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**CITY OF BRADENTON**
BRADENTON, FLORIDA

1411 9th STREET WEST
BRADENTON, FL 34205

August 17, 2020

Renjan Joseph, P.E.
TSM&O Engineer III
Florid Department of Transportation
District 1 – Traffic Operations
Swift Sunguide Center – STMC
2101 47th Terrace East
Bradenton, FL 34203

RE: Request for Traffic Signalization Modifications
SR 64 East & 27th St. E.

Dear Mr. Joseph:

At the Bradenton City Council meeting on August 12, 2020, there was considerable discussion held regarding traffic issues on 27th St. E. One of the issues raised by multiple citizens who live in the areas along and adjacent to 27th St. E, is the traffic that cuts through residential neighborhoods in an attempt to bypass the traffic signal at the 27th St. E./SR 64 E intersection.

As I am sure you are aware, this intersection is a "No Right Turn on Red" intersection, and rightfully so. Unfortunately, prohibition of right turns at the intersection, combined with the overall length of the signalization cycle at the intersection, results in considerable levels of traffic stacking on 27th St. E. This stacking greatly contributes to the decision by motorists to turn off 27th St. E. and travel through residential neighborhoods in an attempt to get to 29th St. E. where they can turn right on to SR 64. This situation is especially exacerbated during peak hours, when the stacking can cause backups on 27th St. E. that extend south to 7th Ave. E.

There are three primary routes that drivers use when attempting to bypass the signal at SR 64:

- 7th Ave. East
- 9th Ave. East
- 11th Ave. East

The circuitous routes that each of these options entail are depicted on the aerial photograph that follows herein. It is evident from this graphic that all of these routes traverse through residential neighborhoods, and all involve navigating through sharp turns. All of these conditions significantly reduce the safety of local travel for the residents in these areas.

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To provide some means of relief for this situation without compromising the safety of the No Turn On Red at the SR 64 intersection, the City of Bradenton respectfully requests the Department consider the feasibility of installing a Right-Turn arrow signal for northbound traffic on 27th St. E. We would propose that this signal be active only when the protected left-turn phase of the SR 64 signal is engaged. This would allow for multiple vehicles to make a right turn off 27th St. E. on to eastbound SR 64 during the limited period each signal cycle when straight through traffic is being held on SR 64. A "Right Turn On Red Must Yield To U-Turns" sign would also be proposed for vehicles on 27th St. E.

To further enhance the effectiveness of this proposed signal, we will propose to Manatee County, the maintaining agency for 27th St. E., that the northbound lanes on 27th St. E. at the signal be remarked to designate the right lane as a "Right-Turn Only" lane, and the left lane as a "Left Turn/Straight" lane. Currently, the left lane is marked as a Left Turn only lane, while the right is a Straight/Right turn lane. Given the limited amount of traffic that travels straight across SR 64, we believe the intersection will function more efficiently if the lanes are remarked.

We are confident that the combination of all these modifications will reduce the level of traffic stacking on 27th St. E. and improve the service level of the intersection. In addition, we believe these changes will aid in minimizing the need for drivers to elect to bypass the signal and travel through the residential neighborhoods. The net result would be better traffic movement and improved safety for the abutting residential communities.

We would be happy to meet with you and any other Traffic Operations personnel with the Department to discuss this proposal. In the meantime, we appreciate your consideration of these modifications and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Wayne H. Poston
Mayor

Jim McLellan, P.E.
Director Public Works & Utilities

Cc: Bradenton City Council
Carl Callahan, City Administrator
Chad Butzow, Director Public Works, Manatee County