

March 28th 1923

Hon. Wm. H. Malone,
Key West, Florida.

Dear sir:-

Answering your request with reference to the obligation on the part of Lee County to build the Tamiami Trail to Monroe County, beg to say that several years ago Capt. J. F. Jaudon of Miami, who is interested in a tract of land in the northern end of your county, owned by the Chevelier Corporation came before the Board and represented that his company expected to construct a road from the Dade County line through the corporation's tract of land and wanted the Board of County Commissioners of this County to divert the Tamiami Trail to Monroe County and connect with the road that he expected to build.

The Commissioners of this County believing that a good road connection with Miami was the first and foremost thing to be desired without reference to the exact route or location of the road just so long as the distance was not materially increased, also that such diverting of the road would save this County approximately twenty five miles of road, the expense of which was quite an item.

So the Commissioners passed and adopted a resolution reciting that they would divert the Tamiami Trail to Monroe County, Florida, upon certain conditions, the principal condition of which was that all of the land owners to be affected would agree to such change, another was that Capt. Jaudon should put up a surety bond in the sum of \$10,000.00 conditioned that he carry out the obligations on his part, another was that by the time this county reached the diverting point, the road through the Chevelier tract should have been constructed or reach such a stage of construction as there would be no question but what it would be completed, another was that the public should use the road without toll and it should be perpetually maintained as a public road.

The owners of the land in the territory never agreed to the change and in fact definitely said that they would never agree to such change, therefore, you can readily see from a standpoint of law that we could not divert the Tamiami Trail. Capt. Jaudon never put up his surety bond and never did anything, so about two months ago the County Commissioners passed and adopted a resolution reciting that the Tamiami Trail would be constructed as originally surveyed and planned, thus abandoning the idea of diverting the Tamiami Trail to Monroe County.