

**CITY OF BOYNTON BEACH, FLORIDA
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

TO:	Kurt Bressner, City Manager	DATE:	24 September 2008	FILE:
		SUBJECT:	Boynton Inlet Project	
FROM:	G. Matthew Immler, Chief of Police and William Bingham, Chief of Fire/Rescue	REFERENCES:		
		ENCLOSURES:		

The Boynton Beach Fire Rescue Department has worked with the Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Department during the past year as traffic flow was impeded on A1A north of the Inlet. Primarily, we utilized a mutual aid arrangement in which the county would notify Boynton Beach automatically if we were needed to back up the county in the area under construction. Given the relatively small number of responses to this area, there were no issues noted for the three instances, each lasting approximately three months that this agreement was in place. In these cases, unlike the proposal regarding the inlet, there was always an alternate one-lane traffic route established for emergency vehicles access.

Police response on the barrier island is primarily limited to Ocean Ridge south of the inlet for purposes of mutual aid and to the Town of Briny Breezes pursuant to an agreement for the provision of police services. The police department does however respond north of the inlet on occasion for mutual aid purposes. Additionally, the inlet itself provides ocean access for the Police Marine Unit on those occasions where off-shore response is necessary. Coastal cities and the Sheriff's Office operate marine units to the mutual benefit of each jurisdiction and to participate in federal law enforcement operations pursuant to project *Blue Lightning* which focuses marine assets on preventing the illegal shipment of drugs and immigrants.

Long range concerns relating to the inlet without the alternate one-way lane option are as follows:

Mutual Aid access to Ocean Ridge and Briny Breezes by Palm Beach County Fire Rescue when requested by Boynton Beach Fire Rescue would be compromised to the extent that secondary responses to major multi-unit calls would have a longer response time. This is true for Ocean Ridge and Boynton Beach PD regarding mutual aid calls from the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office and possibly Delray Beach PD.

Mutual Aid access to Manalapan by Boynton Beach Fire Rescue when requested by Palm Beach County Fire Rescue would be compromised.

Single direction approach to motor vehicle accident scenes on A1A that could limit emergency response operations for multi vehicle collisions due to apparatus not being able to reach vehicles and victims beyond the point of road blockage (example: car fire with a victim inside the vehicle 500 ft beyond point of impact where road is blocked).

Motor vehicle accidents that block or shut down the roadway may isolate properties on the opposite side of the accident scene if simultaneous emergency incidents occur.

Critical patient transports to "appropriate" medical facilities could be delayed significantly because of one-way-in/one-way-out travel routes for properties closest to the inlet.

Traffic from A1A will be detoured onto other heavily traveled roadways aggravating existing road conditions, especially during the peak season for the beachfront communities. Delays at the Ocean

Avenue draw bridge are possible at times when traffic is traditionally heaviest and bridge openings are more frequent.

Construction site (bridge building) will be in two different jurisdictions and accidents or injuries on the site will need to be reported to the proper jurisdiction for appropriate response time requirements to be met.

We don't believe that any of the possible problems mentioned herein will disrupt the overall public safety operation in Boynton Beach. However, response times to the barrier island will increase with fire and police operations along the A1A at least somewhat affected by the road closure.