

## **Transportation Committee Meets with Local Transportation Officials**

On December 14<sup>th</sup> the ECCL Transportation Committee met with Dave Loveland, Director of the Lee County Transportation department (LeeDOT), Johnny Limbaugh, Manager of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Fort Myers office and Don Scott, Executive Director of the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization(MPO) to discuss Estero's transportation projects and priorities.

At present Estero has three significant intersection/safety projects that need to be completed as soon as possible. They are:

- The western approach to the US 41 Williams Road Intersection,
- Installing a right turn lane for vehicles approaching the Estero Parkway/Three Oaks Parkway intersection from the west, and
- Reconfiguring Three Oaks Parkway in order to provide better access to the Estero Post Office.

The Committee has recruited leaders from West Bay Club, Fountain Lakes and Pelican Sound to lead the effort to improve the US 41/Williams intersection. A follow-up meeting for this project committee has been scheduled with Lee DOT in January.

Committee members living near the Estero Parkway/Three Oaks intersection are working with the County to determine the status of available right-of-way. If sufficient right-of-way is available this project group will seek County sponsorship for the project and seek available funding from the MPO.

Improving access to the Post Office will be a long run project. Nonetheless the Committee would like to develop a project group to begin the process of exploring what options are available with the County and later the USPS.

### **Filling Bike and Sidewalk Gaps**

The MPO has provided the Committee with information on the gaps in Estero's bike paths and sidewalks. A project group of bikers will be formed to work with the Transportation Agencies and Bike/Walk/Lee to establish priority bike/ped projects and get them in the cue for funding.

Via Coconut Point is the only major thoroughfare in Estero that is not scheduled to be landscaped. The Committee is looking for one or more volunteers to move this project forward working with Lee DOT roadway landscaping specialists and the landowners along this quite visible roadway.

### **Gateway Signage**

The citizens of Estero at all our planning workshops have long advocated "Estero Gateway Signage" on all the major roads entering Estero. FDOT indicated that state law does not permit such signage on state roads that are not within the boundaries of a municipality. Thus if Estero is to have such signage as people enter Estero on US 41 or exiting I-75, the Gateway Signs will have to be on privately owned land adjacent to the road.

On the other hand Lee County would permit the "Gateway Signage" to be located in the median of the county arterial roadway. In order to authorize the "Gateway Signs" the Board of County Commissioners must adopt an ordinance approving the sign locations and their design and providing for the continuing maintenance of the signs. Thus the 'Gateway Sign project group may want to begin investigating the best locations on Three Oaks Parkway and Ben Hill Griffin for "Gateway Signs" and begin to work with Lee DOT to gain approval for this signage.