and other traffic calming techniques could be considered according to resident interest and support. Neighborhood entrance signs, street tree plantings, and street lighting, could be installed to create pedestrian friendly streets within the Nokomis East neighborhood. Structural speed control devices, including multi-way stops, speed humps and tables, traffic circles, cul-de-sacs, diverters, bulb-outs, changes in street surface type and subdivision entryways are some of the methods used in Sarasota County and other communities to slow or reduce traffic. Neck-downs or narrow lanes are also considered as traffic calming devices in a proposed Sarasota County Traffic Calming Ordinance. Evaluation of the need for these structural devices is based on several factors, including traffic volumes, traffic speeds, and other indications such as traffic accidents. Neighborhood entrance signs, street tree plantings, sidewalks, and street lighting could be used to create pedestrian friendly streets in Nokomis Center neighborhoods. Sidewalks would improve pedestrian safety. No funding has been allocated for these projects, however, the County’s Residential Street Tree Program and Traffic Abatement Program could be allocated to these improvements. Neighborhood support would have to be nearly unanimous for these projects. Residents would have to apply for street trees through the Sarasota County Street Tree Advisory Committee, providing matching funds and a commitment to care for the trees once they are planted. CDBG funds might be available for street lights and entrance signs, however, residents would have to fund the operational cost of the street lights.

Preliminary Cost Estimates:

Cul de Sac Improvements	To be determined with project design
Resurfacing Improvements	To be determined with project design
Road Closures	To be determined with project design
<i>Total Nokomis Center Traffic Calming Costs</i>	<i>\$100,000 – \$200,000</i>

Potential Funding Source(s): County Traffic Abatement Program, County Street Tree Program, Property Owners, Community Development Block Grant

Implementation Time Frame: Mid to long term, two to ten years

Responsible Parties: Public Works Operations, Growth Management Planning Services

Steps Required to Implement:

- Evaluate options and seek funding for Cul de Sac improvements for fire safety and emergency management.
- Evaluate opportunities for widening substandard width streets as part of the County’s resurfacing program.
- Work with businesses and residents to develop solutions to commercial cut-through traffic, especially on Sunset Drive and Bay View Parkway but also on Palmetto Street.
- Work with residents to identify solutions to cut-through traffic on residential streets, especially in Nokomis and Nokomis East Subdivisions.

Issues Requiring Further Analysis/Action:

1. Coordinate sidewalk construction with the County’s Sidewalk Program.

