



Florida Department of Transportation

RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

801 North Broadway Avenue
Bartow, FL 33830

JIM BOXOLD
SECRETARY

January 25, 2016

Ms. Nancy A. Payton
Southwest Florida Field Representative
Florida Wildlife Federation
Southwest Florida Office
2590 Golden Gate Parkway, Suite 105
Naples, Florida 34105

RE: Section 03010 US 41 and Section 030... SR 29
Passing Zones within Florida Panther Speed Zones

Dear Ms. Payton:

Secretary Boxold asked me to respond to your letter dated January 19, 2016 concerning the passing zones within the Florida Panther Speed Zones on US 41 and SR 29. I understand you are requesting installation of these no passing zones to help improve safety for panthers possibly crossing the roadway.

A no passing zone is provided at locations where there is a reason that passing cannot be safely performed. These include areas which have sight restrictions or obstructions, horizontal and/or vertical curves in the roadway, in the vicinity of a railroad tracks or a heavily travelled cross-street like a state or county roadway. The areas along US 41 and SR 29 do not have any of these characteristics and both roadways within the panther zones have straight alignment. The length of panther zones along SR 29 or US 41 range between 3 to 6 miles. These lengths are too long for a no passing zone.

It has been determined that driver behavior is such that placing no-passing zones in areas that don't warrant them or long no passing zones will only increase aggressive driving behavior. This is something the department does not want to encourage as it results in severe head on collisions. This behavior also results in unsafe conditions for panthers also.

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As such, I cannot support installation no passing zones within the panther zone areas. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, you may contact me or Randell E. Prescott, P.E, Director of Transportation Operations, at (863) 519-2202.

Sincerely,



Billy L. Hattaway, P.E.
District Secretary

BLH:tk

cc: Secretary Boxold, Secretary of Transportation
Randell Prescott, P.E., Director of Operations
Chris Smith, Director of Transportation Development
Derek Burr, Director of Southwest Area Office
Zachary Burch, Government Affairs & Communications Manager
LK Nandam, P.E., District Traffic Operations Engineer
Gwen Pipkin, Environmental Administrator
Eunice Usher, Operations Engineer, Ft. Myers
Laura Lockwood, Liaison Administrator