



City of Port St. Lucie

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Accredited Agency - American Public Works Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: Holly Price, Planning & Zoning

FROM: Diana Spriggs, P.E. – Regulatory Division Director, Public Works

DATE: January 20, 2023

SUBJECT: P22-006 Becker Rd- Wawa PSL Blvd & Becker SEU
Traffic Generation, Stacking & Circulation

This application and Traffic Statement prepared by Engineering Design & Construction Inc. dated August 17, 2022 has been reviewed by the Public Works Department and the transportation elements of the project were found to NOT comply with requirements of Chapter 156 of City Code, and Public Works Policy 19-01pwd.

Per City Code Section 158.222(B)(4), the driveway spacing from intersections shall be measured from the right-of-way line of the intersecting street to the midpoint of the driveway. The minimum spacing shall be 250' for a commercial site on Becker Road. However, the applicant is proposing a driveway separation distance of 243' from the Yacolt Dr right-of-way. Of more concern to the Public Works Department, the proposed driveway is being proposed within the existing right turn lane of the Becker Road and Port St. Lucie Blvd. intersection. City Code goes on to state that "standards in excess of these spacing requirements are preferable and may be required for driveways located within the functional area of an intersection or areas where access restrictions are necessary to reduce conflicts, preserve the safety of the traveling public, or to preserve the function of the adjacent roadway."; such as with this particular case to reduce conflicts. This section of City Code is also supported by the adopted City of Port St. Lucie Engineering Standards, Section 8.12.1. Of practical concern to Public Works is the additional number of conflict points that will be created within the functional area of the intersection by the addition of the proposed driveway, and therefore creating a safety concern.

The applicant has discussed the project with the Public Works Department including the director, Heath Stocton, P.E., and they are aware of our concerns and the City Code requirements. The application submitted for a driveway variance to the Planning & Zoning Board was approved without support by the Public Works Department.

The requested use of a fueling station estimates 448 total PM Peak hour driveway trips split over the 2 proposed driveways. This proposed use is one of the highest amounts of traffic trips that could be generated for this property to use this unsafe driveway location on Becker Road within the area of influence of the Port St Lucie Blvd and Becker Road intersection.

Public Works recommends moving the driveway location from Becker Road to SW Yacolt Drive. By providing a right turn lane on Becker Road to SW Yacolt Drive and then blocking off SW Yacolt Drive south of this Wawa Property entrance, the driveway will meet all required Engineering Standards for spacing and safety. By blocking off SW Yacolt Drive, this will also prevent all cut through traffic that could occur from Port St. Lucie Blvd and Abraham Avenue, therefore reducing any unnecessary nuisance to the surrounding neighborhood.