



CITY of HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA

Office of the Mayor and Commissioners

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Peter Bober
Mayor

June 17, 2016

Mr. Gerry O'Reilly
District Secretary
Florida Department of Transportation
District 4
3400 West Commercial Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309

RE: I-95 Express Lanes

Dear Mr. O'Reilly:

As you are aware, the Florida Department of Transportation recently implemented express lanes on I-95 within Broward County. The entrance/exit locations for these express lanes have directly impacted Hollywood. In short, Hollywood residents are underwhelmed with the level of service that these lanes are providing, and daily commutes are turning into nightmares for virtually all motorists. While motorists travelling in the express lanes may see a benefit, the vast majority of others are greatly inconvenienced.

There are also safety concerns due to the limited northbound merge distances associated with vehicles entering and exiting the express lanes at I-595 which, together with the Griffin Road interchange creates congestion, increases aggressive driving and vehicular accidents. The distance to get off the express lane and to cross over multiple lanes in order to get onto I-595 is insufficient due to the increased congestion and merging activity associated with the entering and exiting vehicles. Drivers are performing weaving maneuvers in both directions and as a result are causing unsafe conditions for other drivers. In addition, the express lanes are causing the northbound lanes to be more congested. It has always been challenging for drivers maneuvering to the two far-right lanes to get onto the I-595 ramp against the Griffin Road on-ramp. However, with the additional lane merging, additional traffic backup is occurring.

In the southbound direction, drivers are using the express lane entrance just south of I-595 to cut around traffic, causing the non-express lanes to be congested. Drivers are cutting over at the last minute, right before the plastic delineators or they are driving over and through the plastic delineators, causing hazardous conditions to drivers in the adjacent lanes. The same hazardous conditions occur at the second express lane entrance further to the south.

Our Mission: We are dedicated to providing municipal services for our diverse community in an atmosphere of cooperation, courtesy and respect.
We do this by ensuring all who live, work and play in the City of Hollywood enjoy a high quality of life.

"An Equal Opportunity and Service Provider Agency"

I-95 Express Lanes

June 17, 2016

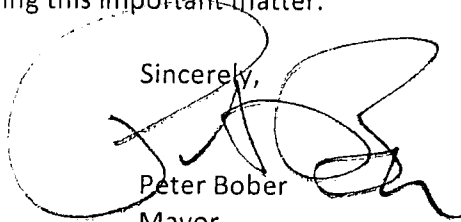
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The plastic delineators give drivers a false sense of security that traffic from the adjacent lane will not enter into their path. However, drivers are driving over the plastic delineators, causing accidents. Additional hardening of the plastic delineators will not eliminate this behavior, and may cause additional issues, if implemented.

The express lanes are underutilized by motorists, and the benefits do not appear to justify the impacts to local traffic. For example, express lanes bring difficulties for State Troopers to enforce the law, as shoulders for pulling over motorists have been decreased. Moreover, since the implementation of the I-95 express lanes, traffic congestion and accidents have increased, impacting Hollywood's Fire Rescue calls for service.

While we realize that the express lanes were designed to create a win/win situation for motorists, the design and implementation have been mostly a lose/lose for Hollywood residents who have a diminished quality of life due to the increased traffic buildups. Therefore, the City of Hollywood is requesting an opportunity to meet with Florida Department of Transportation officials to discuss the aforementioned issues regarding the I-95 express lane project in the City of Hollywood. Thank you for your attention and cooperation in resolving this important matter.

Sincerely,



Peter Bober
Mayor

cc: Governor Rick Scott
Jim Boxold, Secretary of Florida Department of Transportation
Mark Plass, PE, FDOT District 4, Director of Traffic Operation
Dr. Wazir Ishmael, Ph.D., City Manager
Mel Standley, Assistant City Manager, Public Safety
Gus Zambrano, Assistant City Manager, Sustainable Development
Sylvia Glazer, Director of Public Works
Jonathan Vogt, City Engineer/Deputy Director Public Works
Eric Busenbarrick, Fire Chief
Thomas Sanchez, Police Chief
Jeffrey Sheffel, City Attorney