

Relocating West Entrance Crosswalk

Request from Osceola County Traffic Division

During the late summer/early fall of 2020 Osceola County milled and paved Five Oaks Drive from the west entrance to the traffic circle with Schoolhouse Drive. During this paving project Osceola County Traffic Operations noted that the current placement of the crosswalk traversing Five Oaks Drive near US 192 presents a potential hazard to pedestrians by vehicles rapidly exiting US 192 onto Five Oaks Drive. This issue was brought to the attention of Harmony's District Manager on November 3, 2020 who then brought it to the Board during the November 2020 meeting. After discussion, the Board requested a cost estimate for sidewalk and curb changes required to relocate this crosswalk and whether the County would be able to provide a pedestrian activated flashing light for the new crosswalk location.

11/20/2020 @ 4:30 pm – Spoke with Gary Yeager, Osceola County Traffic Operations Director concerning relocation of crosswalk from Five Oaks and US 192 to Five Oaks and Dark Sky/Milkweed. I asked about the possibility of the County placing a sign with pedestrian activated flashing lights on the crosswalk in place of the proposed crossing signs. He indicated that the County just received funding in October for 3 sets of flashing warning signs; one has already been allocated and two still available. He will put our request before the committee at its next meeting, which has not yet been scheduled (next 4-8 weeks). He indicated, however, that they usually allocate these signs for crosswalks that traverse roadways with speed limits of 40+ mph or heavily trafficked. He will let us know the committee's decision. I also inquired about the cost of these signs and he said the parts for these signs would cost \$5000/sign, so \$10,000 for the crossing and an additional \$1200 per sign for installation by a private vendor. The unlighted signs the County has proposed for the crossing cost the County \$20/pole and \$40/sign with County installation.

I inquired about the current controversy concerning the flashing yellow causing drivers to speed up. He indicated that studies have shown that in Florida, approximately 30% of drivers stop for pedestrians in a crosswalk without a stop sign, while 90% of drivers stop for pedestrians in a crosswalk with the flashing yellow light signaling that a pedestrian is present. The current controversy being addressed in Tallahassee is based on a child fatality that occurred at a crosswalk in Brevard on A-1-A while she was heading to the beach.

Harmony currently has four crosswalks located mid-street that do not have stop signs associated with them. The first crosses Cupseed from the rear of the Community School to Beargrass. The second crosses Schoolhouse from Primrose Willow to the Lakefront recreational area. The third crosses Five Oaks southeast of Cordgrass, near the start of housing on Five Oaks. The fourth crosses Schoolhouse near Butterfly to the front of the Community School.

Arrow Paving has estimated the cost of adding sidewalk extensions, ADA compliant ramps and curb cuts to Dark Sky and Milkweed at \$5,300.

Option 1—No change. County replaces striping for crosswalk at west entrance near U.S. 192 on Five Oaks Drive. Not recommended as Osceola County Traffic Operations has notified Harmony that this placement is unsafe. (No cost to HCDD)

Option 2—Remove crosswalk and no replacement. Remove crosswalk at the west entrance near U.S. 192 on Five Oaks Drive. This would entail removing the portion of the sidewalks on either side of Five

Oaks Drive that turn toward the street and resodding those areas. Would not be necessary to remove concrete pad in median. Do not replace crosswalk, so first crosswalk would be at stop sign on traffic circle at Schoolhouse and Five Oaks. (**Cost** to HCDD estimated to be **\$3300** to remove turning portions of sidewalk and repair curb cuts)

Option 3—Remove and Relocate crosswalk. Remove crosswalk at the west entrance near U.S. 192 on Five Oaks Drive. This would entail removing the portion of the sidewalks on either side of Five Oaks Drive that turn toward the street and resodding those areas. Would not be necessary to remove concrete pad in median. Relocate crosswalk to Five Oaks where Dark Sky and Milkweed intersect, with signage and stripping provided by County (with or without flashing lights). HCDD will be responsible for providing ADA compliant ramps and curb cuts. (**Cost** to HCDD estimated to be **\$8600**=\$5300 for new ramps + \$3300 for removal and curb cut repair)

Option 4—Remove and Relocate crosswalk with flashing light signage. Remove crosswalk at the west entrance near U.S. 192 on Five Oaks Drive. This would entail removing the portion of the sidewalks on either side of Five Oaks Drive that turn toward the street and resodding those areas. Would not be necessary to remove concrete pad in median. Relocate crosswalk at Five Oaks where Dark Sky and Milkweed intersect, with flashing light signage. HCDD will be responsible for providing ADA compliant ramps and curb cuts at Dark Sky and Milkweed. (**Cost** to HCDD if County provides flashing lights estimated to be **\$8600**; **Cost** to HCDD if HCDD provides flashing lights estimated to be **\$21,800**)