

Intersection fix means smoother Wickham ride in Melbourne

Written by

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MELBOURNE — Tim Capps remembers well what it used to be like to be stuck behind another car waiting to turn left onto NASA Boulevard from Wickham Road.

"It was a pain in the butt," said Capps, the manager at Oil Lube Express on Wickham Road. "It backed up so far that it was always causing traffic jams."

But Capps and the thousands of people who drive that route are finding a smoother ride along after the \$5.5 million project to realign NASA Boulevard wrapped up last week.

The realignment project moved NASA Boulevard less than one-eighth of a mile north so it hits Ellis Road at Wickham Road.

It also expanded Ellis Road to four lanes starting just west of Lake Ibis Drive to the new intersection.

Palm Beach Grading, Inc. started construction to improve the dogleg intersection in December 2009.

The realignment ties in with a larger set of projects that eventually will extend Ellis Road to Interstate 95 and link into the St. Johns Heritage Parkway, the road proposed to loop around the county's southern urban area.

A planning study for a proposed Ellis Road interchange is under way.

Jesse Wood, 32, of Satellite Beach said he sees a lot less congestion along Wickham Road now and virtually no congestion on NASA Boulevard.

"It's flowing really smoothly," he said.

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