



August 31, 2009

TO: Tammy Hall, Lee BoCC

FROM: Dave Urich, Transportation Coordinator – RGMC

RE: Express Road to The City of Babcock

I think it is too soon to settle the challenge to Charlotte County, as I stated at the Lee BoCC meeting where the Settlement Agreement between Lee County and Charlotte County. Among issues that have not been fully resolved is the location of a proposed Express Road to the City of Babcock which would connect to I-75!

While trying to research this particular issue, I was informed that the Lee BoCC had voted to adopt the proposed Del Prado Extension alignment on 10/3/2006. I attach a color copy of that alignment, with a red line I added to show the non-adopted Slater Road alternative (which is only about 600 feet to the South of the proposed one). State DOT told me that Slater was too close to the existing Bayshore Interchange for the new interchange to be approved by the Feds.

In e-mail communication with LDOT's Don DeBerry, he informed me that the alignment was adopted as the result of a 2 year study, and thus he did not expect the BoCC to direct it's redoing. In a second e-mail he explained that Slater was not selected due to their findings that it "has the most residential, business and church impacts, the worst interchange operational characteristics, and the highest right of way costs". I also attach page 6-5 from the adopted study, with red arrows showing that six (6) of the studied alternatives utilized Prairie Pines Preserve as the basis for their alignment. This may have been due to the comment on page 1-2 of the same study which says; "The acquisition of the right-of-way from the Prairie Pines Preserve was assumed to be at no cost."

Finally, I attach the recent article from the News-Press, dated 8/11/09, about the dedication of Prairie Pines Preserve. It refers to the Preserve as "2,709 acres of environmentally protected land". It refers to "hiking and horseback trails" at the \$1.4 million project and speaks of other public amenities. The article says that the land was purchased with conservation money in April of 2001 for \$11.8 million!