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Serving the Membership ♦ Improving the Community Lifestyle ♦ Working Toward Sustainable Development

Applying Resilience Thinking to Our Natural Resources

Visit Our Website at: www.allianceofdelray.com

April 2025 issue of The Alliance Connection

Next Meeting

Wednesday April 2, 2025

Planning, Zoning, & Building

Speakers & Topics include:

Rick Torrance, Director of Contractor Regulations: Contractor Regulations: The importance of hiring a licensed contractor and how we can help.

Michele Pagan, Director of Code Compliance: Code Compliance: Common code compliance issues and how to resolve them.

Michael Gauger, Deputy Building Director Building: Common permits and how to apply for a permit. Flood zones – how to look up a flood zone (low risk doesn't mean no risk).

plus

Updates from PBSO, PBCFR, & Government Officials

Doors Open 9 AM Meeting Begins 9:30 AM

Meetings take Place at the South County Civic Center

16700 Jog Road Delray Beach

Bagels & Coffee/Tea Served

The Public is Welcome

Dates to Remember:

Alliance Annual Breakfast Friday June 6, 2025

All Presidents/Delegates/Alternates from

Communities with Current Dues Payments Will Receive Invitations

Additional July Meeting to Celebrate Independence Day with Special Speaker

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE ALLIANCE:

Lori Vinikoor, *President*

Arnold Katz, *Executive Vice President* Norma Arnold, *Vice President* John Gentithes, *Vice President & Treasurer*

Susan Zuckerman, *Vice President* Carol Klausner, *Secretary*

Directors: Sylvia Borelli, Rob Cuskaden York Freund Judy Goldberg

Assistants to the President: Rose DeSanto Joel Vinikoor

Bob Schulbaum, *Chairman of the Board*

Legal Counsel: Joshua Gerstin

Tsunami of Letters and Emails Coming in from Communities Opposing Placement of Tax Collector's Office, Motor Vehicle & Test Driving Facilities in the Agricultural Reserve Petition in Opposition topping 1,500 Signatures and Rising

An Alliance ad hoc task force has been formed to lead the effort to deny this application. We ask that you support this campaign by customizing the draft and sending a copy of your letter to each of the seven Commissioners who will act upon the Zoning Board recommendation. If you feel it appropriate, we ask that you also send a copy of this request to your neighbors/friends/Board President asking that they participate with you.

The ad hoc committee thanks you for your support on this important matter.

York Freund, Director for the Alliance Ad Hoc Committee

Mobile: 773.991.6361

Draft Letter

To: Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners
301 North Olive Avenue Suite 1201
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Motor Vehicle Building on Lyons Road

Dear Members of the Zoning Commission and Board of County Commissioners,

I am writing on behalf of myself and other concerned residents to express our opposition to the proposed construction of a 24,000 square-foot Tax Collector/Motor Vehicle facility and test-driving range on Lyons Road, between Atlantic Avenue and Clint Moore Road. We strongly urge you to deny this application due to the significant negative impacts outlined below, which would affect my community and other nearby residential areas. Our specific concerns regarding this project are as follows:

Traffic Congestion and Safety

Even after recent improvements, Lyons Road continues to experience significant traffic congestion, particularly during morning and late afternoon hours. The proposed facility is expected to attract over 500 additional vehicles daily, exacerbating these issues and increasing delays and safety risks for residents, cyclists, and local farmers who rely on the road.

Negative Impact on Property Values

The introduction of a heavily trafficked commercial building in a primarily residential and agricultural area will likely reduce property values by altering the neighborhood's character and increasing noise and pollution levels.

Incompatible Land Use

The proposed site is in a residential/agricultural area, making it unsuitable for a high-traffic commercial facility. This development would disrupt the area's intended use and negatively impact on the quality of life for residents.

Availability of a More Suitable Alternative Site

There is a 5+ acre parcel behind the library on SR 441, which is better suited for such a facility. SR 441 is a larger road designed to handle higher traffic volumes and already has commercial developments, making it a more appropriate location.

Impact on Farmers and Agricultural Activities

Lyons Road supports many agricultural activities in the area. Increased traffic from the proposed facility could disrupt farming operations and create logistical challenges for local farmers.

Environmental Concerns

Overdevelopment in the region has already led to drainage issues and environmental degradation. Adding another large-scale project could further strain local infrastructure and natural resources.

We respectfully request that you prioritize the well-being of all impacted residential communities by denying the application for this project at its current location. We urge you to consider instructing the applicant to relocate it to the Palm Beach County-owned alternative site on SR 441, or another more suitable location.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Followed by Your Name & Your E-mail

Mailing Addresses:

All commissioners have this USPS mailing address (see below). Individual email addresses below.

301 North Olive Avenue Ste. 1201

West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

Mayor Maria Marino mmarino@pbc.gov **Vice Mayor Sara Baxter** sbaxter@pbc.gov

Commissioners: Maria Sachs msachs@pbc.gov ; **Marci Woodward** mwoodward@pbc.gov ;

Bobby Powell bpowell@pbc.gov ; **Gregg Weiss** gweiss@pbc.gov ; **Joel Flores**

jgflores@pbc.gov

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- Balloon Valvuloplasty
- PVL Closure - Transcatheter Paravalvular Leak Closure
- Right and Left Sided Percutaneous Ventricular Assist Device (VAD)
- TriClip™ Transcatheter Tricuspid Valve Repair



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AFFINITY

The Way to a Well-Lived Community

Commissioner Sachs' Transportation Summit 2/19/2025: The Alliance Was There Transportation Summit Brought the Professionals Together

From Left: Palm Beach County Commissioner Maria Sachs; Joanne Keller, Assistant County Engineer; David Ricks, County Engineer; Motasem Al-Turk, Traffic Division Director; Ricky Estripeaut, Florida DOT; Ido Shimony, Florida DOT; Valerie Nielson, Exec. Dir. Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency ; Amy Kemp, External Affairs Mgr. Florida Power & Light; Thuc Lee, Florida DOT; Wael Majdalawi, LUX Solar In-Road Lighting



See complete article and map of current District 5 road projects on page 7.

ALLIANCE OF DELRAY RESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATIONS

March 5, 2025 Meeting Summary Video link to meeting: <https://youtu.be/Sr1ZMOvhZCE>

By Judy Goldberg

The Alliance of Delray meeting began with Dr Lori Vinikoor, our President of the Alliance, started the meeting at 9:30am with a few updates. On April 2, at 6PM, Marcy Woodward, County Commissioner for our District 4, will host a meeting at the South County Civic Center to discuss the proposed Milani Park, a new beach front city park that is being developed in Highland Beach and will serve all of our communities in Palm Beach County. It is important for Delray Beach community to attend this important meeting as it will be a huge benefit for all of us. Lots of parking as well! Also, Our June breakfast for all Alliance members will be 1st Friday in June.

This next item is as big as the proposed GL land swap from a few years ago that was defeated. The new one is our county tax collector has purchased land in the Agriculture Reserve without letting the public know. We are starting an ad hoc committee, to ask all of us to send letters and support the plan to swap land, for example; the land behind West Boca Library. Lyons and Atlantic cannot support a huge facility filling 4.39 acres and the traffic that it would bring.

We Have a letter writing campaign to send a letter to change the application to help our Lyons Rd communities. The application will be on the April 3rd agenda of the Zoning Commission to change the zoning of the parcel from agriculture to public ownership. No limitation of size or width of setback! We encourage you to let our Commissioners know what you think!

Our next speaker was Chief Bill Stansbury of the PBC Fire Rescue who gave us updates. Call volume is down because residents are returning north. We have about 3000 calls a month. The busiest station is 45 at Linton and Jog with over 600 calls a month. Multiple rescue groups are ready to help. Hurricane season is coming so stock up on supplies early so you don't have to compete with all the last minute shoppers; better selection too.

Next, we heard from Miles Osbourne, Lake Worth Drainage District, before Hurricane season,, good time for COA's (Condominium Owners Association)to check our drainage infrastructures and make sure that all is clear.

Our May meeting will be about hurricane season with Emergency Operation Center discussing preparation. Time to plan ahead.

Captain Michael Morales (photo right) from PBSO District 4 presented a Safety and Security Seminar. The audience received tips and recommendations to avoid becoming a victim, plus tips on driving habits that will help avoid incidents.



First to speak was Sergeant Scott Yoder, supervisor of Vehicle Homicide Unit (photo left). Traffic division. Lyons Road issues. Traffic Speed Trailers...2 purposes, collect data through us. for speed feedback. Also Crash data, or physical observation from our officers, Digital signs give us feedback as well. Example: Slowdown, wear seatbelts, move left or right, etc. All give us feedback. Speed trailers, warns driver, speed getting high. Cameras. And capture speed data. Time of day when speeding occurs. Then we can put our traffic officers out at areas that have a speeding issue. Traffic County Engineering Dept. helps them understand where traffic speeding is an issue. Aggressive driving units to Help enforce the driving rules. Motorcycle Police, many sources to work on varied driving issues.

Detective Philip Eckes followed with crime trends. Shopping center crime. Distraction thefts. Take cart, purse in carriage. Leave cart for a few seconds and the bag is gone! NEVER, leave your purse. We are being watched. Targeted! Especially elderly.. If you believe that you are being watched, speak up, say "I see you" looking at me...is there a problem? They will leave as they do not want to

be fingered. The Spam calls. Spoofing Sheriffs office phone number: PBSO District 4. YOU think that it is the police. They pretend to be an officer and say that you have a warrant... talk you through, get your info and get your credit card or get you to pay them with gift cards. The Sheriffs office does not call us! Hang up on any strange calls, Call the office direct. Send questionable calls to voicemail. They usually will not leave a message! Detective Eckes, photo right.



Next was Senior Criminal Analyst, Tim Eramo, District 4, (photo left) who is behind the scenes crunching numbers to help our detectives and deputies investigate crimes. He handles Crime stats and crime reports for West Delray and answers questions from higher ups. Crime mapping is the fastest way to identify information! Take information of crime etc.

and put it on a map. Frauds, robberies. Trends that come through. Top 3 crimes. 1. Battery, unwanted touching. Neighbors or friends shoving or pushing over a Parking spot. This is crime. Keep your hands to yourself! 2. Fraud. #1 loss of money. Criminals call and say problem with an account. Do not follow their instructions. Hang Up! Call the number on your credit card or bank card. Stop, think, do not panic. Do not google the number you need. Google has advertising and the most money spent gets top billing. Be sure that you are calling the correct number! #3 Romance scams. Handsome guy, or pretty woman Needs money. Befriends you and starts talking about needing money for what-

ever. Bitcoin, crypto currency scams. Same idea; calls you, chats and befriends then tells you about a fast way to make money. Be aware and be smart. Hang up! Car thefts are an issue as the thief knows how to remove your GPS. Get "Air Tags" as they are very helpful today. A small gadget that can find your stolen car or misplaced luggage. About \$25. They are placed in your car or luggage, they work off of bluetooth. Facial recognition is another source to catch a thief. They use it to go through criminal photos and compare with current photo. Lastly, take key fobs out of car, lock your car everywhere, do not park away from other cars. Easier to steal. Always, look around and be aware. Log on to crimemapping.com to see publicly displayed crimes in our area.

Our last speaker was Investigator Scott Poritz of the Threat Assessment Unit. Crime Prevention (photo right pictured with Lesley Shriberg of the Sheriff's office). The technology is a bit overwhelming. Look up the information that you don't know. Ask experts. Crime prevention fused with infrastructure. What can we do to structure your home, business, house of worship, all to stop crime. Alarm systems, hurricane windows, hard to break. Cameras are a great tool. Layers of safety. Infrastructure for all our water systems. Civilian response to active shooters, Crime prevention liaison program. Put out small fires before they become big fires. Quality of life representatives.



Threat assessments. When you go into a building look for exits immediately! Movies, restaurants, meeting places. Restaurants usually have an exit through the kitchen. Crime prevention can be scary, Lock the cars. This cannot be emphasized enough! Be a "nosy neighbor", look around and be aware of your neighborhood. A suggestion was made by a member of the audience to have a wallet that blocks thieves from copying your card info; bullet proof vest for your cards.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 2, 2025. **Topic will be Planning, Zoning and Building.** The meeting will be held in the South County Civic Center, 16700 Jog Rd, across from Morikami Gardens. Doors open at 9AM when refreshments are served. The meeting starts at 9:30AM and always concludes by 11AM. All invited to attend. See you there!

Commissioner Sachs' Transportation Summit 2/19/2025
The Alliance Was There

(Continued from page 4)

Commissioner Maria Sachs led a pivotal strategy meeting to discuss the impact of technology on future transportation requirements and the current initiatives underway to implement technological advancements. The meeting gathered an expert panel that included senior representatives from various sectors, who provided insights and shared their expertise on the subject matter.

Expert Panel Presentations:

The presentations by the expert panel were a highlight of the meeting. These senior representatives from different fields detailed the latest technological innovations and their potential applications in transportation. The speakers underscored the transformative power of technology in shaping the future of transportation infrastructure and logistics.

Key Discussion Points:

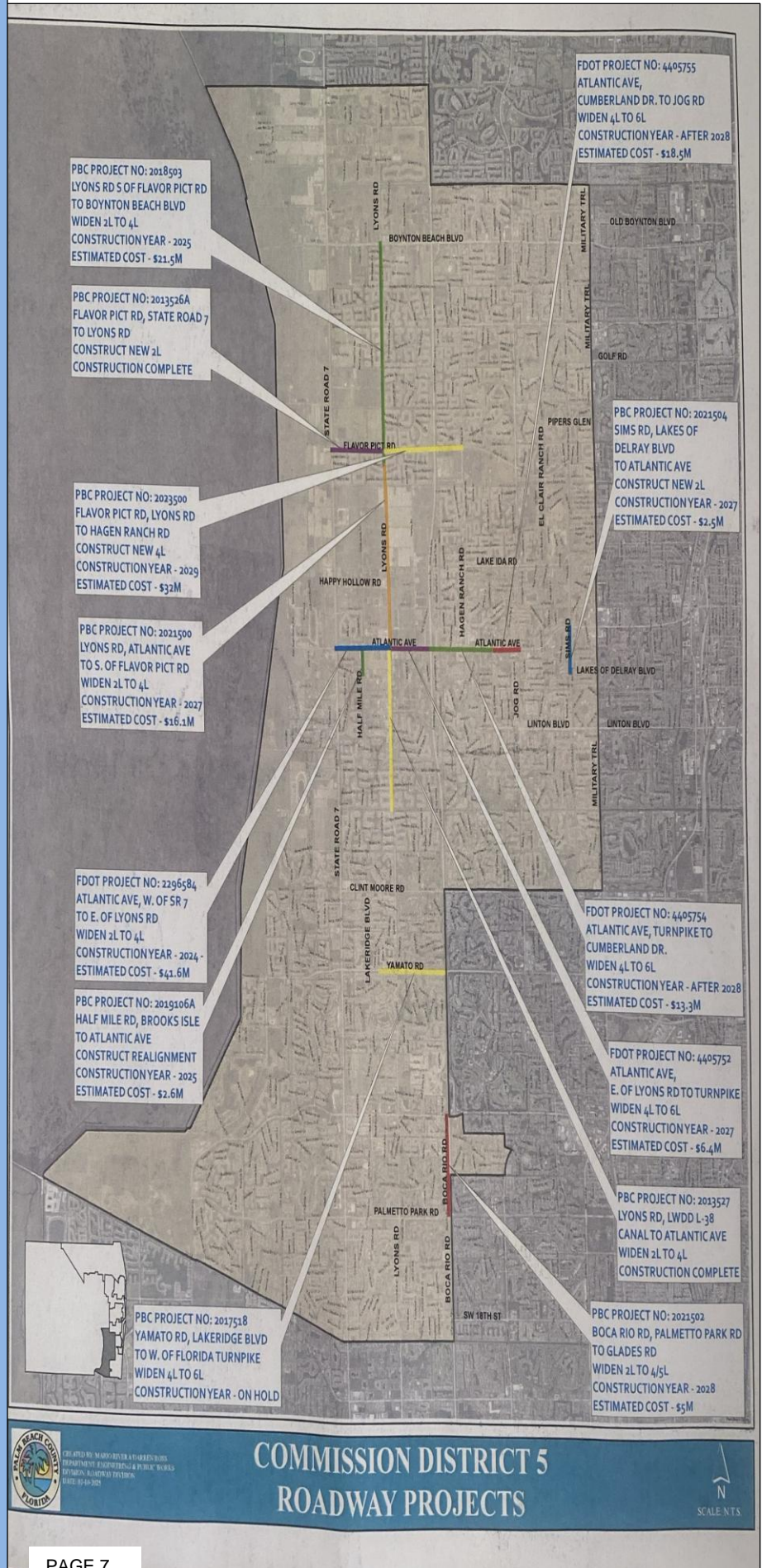
A strong emphasis was placed on reducing the volume of traffic rather than expanding the infrastructure to accommodate higher volumes. The panelists argued that leveraging technology to manage and optimize traffic flow could lead to significant improvements in efficiency and safety. They explored various strategies, such as intelligent traffic management systems and the integration of smart transportation networks.

Current and Planned Projects:

The speakers profiled current District 5 roadway projects, showcasing how technology is being used to enhance the existing infrastructure. They also outlined planned future projects, which aim to incorporate cutting-edge technologies to create a more sustainable and efficient transportation system. These projects include the deployment of advanced traffic sensors, real-time data analytics, and automated traffic control systems.

Conclusion

By focusing on reducing traffic volume and optimizing traffic flow, the experts provided a clear roadmap for leveraging technological innovations to create a smarter, safer, and more efficient transportation system for the future.



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Important Information Contained in this Newsletter.

TO:

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