
**SEMINOLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

SUBJECT: Signing and Lighting Seminole County Trail Overpasses/Tunnels Policy Consideration

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

DIVISION: Engineering

AUTHORIZED BY: Gary Johnson

CONTACT: David Martin

EXT: 5620

MOTION/RECOMMENDATION:

Staff is seeking direction on the Board's interest in creating a policy for signing and lighting of trail overpasses and/or tunnels based on the information listed herein, for inclusion in the Administrative Code.

If so directed, an amendment to the Administrative Code will be drafted and presented to the Board for consideration at a future meeting.

County-wide

Jerry McCollum

BACKGROUND:

Recently, cities and other groups involved in the trail system of Seminole County have requested signs, lighting and flags be installed on pedestrian overpasses as well as the trail itself. Seminole County's system of recreational trails and sidewalks includes a number of bridges/tunnels to provide safe roadway crossings for pedestrians, bicyclists, equestrians and other non-motorized users. The unique nature of the surrounding area where the structures are situated requires a design that enhances the aesthetics of the area and consequently a common design for trail structures has not been implemented. Staff is seeking direction from the Board on the following draft policy for regulatory and decorative appurtenant items, such as signage, lighting and other features for these structures based on the differences in their use:

Trail Overpasses/Tunnels

Defined as multi-use overpasses/tunnels that convey a trail over or under a roadway, but are not a functional part of the roadway.

1. Regulatory lighting on pedestrian overpasses will be provided where appropriate and permitted by the agency with jurisdiction. For example, the Cross Seminole Trail/State Road 434 Overpass in Winter Springs had conduit installed for future lighting. The city wants to extend the trail hours of operation after dusk once their Town Center District is developed. This type of lighting has already been approved by FDOT because of concerns for pedestrian safety.
2. Regulatory signage for usage or directional purposes will be provided on trails for trail users. Identifying signage for motorists may be provided along roadways where appropriate and permitted by the agency with jurisdiction.

3. Decorative signage, lighting or other items on structures crossing State or Federal roadways must be approved and permitted by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Current FDOT policies prohibit any of these usages with the exception of the following flags; United States America, State of Florida, County and City. To maintain consistency throughout the County, decorative signage, lighting or other items on structures crossing County or local roadways would be prohibited.

Pedestrian Overpasses (Non-trail)

Defined as multi-use overpasses associated with the Federal, State or local roadway transportation systems and are a functional part of the roadway. They are open for operation 24 hours a day. For example, once an overpass is constructed, the at grade signalized or non-signalized crosswalks are removed.

1. Regulatory lighting on pedestrian overpasses will be provided where appropriate and permitted by the agency with jurisdiction.
2. Regulatory signage for usage or directional purposes will be provided on the overpass for users. Identifying signage for approaching motorists may be provided along roadways where appropriate and permitted by the agency with jurisdiction.
3. Decorative signage, lighting or other items on structures crossing State or Federal roadways must be approved and permitted by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Current FDOT policies do not permit such usage with the exception of the following flags; United States America, State of Florida, County and City. To maintain consistency throughout the County, decorative signage, lighting or other items on structures crossing County or local roadways would be prohibited.

Policy Summary

In the interest of safety, uniformity with FDOT policies and design aesthetics, Seminole County will not permit decorative signage, lighting or other items, in the design and construction of overpasses crossing State, County or local roads unless the safety of users is a concern or the signs or lights are required for aviation.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff is requesting direction on preparing a policy based on the information listed herein, for inclusion in the Administrative Code.

If so directed, an amendment to the Administrative Code will be drafted and presented for consideration at a future meeting.

Additionally Reviewed By:

County Attorney Review (Matthew Minter)