

**From:** Edward Lavallee

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**To:** City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>

**Cc:** Lenox E. Bramble <LBramble@Venicegov.com>; Judy Gamel <JGamel@Venicegov.com>; Lori Stelzer <LStelzer@Venicegov.com>; dpersson@swflgovlaw.com; Tom Mattmuller <TMattmuller@Venicegov.com>; Kathleen Weeden <KWeeden@Venicegov.com>; Shawn Carvey <SCarvey@Venicegov.com>; John Veneziano <JVeneziano@Venicegov.com>; Chuck Speake <CSpeake@Venicegov.com>

**Subject:** St, Augustine Street

Mayor & Council

In 2015, the traffic pattern on St. Augustine street was changed from two-way to one-way (westbound). The change was done as a pilot program in an effort to relieve traffic congestion at the intersection of Nokomis Avenue and Tampa Avenue. Historically, traffic flow at that intersection traffic has been impaired due to the following conditions:

- Vehicle traffic approaches from Nokomis Avenue (northbound, and southbound)
- Vehicle traffic approaches from Tampa Avenue (westbound, and eastbound )
- Vehicle traffic enters from St. Augustine Street ( Southeast bound)
- Vehicle traffic enters from the northeast exit gate to Centennial Park
- Pedestrian traffic enters from four directions
- The intersection is proximate to Business 41 (Tamiami Trail) and experiences significant traffic flow to and from that roadway

To test the benefits of reducing the number of vehicle portals to the Nokomis x Tampa intersection, St. Augustine Street traffic flow was modified to operate westbound only (away from the intersection). During the test phase, staff installed traffic control signage, monitored vehicle operation, exercised police enforcement as necessary, and discussed the change with residents. Comments from residents were mixed. Some criticism was received of drivers ignoring the one-way direction signs. In response, additional signage has been added. Public notification was given to alert drivers to the change in traffic flow. Over time, adherence to the one-way traffic plan has received greater compliance. Public reaction is still mixed.

During the test phase associated safety issues have been identified, including the need for a marked pedestrian crosswalk at the west end of St. Augustine Street. Staff is preparing a plan for the engineering and installation of an ADA compliant crosswalk. Available funding is being researched to determine when the crosswalk can be installed.

At a recent meeting of the Traffic Advisory Task Force, the modified traffic pattern was discussed. Based on police incident data and staff comments, the Task Force gave consensus support for St. Augustine Street to remain one-way

Based on staff analysis, review of accident and incident data, and general assessment of the benefits of the modified traffic flow, the change to a one-way traffic pattern on St. Augustine is viewed as positive and beneficial. City Council approval is requested for a permanent change of the traffic flow pattern on St. Augustine Street to a one-way pattern (westbound).

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