

A presentation about the 2016 Bay Street Extension (to Honore) project was made by BiBiche Knauf, our External Liaison Officer, during the December 15 Membership Meeting.

For the homeowners who were not able to attend the Meeting, a short synopsis of what was discussed follows:

The latest available design of the project, although not yet approved by the County, was made available to all members in attendance.

A construction company has not been contracted yet but the work is scheduled to start in March 2016. At this time, it is not known if the construction will begin by/at Park Trace or on the Honore end. A round-about will be installed at the intersection of Bay Street and Honore. The current four-way stop will stay at the intersection of Bay Street and Willow Bend Way.

Although, originally, a "hawk" traffic signal was going to be installed at the intersection of Bay Street and the Trail, it has now been changed to the same signal which exists at the intersection of Central Sarasota Parkway and the Trail.

The existing portion of Bay Street will NOT change and the Extension will be a two-lane road with a bike lane on the north side and south side of the road. NO bike lane will be added along the existing portion of Bay Street.

Only one sidewalk will be built along the north side of the extension road.

A 6' high sound barrier will be installed along the eastern part of Park Trace from the entrance at Willow Bend Way until a few yards past the beginning of the back lake. (Photos of a similar wall can be viewed on our Web site).

Additionally, some homeowners concerned with the increased traffic the Extension might create asked if Park Trace could become a "gated community." We have already contacted the Department of Transportation asking them to study the possibility of closing the connection between Park Trace and Rivendale. It would be a much less costly approach and will drastically reduce traffic through Park Trace.

Some homeowners who live along the Access to the Trail received a letter from the US Corps of Engineers informing them that they had until December 26(27?) to express their concern/objection to the Extension of Bay Street. We learned that such a letter is a "standard practice" and, unfortunately does not offer the homeowners any serious inputs on objections. Bay Street Extension has been in the County plan since 1989 and, barring some dramatic impact on our properties or the destruction of some endangered rare species, the work is going to go on and we will all have to learn to live with it.

Currently the "deal" we are looking at is that the developer will pay for the installation of a decent sound wall provided that Park Trace agrees to maintain it. More details will be e-mail blasted to community members and posted on the Park Trace Website as they develop and become available. Should anyone have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at: bbchknauf@yahoo.com.

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