

## Royal Poinciana Way median closure would add parking spaces for business district

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The town is considering closing the median opening on Royal Poinciana Way to create more parking for businesses.

The closure could create an estimated 31 spaces, at a cost of \$40,000 to \$50,000, according to the Public Works Department.

It could be done without causing a significant delay in the traffic flow at Royal Poinciana Way's intersections with Bradley Place/Cocoanut Row and North County Road, according to a consultant.

On Tuesday, the Town Council will hear the results of consultant Kimley-Horn and Associates' analysis on the impacts of closing the median. The meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. in Town Hall.

The Royal Poinciana Way right-of-way is owned by the Florida Department of Transportation, whose approval would be required.

The median has a mid-block opening for motorists to make a U-turn between eastbound and westbound Royal Poinciana Way without traveling to one of the intersections at the end of the street.

Kimley-Horn recommended that the town extend the westbound left turn lane at the intersection with Bradley Place to accommodate the projected traffic queue and deceleration distance that would occur if the median opening was eliminated.

The turn lane extension would require the elimination of about eight parking spaces, but there would still be a net gain of about 31 spaces, Public Works Director Paul Brazil said.

The council ordered the study at the suggestion of Leslie Evans, a businessman and attorney who owns two buildings on Royal Poinciana Way.



Evans said businesses there don't have enough parking.

He said Saturday that Publix's expansion has claimed a parking lot on Sunset Avenue, where spaces were leased for employees of stores in the area. That, he said, makes it even more important to create more parking on Royal Poinciana Way. Elimination of the median cut-through also will create more green space, he said.

In other business, Mayor Gail Coniglio will give a report on last Thursday's mediation session between residents of Clarke, Barton, Seaspray and Seabreeze avenues over where best to assign on-street public parking spaces for beach access.

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