



"City on the Gulf"

19-4343  
City of Venice

Request to Speak (print legibly)

Name:

JERRY JACOB

Date:

1/14/20

Address:

430 BUREAU CT

City:

N. Venice

State:

FL

Zip:

33475

City Resident:

☒ Yes

☐ No

City Property Owner:

☒ Yes

☐ No

City Business Owner:

☐ Yes

☐ No

Telephone No:

941-244-2214

Organization (if any):

VSRP Community Assoc

Please Check One

☒ Audience Participation - Topic:

☒ During Agenda Item - Topic:

PAS NEPL LAGER RD PRESERVATION

If you are going to present evidence and/or testimony during a public hearing, you are required to complete and sign the following oath. You are not required to sign the oath if you are speaking at Audience Participation or at a workshop.

I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that the evidence or factual representation, which I am about to give or present at the public hearing, held this 14 day of Jan 20 20 is truthful.

Signature:

Comments at public hearings and during audience participation are limited to five minutes per speaker for city residents, property owners and business owners, and two minutes for all others, unless otherwise noted.

Mayor and City Council Members:

My name is Jerry Jasper and I live at 130 Burano Ct, North Venice. I am here today on behalf of the Venetian Golf & River Club Community Association Board.

We fully support the public/private partnership as proposed by Neal Communities and ask that Council authorize \$400,000 of Venice District Road Impact/Mobility Funds to be allocated toward the engineering required to widen East Laurel Road. This \$400,000 represents a very small percentage of approximately \$7.5 million of Venice District Road Impact/Mobility Fees presently accumulated which I might add, were almost entirely generated from residential and commercial construction along or within one mile of the section of Laurel Road that is being addressed here.

We have been presented with a unique opportunity to “fast track” the widening of East Laurel Road and must take advantage of it. At past Council meetings, we and others have pointed out the reasons why a “fast track” is necessary, but for those new Council members, let me repeat.

First, the Transportation Study prepared by the City just six months ago, based on the best and latest information available, projected this section of Laurel Road will fail, being 34% over capacity, by the Year 2030. We know there was a report by Sarasota County that confused the issue on when the road will fail. That is because their review was based on conceptual growth assumptions used for the entire county. The Venice Planning staff went the extra mile, so to speak, and did their detailed analysis using actual housing units approved for development, and it clearly shows the road failure happening sometime prior to 2030.

In fact, in this Laurel Road area, approximately 2,200 new residential units have been built in the past 16 years. Presently, under construction, approved or in some stage of approval, are over 4,500 more units. This will more than triple the existing number. These additional residential units, as well as commercial development plans, dwarf anything else being considered within the City, and show why this road will fail sooner versus later.

And not only that, but also having an impact is the proposed “east of I-75” corridor with only the completion of a “missing link” needed to connect East Laurel Road with Clark Road and points north in Sarasota and Manatee counties. Construction of this “missing link”, being an extension of Knights Trail to Clark Road, will bring additional traffic to East Laurel Road, as it will be an integral part of this eastern corridor thoroughfare. This “missing link” project is unanimously supported by the MPO and is presently in the early stages of approval by Sarasota County, all on a public/private partnership basis. So again, more traffic coming to Laurel sooner rather than later.

Lastly, however, the ultimate “fast track” driver is acquiring additional right-of-way over that presently allocated. Much of the land needed for this right-of-way is presently planned for development by Neal Communities, which could commence soon if arrangements are not made to set this land aside for the East Laurel Road expansion. If this right of way property is not obtained in the very near future, for all practical purposes, the chance of widening East Laurel Road will be gone forever.

East Laurel Road, a key road having a fire station with EMS services, and a road that will be the most direct means of getting to Sarasota Memorial Hospital for thousands, will not be functional, unless you act today.

It’s often said our big problem is that infrastructure lags development. Here’s a great opportunity to turn that around.

Thank you!