

TAB 17

**POINT PAPER
PUBLIC MEETING REGARDING STOP SIGN REMOVAL
APRIL 21, 2008**

ISSUE: Public input is required in reviewing the stop sign removal proposal, as recommended in the traffic mobility study findings, and presented to City Commission on October 15, 2007.

BACKGROUND: On December 18, 2006, the City Commission authorized the execution of a contract with Renaissance Planning Group (RPG) to conduct a traffic mobility study in the City of Palmetto.

On October 15, 2007, Nick Lepp of Renaissance Planning Group, presented commission with an overview of the study, and with RPG's findings. One slide in the presentation (see attached) identified stop signs recommended for removal throughout the City.

Staff and the City's traffic engineer conducted research as to the appropriate procedures to safely and effectively remove stop signs from public streets, and on January 7, 2008, received confirmation from City Commission that it was their desire to proceed with the stop sign removal plan as recommended in the adopted Mobility Study.

On January 22, 2008, at the City Commission meeting, there was again discussion about the stop sign removal and the project's beginning within 30 days.

On February 18, 2008 at the City Commission meeting, Staff confirmed to City Commission that the on-street parking issue and stop sign removal issue had been removed from the suspense log as individual items, as these items were included as part of the mobility study.

On March 3, 2008 at the City Commission meeting, discussion ensued regarding the notification procedures that would be utilized so that citizens would know that some stop signs would be removed.

On March 14, staff posted and mailed the attached notice to approximately half of the households in the City of Palmetto, by inclusion in the water bill. The other half of the accounts received the notice as mailed with the water bills on April 15, 2008. The notice stated that there was a proposal for the removal of a variety of stop signs in order to improve east-west mobility in the City, and these stop signs' locations were listed. The notice went on to advise that there would be a public meeting held on April 21, 2008 at 7:00 pm for Commission to consider the proposed removals.

This is the meeting to receive the public input, as scheduled and noticed, and, of course, is the predecessor of any action to physically remove the signs. Nick Lepp of RPG will be in attendance so as to incorporate appropriate citizen input into the recommendations. It should be noted that there have already been some insightful recommendations submitted from residents, which have been forwarded to the engineer.

**RPG WILL GATHER PUBLIC INFORMATION AND INCORPORATE IT INTO THE
STUDY AS APPROPRIATE, THEN RETURN TO CITY COMMISSION WITH THE
REVISED FINDINGS.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Palmetto Public Works Department is proposing the following traffic regulation amendment:

PROPOSAL:

Public Works is proposing to implement an 8-month plan to convert some roadway segments with a four-way stop to two-way stops. In addition to removing the stop signs at specified locations, Public Works is proposing to reduce the speed limit between 10th Street West and 4th Street West and between 20th Avenue West and 10th Avenue West from 30 to 25 miles per hour. These changes will help facilitate east-west traffic movement and effectively slow the speed to a safe level.

East – West Free Flow Movement:

4TH Street West from 20TH Avenue West to 8TH Avenue West
7TH Street West from 20TH Avenue West to 14TH Avenue West
7TH Street West from 14TH Avenue West to 10TH Avenue West

North – South Free Flow Movement:

14TH Avenue West from 21ST Street West to 17TH Street West
14TH Avenue West from 17TH Street West to 10TH Street West
14TH Avenue West from 10ST Street West to 7TH Street West
14TH Avenue West from 7ST Street West to 4TH Street West
20TH Avenue West from 4TH Street West to 10TH Street West

**Please note there will be a north-south two-way stop at the following intersections:
4th Street West and 10th Avenue West and at 4th Street West and 14th Avenue West.**

The proposed traffic amendment will be considered by the Palmetto City Commission at the April 21, 2008 Commission meeting beginning at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held in the City Hall Commission Chambers, 516 8TH Avenue West, Palmetto, Florida.

If any person desires to appeal any decision of the City Commission or of any other Board of the City, that person will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based (F.S. 286.0105)

The City of Palmetto does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, marital status or handicapped status in employment or in the provision of services. Handicapped individuals may receive special accommodation in services on one working day's notice (F.S. 286.011[6]). Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation for this meeting as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the City Clerk at 941-723-4570, fax 941-723-4576 or email jfreeman@palmettofl.org or dponder@palmettofl.org.

POSTED: MARCH 14, 2008

Frank Woodard

From: Garry Lowe

Sent: Friday, February 29, 2008 2:47 PM

To: Frank Woodard

Good afternoon Frank, I have reviewed your letter in reference to stop signs being removed and the speed limit being reduced from 30 mph to 25 mph between 4th and 10th Street West on 20th Avenue.

I have signed off on a letter written by Deputy Chief Mayer that was sent to you yesterday 02/28/08 concerning stop signs and speed limit signs in the City of Palmetto. If there are any other questions feel free to give me a call.

Chief Garry Lowe

3/3/2008



**PALMETTO POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

Memo

To: Chief Garry Lowe

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Lowe'.

From: Deputy Chief Mike Mayer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Mayer'.

Date: February 26, 2008

Subject: Stop Sign Survey

On this date, an assessment was conducted related to the proposed changes in the placement of stop signs within the City of Palmetto. Utilizing a map provided by Frank Woodward, the following recommendations are made with respect to the proposed changes:

On 4th Street West, stop signs for East and West bound traffic at 19th Ave. W. should be removed, leaving in place the stop sign controlling South bound traffic.

On 4th Street West, the stop sign for West bound traffic at 20th ^{AVE.} ~~ST~~ W. should be removed, leaving in place the stop sign controlling South bound traffic.


For purposes of traffic calming, the four-way stop sign located at 7th St. W. and 14th Ave. W. should be left as is. Removal of, or alteration to this stop sign would, in my opinion, encourage speeding in that area. While studies may show that stop signs do not control speed, I believe that the presence of a stop sign encourages drivers to anticipate the necessity for a reduction in speed, therefore discouraging peak acceleration.

I am convinced that the four-way stop sign located at the intersection of 17th Street West and 14th Ave. W. should be left as is. This intersection is off-set, located near a school, and for a period of time each year, is located near one of the most heavily traveled area within the City of Palmetto. Each of these factors combines to create a need for a four-way stop.

/mbm

**CITY OF PALMETTO
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 25, 2008
TO: Garry Lowe, Chief, Police Dept.
FROM: Frank Woodard II, Deputy Director, Engineering & Project Mgmt. 
SUBJECT: **Traffic Mobility Study- Traffic Circulation
Stop Controlled 4-Way to 2-Way
COP Job # 05- 495**

On October of 2006, City Commission approved Renaissance Planning Group to conduct a Traffic Mobility Study to examine specific traffic circulation and develop a series of recommendations to improve safety and accessibility as well as the overall mobility within the City. One of the several recommendations from the report suggested converting some roadway segments with a four way stop to two way stops. In addition to removing the stop signs at specified locations the study also recommends reducing the speed limit between 10th Street West and 4th Street West and between 20th Avenue West and 10th Avenue West from 30 to 25 miles per hour. These changes will help facilitate east west traffic movement within the West Palmetto neighborhood and effectively slow the speed to a safe level. Public Works is proposing to implement an 8 month plan to create two (2) way stops along the following roadways:

East – West Free Flow Movement:

4TH Street West from 20TH Avenue West to 8TH Avenue West
7TH Street West from 20TH Avenue West to 10TH Avenue West

North – South Free Flow Movement:

14TH Avenue West from 21ST Street West to 10TH Street West
14TH Avenue West from 10ST Street West to 8TH Street West
14TH Avenue West from 6ST Street West to 5TH Street West
20TH Avenue West from 4TH Street West to 10TH Street West

Please note there will be a north south two way stop at the following intersections:

7th Street West and 14th Avenue West
4th Street West and 14th Avenue West.

According to the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 28, Article II, Section 28-29 (a), before any major proposed traffic regulation shall be effective, it shall be submitted to the Chief of Police for his review and approval. Enclosed for your review is a copy of the above reference ordinance, a recommendation letter from the traffic engineer and area map.

If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (941) 723-4580, ext. 116.

Thank you in advanced for your cooperation concerning this matter.

cc: Honorable Larry Bustle, Mayor
Board of City Commissioners
Chris Lukowiak, Director, Public Works Dept.
John McInnis, Chief, North River Fire District
Richard Clarke, P.E., ZNS

ENGINEERING & PROJECT MANAGEMENT DIVISION

02:02

COPY**RECEIVED**

FEB 22 2008

PUBLIC WORKS
DEPARTMENT

February 22, 2008

Mr. Chris Lukowiak
City of Palmetto
600 17th Street West
Palmetto, FL 34221**RE: City of Palmetto – Stop Signs
ZNS File Number: 00-18972**

Dear Chris:

It is our understanding that the City of Palmetto wishes to implement the certain recommendations made by Renaissance Planning Group in their report entitled:

Palmetto City Wide Traffic Report – Final Report and Recommendations – December 2007.

The specific recommendations being implemented are the conversion of four-way stop sign controlled intersections to two-way stop control.

Based on our review of the above report ZNS Engineering, L.C. takes no exception to the recommended stop sign conversions.

As discussed previously, it is strongly recommended that ample notification be given to residents and the public prior to making any changes.

Please feel free to contact me should there be any questions, or if additional information is required.

Yours very truly,

ZNS Engineering, L.C.Richard P. Clarke, PE
Vice President

RPC/tf

cc: Frank Woodard II, Deputy Director, COP
Hand delivered to Mr. Lukowiak by Richard Clarke**ZNS** | ENGINEERING

Suggested Traffic Circulation (2012)

