

**From:** Sarah Heard  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 28, 2012 1:26 PM  
**To:** 'wblawheard@aol.com'  
**Cc:** Don Donaldson  
**Subject:** MSTU improvements on A1A

Sir:

In response to your concerns about the proposed improvements on A1A from Indian River Plantation to Stuart Beach, I met with county engineer Don Donaldson to solicit his answers to your questions. I have copied Mr. Donaldson on this communication with the expectation that he will correct me if I mis-report some action taken.

The Hutchinson Island MSTU at this year's tax rate raises around \$106,650. Its sole purpose at present is to execute the Hutchinson Island beautification plan. The budget for this plan is found in our Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which is newly adopted by our Board of County Commissioners each year. The budget for the completed plan is \$926,000. The CIP only projects revenues and expenditures in the 5 year horizon. Hence, the CIP shows that \$106,650 will be raised each year through 2016.

FDOT cleared the land next to the Elliot Museum. I agree with you that it now looks rather blighted and should be "fixed". I'm convinced that a solution will be forthcoming. I don't know what it will be.

Martin County has not taken over this retention area. I wouldn't rule the possibility out but I assume that it would have to be an item upon which the Board would be required to vote on in a public meeting.

Martin County is, hopefully, in the very last stages of permitting the new Holiday Inn. When the former owners of the old Holiday Inn presented their plans for the new hotel to our Board, the plans required the owners to pay for the A1A road access "improvements" and landscaping in front of the hotel. Lucido and Associates were hired by the new hotel owners to design these improvements. Martin County has continuing contracts with a number of contractors/ consultants. Lucido is one of them. When our engineering department decided to contract out the conceptual plan for the entire Hutchinson Island beautification plan, they awarded it to Lucido. Under our current continuous contract policy, they were allowed to do this. They reasoned that since Lucido had already done the plan for the hotel it would be expedient to continue with them. I have no opinion on whether this assessment is correct. I am merely reporting what was done, and I do understand the logic of the decision. Lucido has been paid \$35,000 of the MSTU revenues to produce the preliminary design for the entire project.

FDOT has a heavy hand in transportation planning. They are a bureaucracy of engineers so it comes as no surprise that their design conclusions are, to the layperson's eye, uncommonly robust and complicated. Such was the case with FDOT's access requirements in front of the Holiday Inn. They wanted to require the present 3 lanes to be expanded to 5 or 6 lanes, which sounded confusing and looked ugly to us. So, our engineers and Doug Smith have been trying to negotiate with FDOT to downsize these extra lane change requirements. FDOT relies upon their rules. We will keep trying to lessen this impact. Their design is absolutely incompatible in scale with everything on Hutchinson Island, I believe.

If I can be of help to you in the future, please don't hesitate to ask.

Thank you for taking the time to write to us with your concerns.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Heard