

From: Hugh Aaron hugh@theaarons.com

Subject: Re: Bicycle Safety Enhancements

Date: January 14, 2017 at 4:45 PM

To: Rich Szyrka rszyrka@ircgov.com

Cc: James Ennis jennis@ircgov.com, Kim Graham kgraham@ircgov.com, Jason Brown jbrown@ircgov.com,

bwircboard@bikewalkirc.org, BWIRC Interested Parties bwircinterestedparties@emaildodo.com, Vero Cycling Member Email List members@verocyclingclub.org



Rich:

Thank you for your response below to our September 16, 2016 letter to you. After more than three months, the BWIRC board had begun to wonder whether we would receive a response from you. Consequently, the board decided at our January 5, 2017 meeting that we should present our concerns directly to each of the County Commissioners and request their support in addressing what we believe are very significant safety concerns with respect to people riding bicycles on certain (frankly, many) Indian River County roads.

On January 9th, one day before I received your response below, I scheduled a meeting with Commissioner Solari for January 20 at 11 am. Also, Amy Banov, BWIRC's vice-president, has scheduled a meeting with Commissioner O'Brien on January 19th at 1:30 pm. Other members of the BWIRC board are scheduling meetings with the other Commissioners. We would welcome your participation in these meetings.

As I indicated when we first submitted our September 16, 2016 letter to you, we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our concerns and proposed solutions in more detail. After reviewing your response below, I feel strongly that such a meeting would be helpful. Your response to most all of our concerns is to direct "the County Traffic Engineering Division to review this segment of roadway for the feasibility of installing pavement markings for designating bike lanes." As outlined in our letter, in some cases (e.g., 27th Ave), simply converting the existing shoulder to a designated bike lane makes sense, at least as a relatively inexpensive first step towards making the road safer. In other cases, in particular Indian River Boulevard, the road is so poorly designed from a bike safety standpoint, that simply putting down bike lane pavement markings will not solve the problem and may make it worse. I encourage you to discuss the Indian River Boulevard problem with James and Kim. They have both studied this problem and have a good understanding of the community's concerns.

While none of us are road design professionals or traffic engineers, our group includes some very talented people, including retired engineers and other professionals, who have spent a lot of time researching the proposed solutions presented in our September 16th letter. I can tell you that the last technically oriented meeting we had with Kim and James was very productive.

We look forward to working with you and your team to make our roads safer for all users and, hopefully, to help Indian River County obtain "Silver" Bicycle Friendly Community status.

Hugh

Hugh Aaron

League Cycling Instructor #4671

President, Bike Walk Indian River County, Inc. (BikeWalkIRC.org)

Advocacy Director, Vero Cycling, Inc. (VeroCyclingClub.org)

hugh@theaarons.com

804-690-9720 cell/text

On Jan 10, 2017, at 4:41 PM, Rich Szpyrka <rszpyrka@ircgov.com> wrote:

Hugh,

I have reviewed the attached letter and your requests are reasonable. Below I have responded to each item listed in your letter.

1. Convert the Existing Paved shoulders on 45th Street between US 1 and 43rd Avenue to designated bike lanes.
Response: The paved shoulders from 43rd Avenue to the just west of the FEC right-of-way have been designated as bike lanes via pavement markings with the helmeted bicycle rider symbol and directional arrow. The construction plans for the widening of 45th Street from west of the FEC r/w to US-1 has incorporated designated bike lanes.
2. Install "Bicycles May Use Full Lane" signs and shared lane markings on Old Dixie Highway between the southern boundary of the City of Vero Beach and Highlands Drive.
Response: I have directed the County Traffic Engineering Division to review this segment of roadway for the feasibility of installing pavement markings for designating bike lanes. Due to the current workload it will be eight to twelve weeks before the review is complete.
3. Convert the existing paved shoulders on 27th Avenue between SR 60 and the southern boundary of Indian River County to designated bike lanes.
Response: I have directed the County Traffic Engineering Division to review this segment of roadway for the feasibility of installing pavement markings for designating bike lanes. Due to the current workload it will be eight to twelve weeks before the review is complete.
4. Convert the existing paved shoulders on Oslo Road between 43rd Avenue and 58th Avenue to designated bike lanes.
Response: I have directed the County Traffic Engineering Division to review this segment of roadway for the feasibility of installing pavement markings for designating bike lanes. Due to the current workload it will be eight to twelve weeks before the review is complete.
5. Convert the existing paved shoulders on 53rd Street to designated bike lanes.
Response: I have directed the County Traffic Engineering Division to review this segment of roadway for the feasibility of installing pavement markings for designating bike lanes. Due to the current workload it will be eight to twelve weeks before the review is complete.
6. Install bike lane signs on the portion of 66th Avenue with designated bike lanes.
Response: Bike lane end signs were installed on 66th Avenue. Bike lane signs are only supplementary to the pavement markings and are not required.
7. Install bike lanes on 58th Avenue between 37th Street and CR 510

7. Install bike lanes on CR 58th Avenue between CR 26th Street and CR 510.
Response: Over the next several years, we currently have roadway reconstruction projects in our Capital Improvement Element for 58th Avenue. The projects include the addition of bike lanes on 58th Avenue from 26th Street to CR 510.

8. Install bike lanes on Indian River Boulevard both north and south on the City of Vero Beach.

Response: I have directed the County Traffic Engineering Division to review this segment of roadway for the feasibility of installing pavement markings for designating bike lanes. Due to the current workload it will be eight to twelve weeks before the review is complete.

9. Install bike lanes on Oslo Road between 27th Avenue and 43rd Avenue.

Response: I have directed the County Traffic Engineering Division to review this segment of roadway for the feasibility of installing pavement markings for designating bike lanes. Due to the current workload it will be eight to twelve weeks before the review is complete.

The above time frame for the Traffic Engineering Division to review the items above is approximate and may take longer than anticipated depending on their work load. Once staff has investigated each segment of roadway we will let you know if the segment meets the minimum requirements for bike lane designation. If it does, striping plans will need to be produced before the bike lane pavement markings can be installed. This will take some time to produce. Please be aware that bike lane signage is not a requirement for the designation of a bike lane. As such, bike lane signage will not be installed as part of our bike lane designation process.

Please contact me if you have any question.

Regards,

Richard B. Szpyrka, P.E.
Public Works Director
Indian River County
1801 27th Street Vero Beach, FL 32960
(772) 226-1234
Email: rszpyrka@ircgov.com

<Letter to Rich Szpyrka re BWIRC Priorities.pdf>

