

## I-75/Everglades Boulevard Update Public Information Comments

- 1.) Yes I want the exit. I go to college, so it will be less miles.
- 2.) Yes, I want the exit. Because if I need to go to town, I don't want to go around and won't go to Miami. It's closer to the hospital so I want the improvement.
- 3.) I want the exit. Because if I have an emergency and this will be closer to the hospital. I have 3 sons who go to college and is much closer for them for my family when they come to see me from Miami.
- 4.) Consideration should be given now to placing the interchange at the southern terminus of the planned Wilson Boulevard Extension. Few if any homes would need to be condemned as compared to Everglades Boulevard. Local environmental groups support construction of Wilson Boulevard and might be supportive of moving the interchange further west from the panther refuge. Large landowners in North Belle Meade could help with the interchange access lands and costs. If any interchange could be approved without strong environmental objections, it would be at Wilson Boulevard.
- 5.) I agree that it will benefit all who live near I-75.
- 6.) Needed for safety reasons; I believe are very obvious. Build it now.
- 7.) I think it looks great. Get it done.
- 8.) I am the Team Leader of the Golden Gate CERT Team (Citizen Emergency Response Team) Association of Golden Gate Fire District. In 2009 there was a major woods fire that closed both Golden Gate Boulevard and Everglades Boulevard. Residents were at the mercy of the winds and fire-trapped. This is a matter of public safety. It has been needed for years-red tape. Life is more important than red tape! Evacuation is the first priority-thank God we have a great fire service. But it really could have been a fire with loss of life. Build this interchange.
- 9.) The safety of my family (3 kids, wife and my father) is a huge concern to me, we had a fire last summer, in less than 1/2 hour went from S.E. 22 Ave to 18 Ave. I could have lost my whole family because of lack of access to the estates for the fire dept, etc. or a quick way out of it. It takes us 39 minutes to get to I-75 and Everglades today, with a ramp on place it will take us 3 minutes. It will save money, gas time and the environment. My kids can't apply for a part-time job in Naples because they have to drive 45 minutes to get there, making it cost effective to work there it will only be 9 minutes both ways. To get to I-75 and 951 (my work) I spent 25 minutes today, it will be 4 minutes by the ramp; to get to Miami is a waste of time and money and gas because of the driving distance. It will cut more than 1/2 the time by the ramp now.

**10.)** This project will also impact our pockets. Because we will save gas, the car would suffer less. And best of all we don't have to wake up so early to go to work. God Bless and thank you.

**11.)** No taxes for Jackson Lab and NO lab to pollute the Estates. Open I-75 and Everglades.

**12.)** Stop the politics and open I-75 and Everglades ASAP!

**13.)** I am for the ramps. It takes me from 4 a.m. that I get up to make it to work at 6:30 a.m. because there is no ramp at Everglades. Also when we had the big fire, I had everything burn that meant no easy access for the fire department to reach back where I live.

**14.)** This interchange is necessary and will enhance public safety and welfare. While the environment is important, opening this connection will not have a significant impact on wetlands on species habitat. Consider if the interchange is not built, homes will still be built and many cars will still travel Everglades Boulevard. Unless we are going to "take" most of the un-built property, build out will necessitate a connection of 150,000 population neighborhood to I-75.

**15.)** I'm for the project. The sooner the better for safety reasons.

**16.)** This is a very important project for all Golden Gate citizens. It should have been included in the original I-75 plans.

**17.)** I have waited too long for this exit. Years ago before I-75, I was able to cross S.R. 84-Alligator Alley at will. We always had access to north and south of Alligator Alley, S.R. 84. I love the outdoors and the animals and nature and would never want them to be destroyed. But I have had fires and safety problems. And those emergency vehicles took too long to come to my property. I say this as a safety for humans issue and not an environment issue. We need this exit now, not later.

**18.)** I am very pleased to hear an exit will be placed on I-75 at Everglades Boulevard. There used to be an exit there years ago and now there is nothing there. I have to go drive an extra 50 miles off exit 29 just to get to my property off Desoto Boulevard. We need this exit to save lives, time, money and welcome for our people. These are factors we can't forget about. Those are our basic human rights. Thanks for your time.

**19.)** Please, please get this interchange for the welfare of all. I have lived out on Desoto for 20 years and was told that at the time that an interchange was in the works - the possibility of harm from wildfires or other emergency that requires evacuation is very real. I have experienced as showers raining down on the Boulevard and no way to evacuate. I think the possibility of a class action law suit for property damage and or loss of life resulting from no evacuation route, due to this project not going through will occur. This is very important. I will now allow human life to be in jeopardy for environmental reasons that are political when this project could be constructed for the benefit of both people and environment.

**20.)** A great opportunity for you and the I-75 interchange.com site; please join or make a page on facebook. Then go on to join "the Estates" on facebook. You can help me keep the momentum going and I can help with postings and blogs. [annettekniola@naplesnews.com](mailto:annettekniola@naplesnews.com) I am representing the community as advisory committee.

**21.)** Absolutely in favor. The federal money is available right now for such a project. It would be a shame to lose it and the federal support by going into a new administration (fall 2012). We must act expeditiously to project a cost and apply for the money while we know it is available. It seems to me that the conservationists and environmentalists would see benefits-i.e.. improving access for the public to a state/federal park for families who love natural beauty. It also appears from the IJR maps (1,2,&3) that the natural habitats would be preserved (except for the one that re-routes the canal) Please keep us informed. We support the project. Also safety concerns should always outweigh special interests, especially when so much consideration has been given to those interests.

**22.)** Absolutely in favor. Federal money is available to help us out of the recession. We need to know the cost in order to present it. Hundreds of thousands of jobs will be created the day this project breaks ground. Please keep me informed.

**23.)** I hope common sense reigns in the development of this interchange. Congratulations all in the development of multiple activities.....in order that this change can occur quickly. I can definitely see that the health, safety and welfare of the homes and people of the area can only be positively affected by the addition of this interchange. As a biology teacher in this county and environmental area-I agree that wildlife and other conditions must be addressed. However with studies and adjustments to this area, I'm certain this issue can be resolved.

**24.)** Compare to S.R. 29 and I-75 interchange. Simple, efficient and less cost. Plus it won't require much more land, which is already prepped. S.R. 29 and I-75 is more environmentally sensitive but well protected.

**25.)** I've voiced my concerns in the past. Regarding mass evacuation of students at the elementary school here in Everglades Boulevard. We need to ensure this can be done swiftly and safely. The interchange will allow this. The fire of 2008 on the 4 corners of Everglades Blvd, GG Blvd was a wake up call. I am a resident of the Picayune State Forest, I too love the animals and surroundings, that's why I live there. However, there is no price too high to pay to save a human life. I lived through the 60,000 acre fire in 2007. The fire swept through my property with a fury. My home was saved-but not my neighbors. This too was a wake up call. Now imagine a catastrophe in the Picayune State Forest the demanded immediate evacuation-imagine fallen trees on Everglades Boulevard. Gates are closed at I-75-where do we go? How will you get to save us? Rescue us, trust the wounded when every second and minute counts? We are dignified hard working citizens who deserved the safety other citizens are afforded.

**26.)** Golden Gate Estates area property owners need to be accurately informed about potential impact to their properties and the traffic implications on Everglades Boulevard from future developments in the rural lands stewardship areas. Pep rallies are fine and dandy but the public information process on this project to date has been embarrassingly short on facts and substance. Lots of rah rah and no facts. Where are the RLSA proposals and landowners that are the political backings and major beneficiaries of the interchange? Why should Collier taxpayers pay to build more road infrastructure for the RLSA? How many estates properties will be taken for environmental mitigation? Less cheerleading and more practical information please

**27.)** We need this now! Let's get this done!!

**28.)** I am strongly in favor of this project. First, for the safety of residents as it relates to fires and hurricanes. Second, by mitigating any environmental concerns, this interchange would allow for much needed access to this area from the east coast which I believe would have a positive effect on businesses and jobs in the local area.

**29.)** The interchange is badly needed for emergency services and to provide access to highway to evacuate in emergencies. It would also save me time and money. I believe it will increase the value of our area. Human safety should take priority over environmental concerns.

**30.)** Please make our homes safe. We need I-75/Everglades open for all of our safety.

**31.)** I work in Miami. This interchange will save me time and money. But never mind me. Let's talk about services that could save human lives. Division of Forestry could access this interchange, lives, homes. If you had this interchange you would have less traffic on Oil Well and State Road 29.

**32.)** We were in attendance in the information meeting of I-75/Everglades Boulevard Interchange on Nov. 4th, 2010. We would like to give our opinion about it. This project sounds great and we are waiting for it anxiously. This project not only will give the prosperity to our community that we have been waiting a long time ago but also will give the opportunity to raise the values of our properties and more people will come to live here. This area could be like a Weston City-Fort Lauderdale. But the negative part of the project is that it will take many years to finish. Nine years is too much. It is a bureaucratic project. In the schedule it shows steps that will take years. You need to cut the time and finish it as soon as possible if not this area will go down. During the meeting they spoke about species conservation. Since the moment civilization came to this place, we invade their land and you let us develop all these communities. Why are you now thinking about it? Anyway at the moment, the civilization comes here, they have gone away. on the other hand, we try to keep our property more natural as possible. And what will happen when you develop the huge project in the area next to DeSoto Boulevard (the 2nd Naples City). That project will cause more impact that I-75/Everglades project. You need to start this project like the expansion of Oil Well Road. Everybody knows the Ave Maria's owner has great interest that the expansion will finish as soon as possible because this project will give more prosperity to his community. Thank you in advance for the opportunity to express our opinion.

**33.)** I think it is a good idea for the project to go ahead-for evacuation. Especially for access to I-75 if there are brush fires or hurricanes.

**34.)** Urgent need of interchange re-opening for safety (exit) and amenity reasons.

**35.)** Having an interchange at Everglades eliminates time for travel and from Ft. Lauderdale to Golden Gate Boulevard area traffic congestion problems.

**36.)** I drive Everglades Boulevard almost daily for the work I do in Picayune. It would be much more convenient for the interchange to exist but in no way am I willing to sacrifice the lives of the wildlife that live in the Golden Gate Estates Area. People will argue about their safety and welfare who live and work in this area, but I would say when is the last time the Golden Gate Estates residents were killed by raging flood water. True, wildfires do occur, but the answer is not to put a 4 lane highway in for evacuation. The answer is to be a good steward of your home and property which may be clearing a portion of your property around your home to make it less susceptible to fire. How about planting fire retardant shrubs around the perimeter. People live in GGE because its natural and wild. Don't make it like every other place in FL-developed and superficial. I am highly opposed to the construction of this interchange. The commissioners and public are not worried about public safety, they are concerned with the convenience that would exist after the interchange. Don't candy-coat the reasons. Please do not go through with this!!!!

**37.)** This project to open I-75 at Everglades is way overdue. It was closed years ago without study in impact to people. Why all this concern now about animals? Please hurry so some of us who have waited years already-can feel we are not forced to travel inordinate distances just to go to Broward County or Palm Beach.

**38.)** Moved here 2 years ago. Love the area but would really love to have a quicker way out of the Estates in case of a fire. It concerns me a great deal. We also need our rescue and police to access 75.

**39.)** The environment, however well intended have lost perspective in that that benefits for the species known as "man" should be foremost. It's difficult to discern what is good for mankind and society as opposed to what benefits the greedy type of species. But at some point common sense must prevail. Our interchange will benefit our community. Independents in the form of lawsuits to protect snails, etc. will continue to drive up our cost of living. We must try to keep the environmentalists involved in our planning and we must keep reason above all else.

**40.)** For the safety of people! OK for their (being environmentalists) purposes then for people. Humans and wildlife co-exist now. They will continue.

**41.)** I am in strong support for the I-75 Everglades interchange. There are several reasons why I am supporting the interchange. 1.) Limited impacts. Much of the area is already impacted with existing ramps and bridges. 2.) Provides strong access in an emergency necessitating evacuation of the northern Golden Gate Estates. 3.) Alleviates some roadways from traffic traveling north on I-75 or into Naples. 4.) Limited environmental impacts as southern Golden Gate Estates was already taken for Everglades restoration

**42.)** This project is simply a matter of public safety

**43.)** Why not develop the existing access to I-75 at this point just sufficiently to be used in an emergency evacuation? Wait until the economy picks up to see if the land east of Desoto Boulevard is going to be developed.

**44.)** I suggest a connection between Desoto Boulevard and Everglades Boulevard at the south and parallel to I-75.