SUMTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUBJECT: Buenos Aires Boulevard Golf Cart Access (Board option).

REQUESTED ACTION: **The Board of County Commissioners may elect to implement any of the options for further engieering study and implementation**

☐ Work Session (Report Only) **DATE OF MEETING:** September 28, 2010

☒ Regular Meeting ☐ Special Meeting

CONTRACT: ☐ N/A Vendor/Entity: _____
Effective Date: _____ Termination Date: _____
Managing Division / Dept: Public Works / Road and Bridge

BUDGET IMPACT: Varies depending on the option selected by the Board

☒ Annual **FUNDING SOURCE:** County Transportation Trust
☐ Capital **EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT:** **103-340-541-4600**
☐ N/A

HISTORY/FACTS/ISSUES:

The County received a request to provide golf cart access to commercial property along the north side of Buenos Aires Boulevard. Public Works prepared four options for the Board of County Commissioners to consider. Sumter County Ordinance No. 2003-19 and Resolution No. 2003-020A provide the governing authority to allow golf cart travel within specifically designated roadways in the Villages Community.

Existing Conditions:

Buenos Aires Boulevard currently is a 4 lane undivided roadway connecting El Camino Real to US Highway 441/27. A twenty-four hour traffic count was performed over January 21 and January 22, 2010. The vehicle counts were 5,548 southbound and 5,069 northbound for a two way total of 10,617. The paved traveled way is 48 feet wide and type "F" curb and gutter exist along both sides of the roadway. The County maintains Buenos Aires Boulevard which consists of 4 x 12 foot travel lanes and type "F" curb and approximately 4' grass strip. El Camino Real is a 4 lane divided roadway where it intersects Buenos Aires.

Adjacent to the County's right-of-way is a 15' utility easement under separate ownership (Little Sumter Utility Company) and from field reviews contains a large amount of landscape. The intersections of Buenos Aires Boulevard with El Camino Real and US 441/27 are fully signalized. A 60 foot right-of-way exists from El Camino Real northeast to Bella Cruz Drive. A 67 foot right-of-way exists from Bella Cruz Drive northeast to US 441/27 to facilitate the raised median. The posted speed limit is 30 MPH.

Golf Cart Access:

Presently golf cart traffic, by means of tunnel cart traffic under El Camino Real immediately south of Buenos Aires Boulevard, is able to ingress and egress all of the commercial properties south of Buenos Aires Boulevard. Based on field observations and interviews with golf cart drivers accessing businesses on the north side of Buenos Aires Boulevard, the perceived safe crossing is from the rear entrance (truck Delivery) of the Publix shopping center.

Purpose:

This report has been prepared by Public Works to provide options to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration to facilitate the golf cart traffic north of Buenos Aires Boulevard. Options are listed below along with staff's pros/cons concerning each.

Option 1: ***Keep the existing conditions "As Is"***

Pros: No potential increases in tort liability for the County.

Zero cost

Minimizes the co-mingling of licensed motor vehicles with battery operated golf carts on a 4 lane, undivided collector road

Assured access remains available via motorize vehicles.

Cons: Continued citizen complaints

Option 2: ***Provide cart path from Publix Shopping Center driveway across Buenos Aires Boulevard (i.e. connect truck entrance with main entrance serving Publix Shopping Center and open an entrance from the medical offices parking to the southwest).***

Pros: Allows golf cart cross access between businesses on the south side of Buenos Aires Boulevard and those on the north side.

Limits time of exposure while co-mingled with automobiles on Buenos Aires

Cons: Must obtain permission from (2) private landowner (Davis Resources, LLC and Cattle Venture) to remove curb, build cart path and install striping and signage replace landscaping and irrigation.

Must obtain permission from Little Sumter Utility company to use 15 ft utility easement.

Must relocate utility boxes to install golf cart path from front parking lot to the crossing

Golf cart crossing adds a conflict point for vehicles traveling Buenos Aires Boulevard.

Estimated cost for the cart path construction and landscape replacement $35,000.
Estimated cost for the acquisition of land and/or easements $ 20,000.
Estimated cost to cut curb and build short path to rear entrance $ 10,000

Option 3: ***Install Traffic Signal at intersection of Bella Cruz Drive and Buenos Aires Boulevard to include provisions for golf cart crossing.***

Pros: Allows Buenos Aires Boulevard golf cart crossing under signalized conditions.

Cons: Traffic Signal is too close to US441/27 and would adversely affect the free flow of southbound traffic (potential to back up traffic unto US 441/27).

Crossing adds conflict point for vehicles traveling Buenos Aires Boulevard.

Island in the center of Buenos Aires could restrict site distance for golf carts crossing from south to north, and north to south.

Estimated Traffic Signal Expenses $ 150,000.
Estimated Roadway Expenses $ 75,000.

Option 4: ***Modify the existing traffic signal at the intersection of Buenos Aires Boulevard and El Camino Real to allow cart crossing.***

Pros: This option would provide an additional route to cross El Camino Real onto Buenos Aires Boulevard and is similar (but not identical) to other locations in the Villages.

El Camino Real and Buenos Aires Boulevard is already a signalized intersection.

Cons: This option would require purchasing right-of-way or acquiring easements for realignment of the cart pathway at the intersection of El Camino Real and Buenos Aires Boulevard. The cart pathway should include a design to provide stacking separation and sight distance.

This option would comingle the golf carts for the longest distance on Buenos Aires, with speed differential causing potential hazardous conditions.

This option would have battery operated golf carts crossing a major intersection with automobile traffic

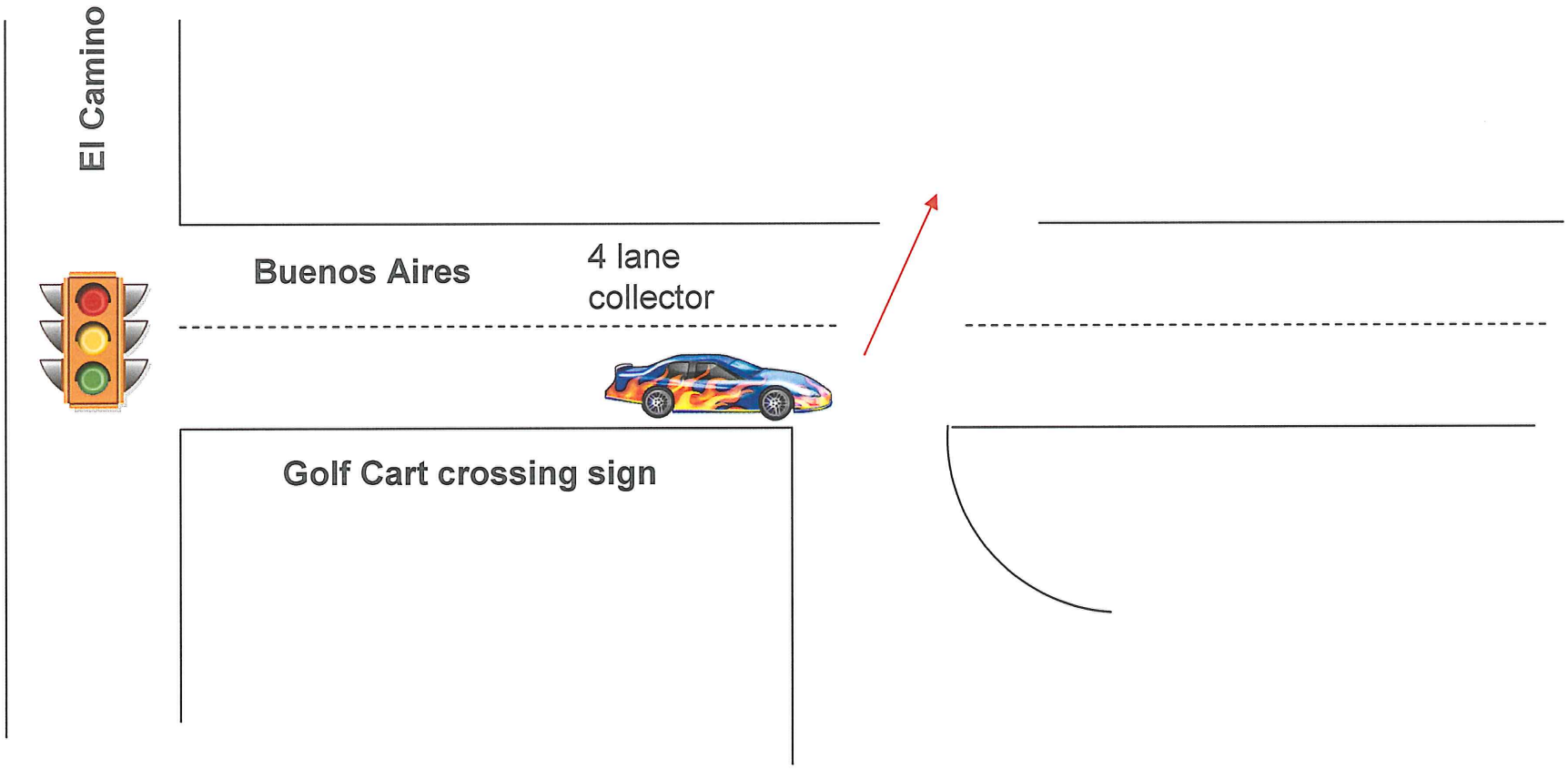
Increase in potential tort liability for the County.

Estimated Design costs for sight distance and queuing $5000
Estimated Costs for realignment of cart pathway $ 30,000.
Estimated Costs for land and/or easements $ 5,000.
Estimated Costs for additional signage and marking $5000

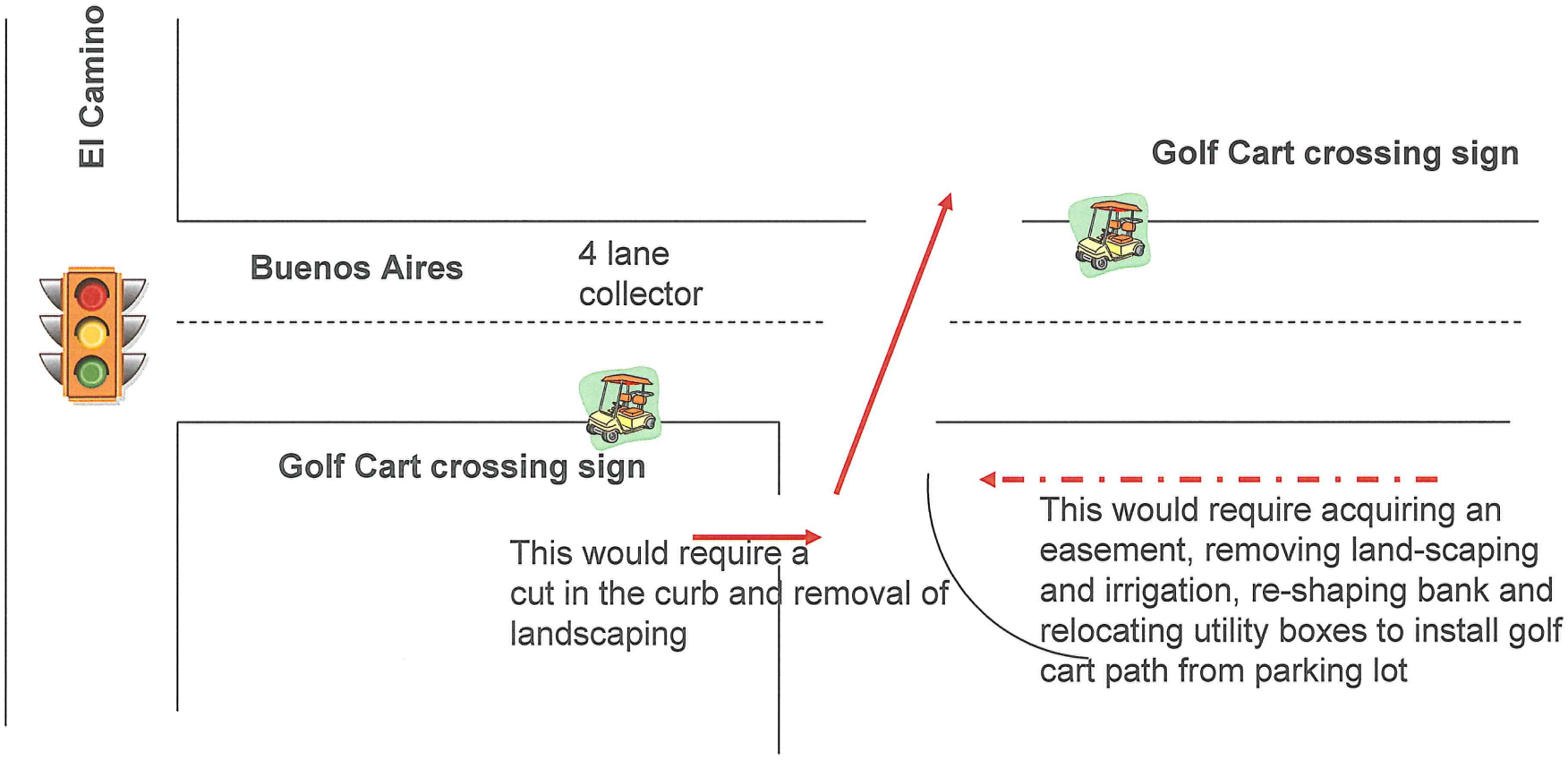
Buenos Aires

Golf Cart Access Options

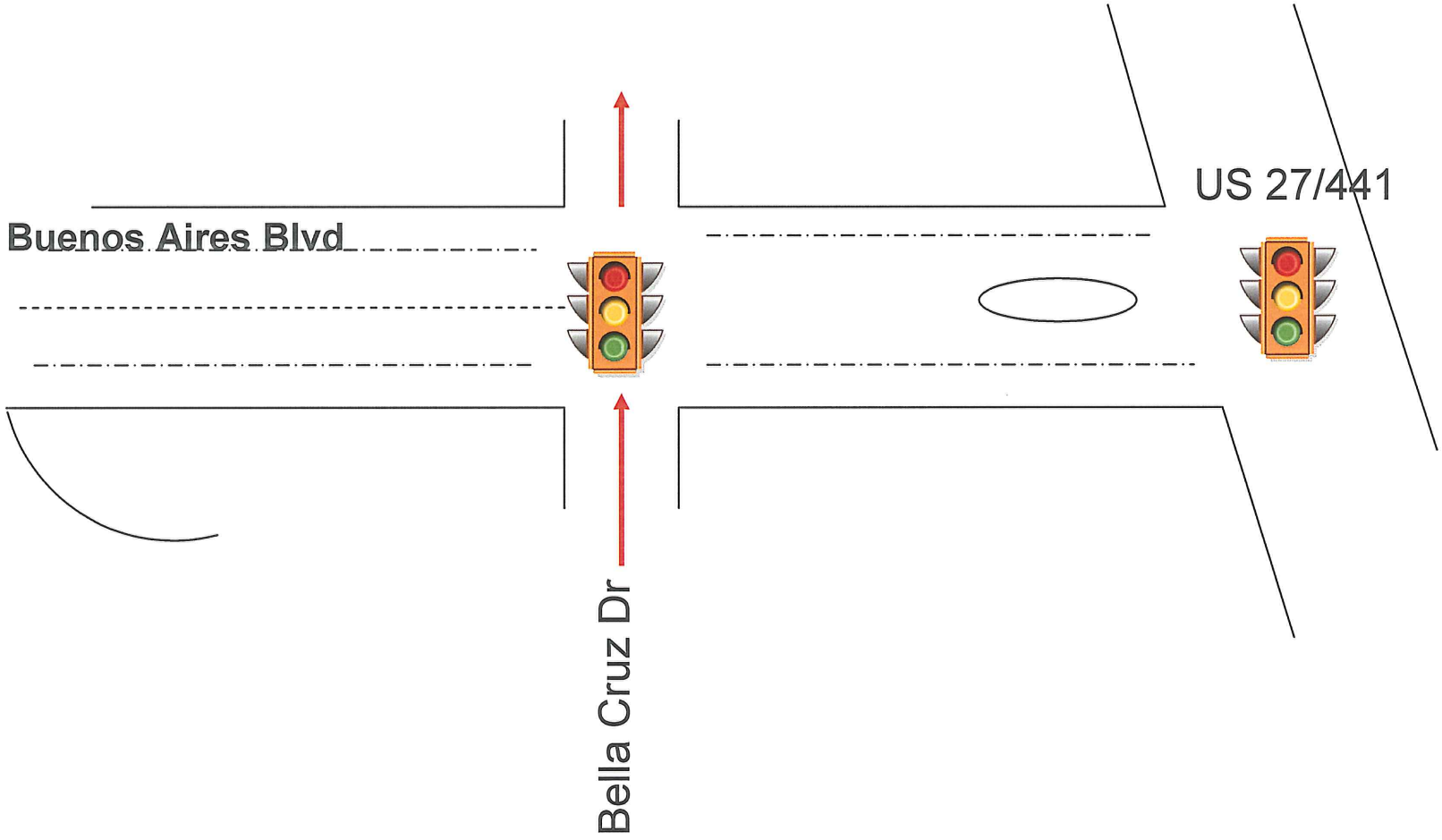
Option 1 – No Change



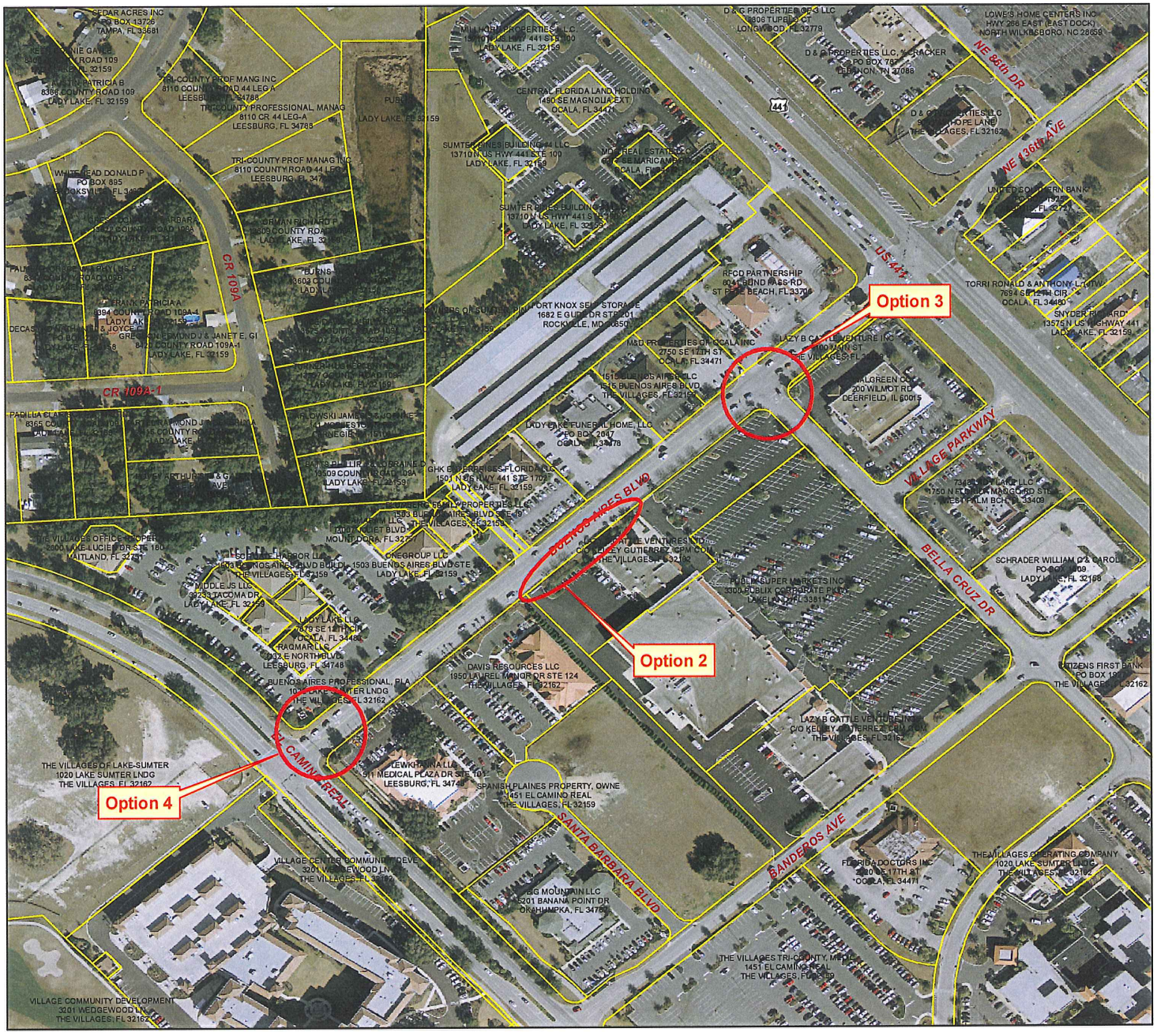
Option 2 – Surface Crossing Behind the Subway and Publix at Mid-block

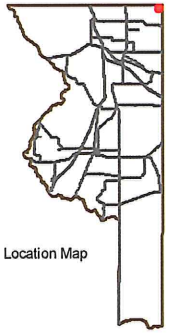


Option 3 – Signalized Crossing West of US 27/441



Option 4 – Cross El Camino Real and Join Traffic on Buenos Aires





Location Map

Legend

Parcels

Option 1 is the existing conditions remain

1 inch = 200 feet

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Date Prepared: Sept. 7, 2010