

Chamber takes fence objections to the state

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By LESLEY COLLINS
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CLEARWATER — Alan Bomstein, president of the Greater Clearwater Chamber of Commerce, says his organization has penetrated the state's stone-wall attitude about a controversial chain-link fence.

The state Department of Transportation plans to install a 4-foot chain-link fence along the entire Courtney Campbell Parkway on both sides. The fencing, originally set at a height of 6 feet, is part of some \$11 million in scheduled improvements along the scenic roadway linking Clearwater and Tampa.

The 2-foot height concession came less than a month after Bomstein mounted a drive among local politicians and Chambers of Commerce

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asking the DOT to consider other means to achieve the same pedestrian safety measures without marring the natural beauty of the causeway.

Rather than appeasing Bomstein and the Chamber the 2-foot concession has only whetted their appetites for further yielding on the DOT's part.

The undesirable chain-link fence, therefore, was a topic of discussion Wednesday when

Chamber officials met with state officials in Tallahassee to plug a number of the organization's legislative interests.

"We don't have a concession from the state saying they won't put (the fence) up," Bomstein said Thursday. "But they're listening to us now. I'm optimistic."

Secretary of Transportation Tom Drawdy "assured us he was sympathetic to our problem and that he would look into it," Bomstein said.

According to the Chamber president, Drawdy sided with the Chamber on whether the fence is necessary and told Bomstein he would have his staff assess the need for such a fence and then determine from what materials it could be built. Dave Bullard, the DOT's chief design engineer,

(Please see * FENCE, next page)

LA-COURTNEY CAMPBELL CAUSEWAY

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Fenced-in DOT will go with guardrail

Clearwater Chamber of Commerce led the charge against a 6-foot chain link fence proposed for the length of the scenic corridor on both sides. The proposed fencing was part of some \$11 million in scheduled improvements along the roadway which should begin early this fall. To appease growing opposition, the state Department of Transportation trimmed the fence to 2 feet. (Please see * FENCE, next page)

Bowing to local aesthetic protests, state transportation officials have yanked a 4-foot chain link fence off the drawing board for the Courtney Campbell Parkway. A more appealing 35-inch corrugated guardrail will stand in its stead. The fence replacement comes three months after the Greater

World

Austria's problem is not what, whether Waldheim was elected or not. What worries me is the background, the accompaniment to his election. And this accompaniment were not devoid of anti-Semitism, but that's Austria's problem.

protests

Prime Minister Shimon Peres said Monday that Kurt Waldheim's election as president of Austria smacked of anti-Semitism.



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