



April 5, 2022

Steven Kirsch  
Managing Director  
319 Clematis St. STE 808  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

***RE: 1540 South Ocean Boulevard  
Pedestrian Crossing Evaluation  
Palm Beach, Florida***

Dear Steven:

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. has prepared this evaluation of the proposed benefits of a pedestrian tunnel proposed to be located at 1540 South Ocean Boulevard in the Town of Palm Beach, Florida. The tunnel would cross underneath South Ocean Boulevard and provide access from a private residence to the beach. A summary of the evaluation that was conducted is provided below.

## **EXISTING CONDITIONS**

South Ocean Boulevard is a Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) roadway. The roadway is a two-lane roadway with a posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour. Single-family residences are developed on the west side of the roadway and private beaches are located on the east side of roadway. Residents and visitors must cross South Ocean Boulevard to access the beaches. The nearest marked crosswalk is approximately one mile north of this location at Southern Boulevard.

## **EVALUATION**

A pedestrian tunnel would eliminate pedestrian and vehicular conflicts at the subject location. Without a tunnel, pedestrians would have to cross South Ocean Boulevard at grade, creating a potential conflict between pedestrians and vehicles.

The Florida Department of Transportation regulates the installation of mid-block crosswalks; mid-block crosswalks are crosswalks that are placed at locations other than at signalized intersections. The *FDOT Traffic Engineering Manual* establish criteria for warranting and placing mid-block crosswalks. Because the pedestrian volume on an average day is not expected to meet the minimum pedestrian volume needed to warrant a mid-block crosswalk, it is unlikely that FDOT would allow a marked crosswalk at this location. Therefore, pedestrians would have to assess the roadway conditions and wait for a gap in traffic to cross South Ocean Boulevard. On busy roadways, gaps are typically provided by upstream traffic signals. At this location, the nearest traffic signals are several miles away; therefore, gaps in traffic will be random and pedestrians will have fewer opportunities to cross the roadway.

Sight distance is adequate for pedestrians crossing South Ocean Boulevard at this location. Pedestrians are able to see approximately 500 feet to the north and over 1,000 feet to the south prior to any curvature in South Ocean Boulevard.



The speed and volume of vehicles create the biggest obstacle to pedestrians crossing at this location. The posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour, which is higher than the residential streets in the area, and higher than other locations of major streets within the Town, such as other portions of Ocean Boulevard and County Road. Due to the unobstructed nature of South Ocean Boulevard at this location – good sight distance and limited curvature – it is expected that traffic could exceed the posted speed limit.

Traffic volumes are also relatively high compared to other residential streets in the area. The latest traffic volumes collected along this portion of South Ocean Boulevard indicated that the daily traffic volume is over 10,000 vehicles per day. Peak hour volumes are as high as 968 vehicles per hour in the PM peak hour on a weekday. Crossing roadways with high volumes of traffic such as this increases the potential for conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians.

A pedestrian tunnel is being proposed at 1540 South Ocean Boulevard in the Town of Palm Beach, Florida. The tunnel will connect the private residence on the west side of the roadway with the private beach on the east side of the roadway. Without the tunnel, pedestrians will have to cross a roadway with over 10,000 vehicle per day and with a posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour.

Please contact me at (561) 840-0874 or [adam.kerr@kimley-horn.com](mailto:adam.kerr@kimley-horn.com) should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

KIMLEY-HORN AND ASSOCIATES, INC.

Adam B. Kerr, P.E.  
Transportation Engineer

Florida Registration Number 64773