



# TOWN OF PALM BEACH

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Kirk Blouin, Town Manager

FROM: Nicholas Caristo, Chief of Police

DATE: 11/25/2024

SUBJECT: Traffic Mitigation Effort Update

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As a result of the ongoing traffic congestion due to the closure of State Road A1A at Southern Boulevard, the ongoing construction in West Palm Beach along the Okeechobee corridor, numerous unscheduled bridge openings due to barge traffic, and ongoing permitted projects in the Town of Palm Beach, the Police Department thus far has taken the following actions.

- Staff inspect bridge opening logs and follow up on all complaints regarding unscheduled bridge openings directly with FDI (FDOT's bridge contractor).
- Maintain dialogue with the U.S. Coast Guard regarding limited bridge openings, and reports made for follow-up of any suspected false emergency bridge openings.
- The Police Department spoke with Vance Construction (James Vance) and the Project Manager (Renee Cavache from AMCC) regarding the Lake Worth Lagoon restoration project. This project involves dredging sand near Peanut Island and transporting it on barges South to Lake Worth where man-made islands are being made. This project is anticipated to continue for another year, with approximately six round trips (12 passages) through our 3 bridges each workday. This is a Palm Beach County project that is funded by the Army Corps of Engineers. A request to alter barge schedules around peak traffic hours was made to the Project Manager; however, this request was denied because of time restraints for the project, previously approved permits, and potential safety concerns. The Project Manager did indicate they will try and better coordinate the timing and grouping of the barges.
- Police command staff and I, along with the Town Manager, met with the U.S. Secret Service Director. We also met with ranking members of the U.S. Secret Service and Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.
- The Mayor, Town Manager and I along with the Town Attorney met with Mar-a-Lago's attorney and U.S. Secret Service on the matter of traffic concerns, options, and solutions.
- Police personnel conduct traffic mitigation efforts daily with operations personnel to manually facilitate expeditious movement of traffic where possible, prevent

intersection blocking, and communicate relevant traffic signalization issues with Public Works.

- Police personnel maintain daily contacts with the P.B.C. Traffic Management Center to request assistance with traffic flow through the downtown W.P.B. corridor.
- Police personnel advocate on behalf of the Town as problems are discovered with outside entities (private contractors, construction sites, FDOT, etc.) that negatively impact traffic.
- Send Town alerts as necessary to communicate relevant and timely traffic information.
- Requested the Palm Beach Dock Master to try and discourage vessel owners/crew members from departing during peak times.
- Altered landscaping start and end times to alleviate peak hour vehicle volume.
- Proposing to alter construction contractors start and end times to alleviate peak hour vehicle volume.
- Palm Beach County will be placing an additional ten sign boards along Southern Boulevard and the Okeechobee corridor indicating that State Road A1A will be closed at Southern Boulevard. Additionally, the electronic sign boards on I95 near the Southern Boulevard and Okeechobee Boulevard exits will indicate the same.
- Propose the idea of moveable barriers maintained by Police along North County from Wells to Royal Poinciana Way to add an additional travel lane during peak hours.