

# Easing traffic congestion and improving safety

*Herb Rubin, Traffic Committee Chair  
Committee of the Islands*

As our busy tourist season approaches, this may be a good time to explore ways of reducing congestion and improving safety on Periwinkle Way and San-Cap Road.

In recent years the city has moved some lanes on Periwinkle Way away from the multi-purpose paths, primarily to ensure the safety of pedestrians and cyclists. In the process, they have added or reworked left turn lanes at Donax, Dixie Beach, and Casa Ybel. The results appear to have met their safety goals and also improved the flow of traffic at those intersections.

We now ask whether left turn lanes should be considered for other sections of roadway where we frequently experience bottlenecks, especially during the winter months.

The Committee of the Islands seeks your input regarding points along Periwinkle Way where it intersects with one of the entrances both to Tahitian Gardens and Periwinkle Place, as well as the entrance to the Forever Green Shopping Center. Additionally, a striped crosswalk at the entrance to the Congregational Church would enhance the safety of cyclists who cross there from the bike path, as well as those who park their vehicles at the east entrance to Periwinkle Place and then cross the road to attend events at the church facilities. There are no crosswalks on Periwinkle between Casa Ybel Rd. and the Community Center, almost a mile.

Another intersection that merits consideration is Rabbit Rd. at San-Cap Rd., where there is already a crosswalk for the multi-purpose path. Left turn lanes on San-Cap Rd. for traffic turning onto Rabbit Rd. and for traffic turning from Rabbit Rd. into the west-bound lane of San-Cap Rd. would ease the bottlenecks that often occur there, especially during the tourist season. The turn lanes would also act to slow down the often fast-moving traffic where pedestrians and cyclists cross San-Cap Rd.

The City Charter allows for such improvements to the roadway as long as the traffic-easing turn lane does not exceed 100 yards, thereby avoiding the need for a public referendum on the issue. Before a serious accident occurs at one of these locations, what do you think about these or other such safety and traffic-easing changes to our roadways?

Please email your thoughts to [coti@coti.org](mailto:coti@coti.org). Or write to Committee of the Islands at PO Box 88, Sanibel, FL 33957. You can also find commentaries on this and other island issues on our website at [coti.org](http://coti.org).