

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Information for Town Council Meeting on: December 10, 2024

To: Mayor and Town Council

From: Wayne Bergman, Director of Planning, Zoning & Building

Cc: Kirk Blouin, Town Manager & James Murphy, Asst. Director of PZB

Re: Traffic Mitigation Strategies and Proposals

Date: November 25, 2024, Amended December 3, 2024

Due to the high level of daily traffic congestion in the Town, the PZB Department has taken some minor steps that will help mitigate the current traffic problems and proposes some additional ideas that may help alleviate the congestion.

- The Town of Jupiter Island prohibits certain construction activities and noise producing equipment usage during the “winter season” (11/1 to 4/30). By prohibiting these activities and equipment during the peak season, construction is basically limited to interior work only or the builder must build sound-proof walls around the site to mitigate the noise (very costly and usually not done). Essentially, construction work on most sites is limited or stopped during the winter. This work stoppage or reduction during the entire peak winter season would reduce construction traffic.
- Perhaps a Declaration of Emergency could be prepared and adopted by either the Town Manager, the Police Chief, or the Town Council. This Declaration would provide the basis for other actions undertaken by the Town, business community, and residents. This Declaration may include conditions that all landscape and construction vehicles be limited to a certain bridge, certain roadways, and maybe even certain limited times of day. Other terms of the Declaration may affect the timing of residential and commercial activities, such as deliveries and landscape work.
- Declare a moratorium / Zoning In Progress on types of construction to limit the flow of construction vehicles on and off the Island. This moratorium could be for new single-family construction, building additions, commercial alterations, or any combination of these items. It is not suggested to prohibit all construction projects, such as roof replacements, plumbing, electrical and mechanical upgrades and replacements, and other maintenance and repair type work that will be periodically needed by residents and business owners.

The Village of North Palm Beach had a Zoning In Progress declared for the construction of new single-family homes in 2021 (Ord. No. 2021-10). The Town of Palm Beach, in addition to several Zoning In Progress items over the years, adopted an Emergency

Ordinance in 1979 prohibiting the construction of new commercial buildings and developments (Ord. No. 5-79). A moratorium / Zoning In Progress may be justified due to the current Zoning In Progress on food & beverage operations and the on-going code review and reform of the Town's land development regulations. I contacted Joanne O'Conner this morning and she is reviewing this item.

- Continue with the Zoning In Progress on all new food & beverage applications. The results / recommendations of the Zoning In Progress study may include the prohibition of additional food and beverage operations in certain areas of Town, setting a maximum cap on the number of food & beverage seats in certain areas of Town, and/or limiting the number of food & beverage establishments in Town. Limitations on these uses would result in reducing the trip counts during lunch and dinner times. The Zoning In Progress was extended last month by the Town Council until May 8, 2025, to allow The Corradino Group to obtain peak season traffic counts in December and January.
- Continue to discuss and update the "Town – serving" concept to increase the percentage of Town persons involved in certain commercial uses. The current requirement to be "Town – serving" is for more than 50% of sales or customers to be Town persons. There has been talk of increasing that 50% metric to a higher percentage for food & beverage and maybe even higher for private social clubs. By increasing the Town – serving threshold, less nonresidents would be coming into Town, therefore reducing trips on and off the Island.
- Have our traffic professionals, Police, and Public Works review the current traffic segment counts and intersection movements to determine if any changes in traffic controls need to be made to improve the flow of traffic throughout the Town. One-way versus two-way traffic movement, turn lane queuing, signal timing, and signage placement should be reviewed and changes implemented to improve traffic flow. Attached to this memorandum are the recent recommendations from The Corradino Group, part of their recent Traffic & Parking Study.
- Review the hours and days of Town Hall operations and the work schedules of all Town staff. In PZB, we have been very successful in allowing certain P&Z staff to work a remote or hybrid schedule, and some staff to work a 4-day, 10-hour shift. These measures reduce the number of trips on and off the Island. If all the Town Hall departments did this, the impact would grow. Maybe other businesses could join the Town in promoting this option, which again would have the positive impact of reducing employee trips on and off the Island.
- Regulating the days of landscape work tighter than is currently done. An example would be to allow landscape services to occur on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays on the north side of streets, and Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays on the south side of streets. This would not reduce the number of landscape vehicles on any given day but would limit the number of trucks that park on the east / west streets.

- Although there has been some success in limiting the bridge closures at rush hour times, this matter should be revisited and hopefully expanded. Bridge openings at 3:15, 3:30, and 3:45 have noticeable impacts on traffic stoppage.
- Added 12/3/2024 – Consider mandating all construction projects over a certain size threshold (construction value or square foot of project) to be subject to a Construction Management Agreement (“CMA”). In the CMA template the Town could include mandatory language to require construction workers to be transported on and off the Island by way of a shuttle van or vehicle hired and paid for by the general contractor.