

External Affairs February 2009

Fred Forbes and Don Huprich, General Manager met with two representatives of Florida Department of Transportation on January 8th to discuss the currently proposed improvements to the I-75/Bonita Beach Road interchange. A large aerial photograph of this I-75 interchange was given to Hunters Ridge. FDOT indicated the following: 1) we would retain our 215 ft. long turn lane and the cut through in the Bonita Beach Road divider permitting us to turn left towards Bonita Springs; 2) the sweeping curved northbound exit ramp which discharges onto Bonita Beach Road with a yield sign for traffic control will be deleted; 3) All exit ramps will be upgraded to permit at least two left turn lanes and two right turn lanes; 4) All exit ramps are to have traffic lights synchronized with existing lights at Bonita Grande and the next light West of I-75. The abandonment of the existing northbound sweeping curve ramp, we believe will eliminate a serious traffic hazard which has caused several accidents involving our residents attempting to exit Hunters Ridge Blvd. onto Bonita Beach Road. We had requested by telephone and by our written letter that FDOT include in their design for Phase 2 widening of I-75 to 10 lanes that Hunters Ridge still retains a left turn lane. When I-75 is expanded again the overpass at Bonita Beach Road will be lengthened and the road will be widened wiping out our current left turn lane. FDOT committed itself to building a new turn lane even if they must buy additional right away. We had pointed out the need for the left turn lane would be even more important in a few more years due to likely development of hotel/motel site immediately west of Hunters Ridge Blvd and the completion of the Bernwood Shopping Plaza.

Bernwood Plaza has nearly half of the land out front of Hunters Ridge vacant. They had zoning to build ten industrial type rental buildings such as vehicle body shops, light manufacturing, and several other objectionable uses or tenants. The company which owns Bernwood Plaza has in late December listed all of the vacant land for sale. We would hope the new owner (when the land sells) has a better vision for this prime piece of real estate. We plan to follow the sale of the property and immediately contact the future owner to make our concerns known early in the development process.

Fred Forbes and Don Simpson also had a meeting at FDOT Headquarters for District 1 on January 6th.

We plan to report the information we can obtain on the Sound Barrier Analysis for Hunters Ridge at a future Board meeting. Next month we will report on the Gated Communities East of I-75 meeting at Village Walk on January 29th with Ray Judah, Chairman of County Commission and Gary Price, City Manager. Worthington

and Hunters Ridge took the lead in organizing the other gated communities of San Remo, Village Walk, Palmira and Quail West. This organization is continuing to gain stature and influence with both our city and county political leaders.

Our Committee also appreciates the excellent support of the entire 2008 Board, Tom Padgett 2008 President and Don Huprich, General Manager.

As original chairman of the External Affairs Committee, I want to personally thank every member of the External Affairs Committee; all of our residents have been exceptionally well represented by the entire committee during the latter part of 2007 through January of 2009.