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Sarasota County seeks comments on comp plan changes

Staff from Sarasota County Planning Services will conduct two public workshops this week to discuss amendments to the county's comprehensive plan that would affect Englewood and the transportation plan. The workshops will take place from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, at the Sarasota County Sheriff's Substation, 101 Orange St., Englewood, and Thursday, March 26, at the Sarasota County Operations Center, 1001 Sarasota Center Blvd., Sarasota.

Proposed amendments to the comprehensive plan for the Englewood would expand the boundaries of the Englewood Town Center, the area along and surrounding Dearborn Street, as recommended by the Englewood Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Board, the Chamber of Commerce and the Olde Englewood Village Association. A second amendment would add policies and maps to recognize State Road 776 as the Lemon Bay/Myakka Trail Scenic Highway.

Other proposed changes to the comprehensive plan include:

- Identifying significant local roads and providing related general analysis data
- Adding new policies for transit services in addition to revising existing objectives and policies
- Amending policies, tables and maps for adopted roadway levels of service standards to be consistent with changes in state growth management laws and regulations
- Revising existing policies and adding new policies regarding reconstruction of nonconforming residential structures on barrier islands
- Adding new policies to deal with nonconforming residential densities with supporting data and analysis

The purpose of the two workshops is to explain the proposed amendments to the public and gather any comments or suggestions regarding the changes. Public hearings before the Sarasota County Planning Commission and the Sarasota County Commission on the proposed amendments will occur in late summer.

For more information, call the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask for Planning Services.