



# WILDWOOD

## MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Public Safety

From: Rick C. Brown, Director of Public Works / City Engineer

Date: October 9, 2019

Re: Concerns with Intersection Sight Distance – Taylor Road at  
Sandalwood Creek Drive

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### **Background**

The Department of Public Works has received concerns regarding the intersection of Taylor Road and Sandalwood Creek Drive. As you may know, the recent construction of the Villages at Bright Leaf Subdivision resulted in the connection of Taylor Road as a through street between State Route 100 to State Route 109. (Please see **Exhibit 1** for the location of the intersection.)

With the opening of Taylor Road to through traffic, motorists on Sandalwood Creek Drive, turning onto Taylor Road, must now yield to additional traffic approaching from both directions. (Previously the only conflicting traffic was one nearby residential home to the south.) Unfortunately, once Taylor Road was opened, it became clear that a sight distance obstruction existed for Sandalwood Creek Drive motorists, looking to the south for oncoming vehicles, as several trees were located within a motorist's line of sight. To a lesser degree this was evident to the north, due to an existing tree.

### **Sight Distance Study**

In response to the sight distance obstructions, the Department of Public Works reviewed the situation and requested that our tree contractor, Omni Tree Service, remove the trees which caused the obstruction to the south as well as the north. After this work was completed, the Department completed an engineering study of the intersection to determine if the available intersection sight distance complies with current engineering criteria. As Taylor Road is posted with a 25 MPH speed limit, engineering criteria dictates that a minimum sight distance of 280 feet should be provided for motorists on Sandalwood Creek Drive, turning south or north onto Taylor Road. The Department's study determined that this minimum is available to motorists. However, we recognize that some vehicles do exceed the posted speed limit, and therefore, we prefer that the intersection sight distance meets the criteria for 5 MPH above the posted speed limit, or 30 MPH which equates to 335 feet. Based on our field study, the intersection does meet this requirement to the south. To the north, however, we do not meet this specification, as the sight distance was measured to be 318 feet, just less than 335 feet. To help visualize this, please see the sight distance photos attached as **Exhibits 2 and 3**.

**Recommendation**

The Department has demonstrated that that the minimum sight distance criteria has been met at this intersection for the posted speed limit of 25 MPH. However, since the criteria was not fully met to the north for the 30 MPH condition, and to the south, the sight distance is at the minimum, the Department plans to install intersection warning signs on Taylor Road approaching Sandalwood Creek Drive (see below). In addition, we recommend monitoring the intersection going forward. If it appears that motorists are having difficulties, additional measures could be considered for implementation by the Department of Public Works.

I will be available for questions regarding this information at the October 10, 2019 meeting of the Board of Public Safety.

RCB



**Proposed Intersection Warning Sign**

Exhibit 1 – Taylor Road at Sandalwood Creek Drive



Exhibit 2: Sight Distance to the South



Exhibit 3: Sight Distance to the North



