

Town to close Royal Poinciana Way median in parking, traffic experiment

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The town plans to close the median opening on Royal Poinciana Way next season to determine the impact its removal would have on traffic and parking.

The town is considering permanent removal of the opening to create about more on-street parking spaces for local businesses. Florida Department of Transportation permission would be needed because the street is part of State Road A1A.



At a meeting this week, the Town Council decided to temporarily barricade the opening, and stripe the additional parking spaces, next fall or early next winter when traffic is at its peak. That will give the town staff time to work with the DOT to secure its permission, Town Manager Peter Elwell said Friday.

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

Town consultant Kimley-Horn and Associates has said removal of the opening 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.

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 the business district would benefit from the additional parking and added green space if the median opening were removed.

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