

From: Kidde, Michael [<mailto:Michael.Kidde@dot.state.fl.us>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2016 7:41 AM
To: Jonson, Bill; Caster, Jeff
Cc: Kuligowski, Patricia
Subject: RE: Highway Beautification Landscape Enhancements Question

Mr. Jonson,

I have not been made aware of any recent standards stating that we cannot plant in an MSE buffer area. However, there are restrictions for buried and overhead utilities, horizontal clearances from the face of the curb and suggested setbacks from the MSE walls. In the two examples that you have provided the narrow nature of the buffer area would be restricted by a four (4) setback from the face of the curb and a suggested ten(10) foot minimum setback from the MSE wall. Please also remember that you can always apply for a variance from the standards which in a case like this would most likely involve conversations with the Maintenance department and possibly Structures.

There are also new products on the market today such as green walls that could solve the setback issue and provide a bold contemporary look to US 19. Please let me know if you have any other questions or would like to schedule a meeting to discuss future landscape treatments within the City of Clearwater. The notification for this year's Highway Landscape Reimbursement program should be going out soon and this could be an ideal time to discuss new projects.

Thank you,

Michael R. Kidde, PLA

District Landscape Architect
Florida Department of Transportation, District 7
11201 N McKinley Drive, MS 7-800
Tampa, FL 33612
813.975.6130
Michael.Kidde@dot.state.fl.us

From: bill.jonson@mclearwater.com [<mailto:bill.jonson@mclearwater.com>]
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2016 9:58 PM
To: Caster, Jeff <Jeff.Caster@dot.state.fl.us>; Kidde, Michael <Michael.Kidde@dot.state.fl.us>
Cc: patty.kuligowski@mclearwater.com
Subject: Highway Beautification Landscape Enhancements Question

Jeff and Michael,

We have had some informal discussions about the City of Clearwater participating in the maintenance of enhanced landscaping that might be installed along US Hwy 19 adjacent to the MSE walls.

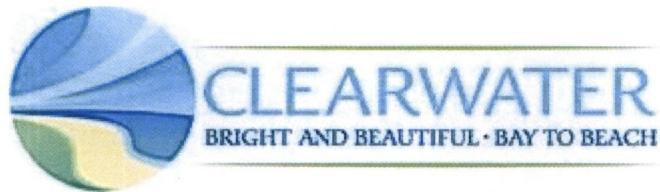
One of my other Councilmembers recalled hearing of a recent change in FDOT policy that would not allow plantings in the buffer areas next to the MSE walls. I am enclosing a document with couple of photos illustrating a potential area near Sunset Point here in Clearwater and some existing plantings near 118th street in Pinellas Park. Both are along US 19.

I recall hearing that plantings would not be allowed where the structural integrity of the wall, buried utilities, or the curb next to the travel lane would be compromised. But are there recent changes from the general guidelines we previously discussed a few months ago?

Best wishes,

Bill Jonson
Clearwater City Councilmember

Please note that e-mails sent by or received by City Councilmembers are public records and are made available to all Councilmembers, City staff and the press. They are also available to the public upon request.





Clearwater US
19 South of
Sunset Point



Pinellas Park US 19



Clearwater US
19 at SR 580



Largo US 19 at East Bay



Clearwater near Sunset Point
Twelve Feet Wide



Pinellas Park near 118th



Clearwater US 19 SB
approaching Sunset
Point



Clearwater at

Executive Committee

Alex Chamberlain
EasyLiving, Aging Wisely
EZFingerprints
Chairperson

Brian Aungst, Jr.
Macfarlane Ferguson &
McMullen
Immediate Past Chair

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Frank Winston
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Appointed by the Chair

Chuck Warrington
Clearwater Gas System
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Nicholas Grimaudo
Johnson Pope Bokor
Ruppel & Burns
General Counsel

Carol Hague
President/CEO

Board of Directors

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Chip Falk
Scott Goyer
Thomas Habel
Andrea Henning
Kris Hoce
Andrea Honan
Emery Ivery
Roberta Klar
David Loyd
Amy Maguire
Ernestine Morgan
Bob Passwaters
Kathy Rabon
James A. Ray
Bob Roperi
Ruth Rymal
Melissa Šeixas
Mike Sutton
Tina Tenret
John Timberlake
Doug Williams
Steven Williamson
M. Javier Zuniga

February 24, 2015

Clearwater City Council
112 South Osceola Avenue
Clearwater, FL 33756

Dear Mayor and City Councilmembers:

The Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce supports the beautification of Clearwater roads through highway landscaping. Accordingly the Chamber supports the City including landscape maintenance budgeting that will leverage state beautification along U.S. 19 where space is available.

Now that construction along U.S. 19 is complete, more and more drivers are encountering our overpasses and thoroughfares on and off the highway. 2014 saw an average of 30,000 people a day go under the overpass at Drew Street and U.S. 19, which surely has the potential to rise.

As the City continues to roll out its new brand, this is a perfect opportunity to show that "Bright and Beautiful, Bay to Beach," is much more than a slogan. These intersections are the first thing many tourists and visitors encounter as they enter into the Clearwater footprint. At the moment, there is a clear distinction in landscaping along that corridor when you cross into Clearwater from our neighbors to the south.

This proposal was approved by the Chamber's Economic Development Council on December 15th, 2015 and approved by the full Board on January 29th, 2016. This is a great opportunity to secure available state funding for the initial installation which would only require a minimal annual maintenance fee going forward.

The Council has done an excellent job in leading the partnership that eventually designated Courtney Campbell Causeway a Florida Scenic Highway in 2005. This can easily be seen as an extension of that project and we urge Council to support this proposal and extend our beautiful beach aesthetic into our mainland infrastructure.



Carol Hague
President/CEO
Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce

From: Jonson, Bill
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 1:53 PM
To: Kuligowski, Patricia
Subject: FW: US 19 Landscaping Options

FYI

Bill Jonson
Clearwater City Councilmember

Please note that e-mails sent by or received by City Councilmembers are public records and are made available to all Councilmembers, City staff and the press. They are also available to the public upon request.



From: William Fisher [<mailto:billf@Fisherarchitects.com>]
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 11:58 AM
To: Bill Jonson
Cc: Jonson, Bill
Subject: RE: US 19 Landscaping Options

The proposed scheme looks great and much improved over the barren space that currently exists. I, like you, feel that softening up the gateway to our city is critically important. It's all in the details!

Thank you for sharing your vision. Keep up you efforts.

Bill Fisher, AIA, NCARB, President
Fisher and Associates, LLC.
Architects | Planners | Interior Designers
727-443-4436 (Office)

From: Bill Jonson [<mailto:bill.jonson@usa.net>]
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 10:47 AM
To: William Fisher <billf@Fisherarchitects.com>
Cc: bill.jonson@myclearwater.com
Subject: US 19 Landscaping Options

Bill,

It was good to seek to you briefly at the Morton Plant Mease Health System Foundation dinner last night.

After talking to you at Hoyt's home before Christmas, I had intended to send you the attached photos of how 19 could be improved using FDOT Funding. All Clearwater has to do is agree to the ongoing maintenance.

Best wishes,

Bill Jonson
President Citizens for a Scenic Florida
2694 Redford Ct. W.
Clearwater, Florida 33761
727-786-3075

Received
APR 11 2016
City Council's Office
Mayor



Dear Mayor and City Councilmembers:

The Clearwater Garden Club supports the beautification of Clearwater roads through highway landscaping. Therefore, Clearwater Garden Club is in favor of City of Clearwater including landscape maintenance budgeting that will maximize DOT funded beautification along US Highway 19 where space is available.

We were pleased to play a role in the Centennial Celebrations through the re-dedication of the Blue Star Marker on the Memorial Causeway, and we are pleased to support the "Bright and Beautiful, Bay to Beach" image. There is a clear distinction in landscaping along the US 19 corridor currently as commuters cross into Clearwater from our neighbors to the south, and budgeting for maintenance of these landscaping opportunities is sensible and in keeping with the mission of Clearwater Garden Club and the image of Clearwater as "bright and beautiful" for our visitors and citizens alike.

Clearwater Garden Club strongly encourages the support of this proposal to include maintenance of these areas, once landscaped, in the budget.

Alice Jarvis
Maggie Custer
etc...

Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition
“Your Link to a Better Neighborhood”
P.O. Box 8204, Clearwater, FL 33758

Received

JUN 07 2016

June 6, 2016

City Council's Office

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Clearwater City Council
112 South Osceola Avenue
Clearwater, FL 33756

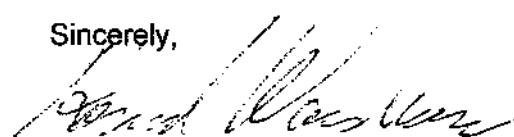
Dear Mayor and City Councilmembers:

The Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition supports the beautification of Clearwater roads through highway landscaping. Accordingly the CNC supports the City including landscape maintenance budgeting that will leverage state beautification along U.S. 19 where space is available.

Now that construction along U.S. 19 is complete, more and more drivers are encountering our overpasses and thoroughfares on and off the highway. As the City continues to roll out its new brand, this is a perfect opportunity to show that “Bright and Beautiful, Bay to Beach,” is much more than a slogan. These intersections are the first thing many tourists and visitors encounter as they enter into the Clearwater footprint. At the moment, there is a clear distinction in landscaping along that corridor when you cross into Clearwater from our neighbors to the south.

The proposal to beautify the US-19 intersections which would be funded by FDOT and maintained with City of Clearwater funds, was presented by Councilmember Bill Jonson at the CNC Board meeting, April 4, 2016. The vote was unanimous to support the proposal. This is a great opportunity to secure available state funding for the initial installation which would only require a minimal annual maintenance fee from the City of Clearwater going forward.

Sincerely,


Howard Warshauer,
President Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition