

**SUMTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**SUBJECT:** Buenos Aires Golf Cart Crossing (Board Option)

**REQUESTED ACTION:** Board option

Work Session (Report Only)

Regular Meeting

**DATE OF MEETING:** January 25, 2011

Special Meeting

**CONTRACT:**  N/A

Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Managing Division / Dept: \_\_\_\_\_

Vendor/Entity: \_\_\_\_\_

Termination Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Public Works Division

**BUDGET IMPACT:** NA

Annual

Capital

N/A

**FUNDING SOURCE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**HISTORY/FACTS/ISSUES:**

During the January 18, 2011 Workshop, the Board received a recap of all actions related to this subject from July 2007 to the present. As a result the Board decided to bring the issue of golf carts on Buenos Aires Blvd to the next BOCC meeting on January 25, 2011 for final discussion and vote, focusing on two options.

Current status: The design created by Volkert was implemented on November 24, 2010 and is currently in place. This allows golf carts to cross El Camino Real with the traffic signal, travel along Buenos Aires Blvd and turn left into the parking lot that fronts most of the businesses on the NW side of Buenos Aires Blvd (golf cart access to the gas station and one other business from the parking lot is restricted by a curb extension) . It then allows the carts to return to cross El Camino Real with the traffic signal and re-enter the multi-modal path. The current design restricts golf carts from crossing perpendicularly across Buenos Aires from the Publix side to the NW side of Buenos Aires Blvd. The tunnel on El Camino Real allows golf cart access to the Publix side of Buenos Aires Blvd. See enclosure 1.

Status from July 2007 - November 2010: In July 2007 the Board instructed CDD 1 to remove the signs that restricted golf carts from crossing Buenos Aires Blvd from the Publix side to the NW side of Buenos Aires. In effect, this allowed the carts to cross at 3 locations: behind the Publix, in front of the Publix and behind the Walgreens. This permission did not include crossing El Camino Real. The tunnel on El Camino Real allowed golf cart access to the Publix side of Buenos Aires. There were no reported golf cart crashes on Buenos Aires during this period.

Option 1: Return to pre-July 2007 conditions, that is, remove all the signs just installed, except leave the 3 on the SE side of Buenos Aires (behind and in front of the Publix and behind the Walgreens) that say "No carts beyond this point." Would include a motion to rescind Resolution 2010-49, dated October 26, 2010 if selected

Pros:

1. The safest option for all drivers, both auto and golf cart, as it eliminates potential conflict.
  2. Eliminates potential tort liability for the County.
  3. No cost.
  4. Does not grant golf access to non-Villages businesses.
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Cons:

1. Most restrictive as it eliminates golf cart access to the businesses on the NW side of Buenos Aires Blvd, except for those carts that are properly licensed.
2. Continued citizen complaints.

Option 2: Remove all signs, and the BOCC will grant permission for golf carts to drive on Buenos Aires in all 4 lanes from El Camino to the gas station, and across Buenos Aires at the 3 crossing locations mentioned above. The left lanes would be used for golf carts to turn left only. This permission would include crossing El Camino Real with the traffic signal in the vicinity of Freedom Pointe.

Pros:

1. Allows unrestricted access to the businesses on the NW side of Buenos Aires Blvd for licensed and unlicensed golf carts.
2. Allows gas carts to access the gas station on the NW side of Buenos Aires Blvd.
3. Eliminate citizen complaints from golf cart operators.

Cons:

1. Least safe option as golf carts will be traversing a 4 lane collector with auto and truck traffic, with ADT of more than 10,000. In addition, carts will be able to cross perpendicularly which will increase the potential for conflicts.
  2. This condition (4 lanes of golf cart traffic going with and across traffic) does not exist anywhere else in the Villages.
  3. Increase potential tort liability for the County.
  4. Provides no direction for carts at the intersection of the multi-modal path along El Camino in order to cross in front of Freedom Pointe.
  5. Grants golf cart access status to the non-Villages businesses along the NW side of Buenos Aires Blvd.
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