



GREATER ORLANDO AVIATION AUTHORITY

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Daniel Webster
Member of Congress
2184 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Webster:

The Orlando International Airport (MCO) has experienced tremendous growth in vehicular traffic over the past decade. Even factoring in the downturn of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, MCO has experienced an average growth rate in traffic of more than 2% per year from 2016 through 2022. As of April 2022, the MCO cordon line, effectively the entrances and exits to the airport, accommodated an Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) of over 166,000 vehicles per day*. By comparison, Interstate 4 (I-4) through Downtown Orlando accommodates an AADT of 115,000 vehicles per day**, 51,000 less than the cordon line at MCO. Moreover, based on passenger traffic through the terminals, we expect vehicular traffic to continue to increase.

With so much traffic passing through the MCO campus, and many drivers unfamiliar with the traffic routes, back-ups and delays occur on a regular basis. These traffic delays continue to affect airport operations. One major choke point is the intersection of Jeff Fuqua Boulevard and South Park Place/Station Loop Road. This signalized intersection accommodates 12 distinct traffic movements and is the main artery for MCO patrons and employees to access the South Park Place Economy Parking Lot (4,600 spaces), the South Employee Parking Lot (1,400 spaces), the South Travel Plaza & Gas Station, the South Cell Lot, and the Train Station/Terminal C Passenger Drop Off Lobby. Additionally, Jeff Fuqua Boulevard is the main artery that accesses the A, B, and C Terminal buildings for patrons entering the airport from the south. Traffic models show that this intersection will experience a Level of Service (LOS) F (failing) within the next few years if not improved.

The proposed conceptual improvements to this intersection will simplify the traffic movements, reduce congestion, decrease pollution from idling vehicles at red lights, and improve overall airport operations.

We respectfully request federal funding pursuant to s133, Surface transportation block grant program (b) (24) Project to enhance travel and tourism.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Thibault', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin J. Thibault, P.E.
Chief Executive Officer

* - 2022 *Easter Counts Report*, August 30, 2022. Produced by HDR for the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority.

** - *FDOT Open Hub Average Annual Daily Traffic Website*, 3/9/23 (https://gis-fdot.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/ceb698fb86d446c08f0b8e54acab6293_0/explore?location=28.546775%2C-81.382949%2C16.59 [gis-fdot.opendata.arcgis.com])

March 29, 2023

The Honorable Daniel Webster
Member of Congress
2184 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Webster:

Please allow this letter to show my support for request for federal funding by The Orlando International Airport (MCO) for a road improvement project at the intersection of Jeff Fuqua Boulevard and South Park Place/Station Loop Road.

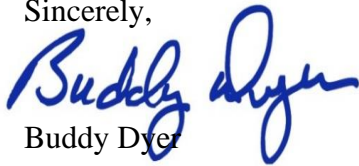
The Airport has experienced tremendous growth in vehicular traffic over the past decade, and the forecast shows continued growth.

There is a confluence of factors leading to the congestion as well since many of the drivers are unfamiliar with the various routes and are simply driving there to drop off or pick up someone from the airport. Those drivers are then co-mingled with regular drivers who use the airport spine road to connect south to the 429 and go west to the attractions or Tampa or just east to the burgeoning Medical City area in Lake Nona.

This intersection has both a travel plaza and gas station, as well as the cell phone lot and access to an employee parking lot and an economy passenger parking lot. Because of its location it is an intersection all drivers using the south entrance to the airport use, so backups and congestion regularly happen.

The proposed solution will simplify the traffic movements, while reducing congestion and decreasing pollution from idling vehicles at red lights. In addition, this improvement will assist in overall traffic safety measures as well.

Sincerely,



Buddy Dyer
Mayor



ORANGE COUNTY MAYOR

Jerry L. Demings

P.O. BOX 1393, 201 SOUTH ROSALIND AVENUE, ORLANDO, FL 32802-1393

PHONE: 407-836-7370 • FAX: 407-836-7360 • EMAIL: MAYOR@OCFL.NET

March 29, 2023

The Honorable Daniel Webster
Member of Congress
2184 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Webster:

Please accept this letter of support for the road improvement project requested by Orlando International Airport. The improvement is needed to assist the flow of traffic into the airport from the south entrance. The intersection of Jeff Fuqua Boulevard and South Park Place/Station Loop Road is a major choke point.

Of particular interest, this intersection is used by employees to access a parking lot, by residents seeking to wait in the cell phone lot, and by passengers parking in the economy parking lot. It accommodates a travel plaza and gas station. Because of the many distinct traffic movements, this intersection accommodates it and becomes backed up regularly. The average daily traffic count is higher than Interstate 4 (I-4) through downtown Orlando.

With the airport and our community's continued growth, this intersection will likely become a level of service F within the next few years if not improved.

For these and many other reasons, I support the improvements to this intersection that will simplify traffic movements, reduce congestion, and decrease pollution from idling vehicles at red lights, all while improving overall traffic safety.

Sincerely,

Jerry L. Demings
Orange County Mayor