

Keri O'Brien

From: asheckler@aol.com
Sent: Monday, June 1, 2026 10:21 AM
To: Mayor E-Mail; District I; District II; District III; District IV; District V; districtVI@cityofkeywest.fl.gov
Cc: Keri O'Brien
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Southernmost Point Plaza Phase II renovation bid
Attachments: Questions for engineers.docx

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May 23, 2026

Dear Madame Mayor and City Commissioners,

I am writing in support of the city's Southernmost Point Plaza plans. I, along with my neighbors on South Street, Whitehead Street, and United Street, met with the city engineers and the city manager on May 14, 2026, to address our concerns about, and suggestions for, the proposed plans. I am attaching the list of our concerns and suggestions that we shared with the engineers and city manager. We came up with this list after two meetings of the neighbors.

Our primary concern is the drainage of water from South and Whitehead Streets. We presented a suggestion to add another pipe to the plan that would allow double the water drainage from the street. We hope that this will be incorporated into the plans.

Because my home is located at the corner of South and Whitehead Streets (401 South Street), I am in a unique location to see the flooding that occurs on both streets even after a moderate rain event. Our current drains on Whitehead Street and South Street near the buoy often back up and flood the street instead of draining water from the street. Clearly, we need to clean these drains so that they will operate more efficiently. The proposed plans include this provision which we applaud.

We asked that the speed limit be lowered to 10 miles per hour rather than the proposed 20 miles per hour because of the heavy pedestrian traffic at the buoy. We see this as an additional way to ensure the safety of pedestrians and cars along the two streets.

In addition, we asked the city to remove the benches from the proposed plans to deter tourists from staying at the buoy after dark. We want to avoid vagrancy and other night-time shenanigans at the buoy.

One important item that was not on our submitted list but that we addressed at the meeting on May 14th was the addition of a metered electric outlet at the vendor's spot on Whitehead Street. In the past, the vendor's generator was extremely noisy and emitted noxious fumes from its fuel. This addition would be plus for the vendor and the immediate neighbors.

I, personally, thought our concerns and suggestions were well received by the city engineers and the city manager. I look forward to the completion of the renovations along South and Whitehead Streets and at the buoy.

Yours sincerely,

Allyson Sheckler

401 South Street

Key West, FL

P.S. I am copying the city clerk so that my letter may be added to the Southernmost Point Plaza Phase II renovation bid to be discussed at the June 4, 2026, City Commission meeting.

We would like the city engineers to address these questions during their presentation.

We would also like 30 minutes minimum after the presentation for specific questions and answers.

Drainage

What is the plan to manage the flooding on South and Whitehead Streets and at the corner of United and Whitehead? Also mentioned pumps on Duval Street. Entire new system that will be installed but depending on wells and washing out to pocket park. Suggested check valve with the scuppers in wall around buoy. New drainage design went through SWFLwater management. They are tying into the pocket park outfall which Hugh says does not go out to the ocean but flows back to South Street.

Narrowing of street

Address the reasoning behind the narrowing of the roadway and the widening of the sidewalk: Question of where we need widening of sidewalks – they say they want pedestrian friendly. 6.5 widened to 8.5. At buoy gaining 3.5 feet. New gutter is drivable.

Benches

Remove the benches from the proposed plan to not encourage people to linger – ok to remove and take to commission for final decision

- Vagrancy
- Late night drinking/hangout

Speed Limit

Lower the speed limit from 20 to 10 mph? recommends 15 but happy to list 10 and take to commission for final decision.

Noise

Construction operation hours 7 am-7pm for noise abatement

Tourist Line

Relocate tourist line to Navy fence along Whitehead Street

Sign relocation

Relocate the sign in front of 405 South so not in front of their gate