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WEATHER



Jack Molback, third grade, Polyclana Elementary School

See forecast on Page 2A

NATION

Suspect in officers' death in custody

A white man with a history of racial provocations and confrontations with police ambushed and fatally shot two white police officers in a parking lot in Minneapolis.

FDOT may change lanes in Key West

BY SCOTT UNGER
Key West Citizen

A Florida Department of Transportation study looking into the reconfiguration of several roads on the southeast side of Key West is now underway, and not all City Commissioners are excited about the proposed changes, which include potentially taking South Roosevelt Boulevard down to two lanes.

A corridor lane repurposing study will take place over the next three months and focus on three sections of road from Bertha Street to the entrance to U.S. 1, accord-

ing to FDOT Intermodal Systems Developer Ken Jefferies.

"We're going to be looking at all users and all modes (of transportation) within the entire right of way for the South Roosevelt Boulevard roadway from Bertha to U.S. 1," Jefferies told the Key West City Commission Tuesday. "Our aim is to have a well-balanced transportation system providing various mode choices which provide mobility, support livability, and spur economic development objectives of the city."

City Commissioner Billy Wardlow

See FDOT, Page 5A



ROB O'NEAL/The Citizen

The Florida Department of Transportation is considering major changes to the four-laned South Roosevelt Boulevard that was completely renovated less than 10 years ago.

state Department of Natural Resources employee in

force since 2015, and Sgt. Anthony "Tony" Beminio,

several agencies saturated the area after that shooting,

later that month in Baton Rouge.

The potential for damage to American Indian

company would. He said the site was properly handled.

FDOT

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was immediately skeptical of changes to the road, especially the elimination of lanes. Wardlow cited previous plans that included roundabouts and were rejected by the community. "Years ago we had meetings ... and they were talking about putting roundabouts at Bertha and the Boulevard and that got shot down because there isn't enough

room out there," Wardlow said. "I know we're not talking about (that) but it's basically the same thing if we go to two lanes out there."

The Key West Planning Department asked for the study following a 2014 FDOT guidelines change called the Complete Streets Policy, which "requires streets to be planned, designed, operated, and maintained to enable safe, convenient and comfortable travel and access for users

of all ages and abilities regardless of their mode of transportation."

"We inquired as to whether or not there was an opportunity to incorporate those principles on S. Roosevelt," said Planning Director Thaddeus Cohen. "The goal is to look at the possibility to be more scenic, multimodal...and pedestrian friendly."

Changes will be determined by the data collected from the study and input from citizens and city leaders, but could include

eliminating lanes, creation of space dedicated to bicycles, addition of landscaping buffers and medians and changes to parking, Jefferies said. Several options will be presented to the community and city staff and input from both is critical to the decision making process, he said.

"We get our guidance and take very seriously what the elected officials ... desires are. There has to be their support for whatever we do," he said. "Depending on what the analysis shows and

with input from the community ... they're going to tell us (what to do)."

The study is the final piece of improvements to Roosevelt Boulevard that began with a 1999 study. Designs for the area from Bertha Street to Smathers Beach are complete but may be changed with new information, Jefferies said. The only scheduled improvements involve several governmental and private owners donating segments of the right of way to FDOT

for liability purposes, Jefferies said.

"I guess ... there's a dispute about who owns (the road). (Donations of road segments will) clear the right of way for the liability so the department can take on the liability issues if somebody gets injured out there."

FDOT will hold a public workshop on potential changes in December and a public hearing in January, with project conclusions presented at the end of January, Jefferies said.

sunger@keysnews.com

