

## Palm Beach Daily News

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# An 'A' for advocacy

*John David Corey's contributions make town more pedestrian-friendly.*

**R**esident John David Corey's practical, hands-on approach to community improvement has helped make the island safer and more pedestrian-friendly.

Since 2014, Mr. Corey — founder of Palm Beach Walks, which promotes better walking and bicycling conditions on the island — has lobbied successfully for improved crosswalk markings, signs and signals.

Most notably, he encouraged the state to keep its promise for a "seamless path" under the new Flagler Memorial Bridge for walkers and cyclists headed north and south along the lake. Plans also call for a connection and extension into Bradley Park, in part because of Mr. Corey's efforts and the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach. Earlier, he advocated for enhanced access points along the hedge-heavy Lake Trail.

In addition, Mr. Corey helped raise money with the Palm Beach Civic Association to plant more than two dozen Christmas palms along North County Road. The shade trees improve the street's aesthetics and buffer pedestrians from traffic.

He has been a voice for small-scale hitching posts that bicyclists could use while they shop, run errands or visit a beach or park instead of attaching their bikes to trees.

He also prompted the town to install crosswalk signs near the Worth Avenue clock tower. In 2014, his group propelled the state to install new bike signs from Worth Avenue to South Ocean Boulevard.

He also pushed for enhanced crosswalks near The Breakers and state restriping of busy intersections.

Fortunately, others have noticed his efforts. The Palm Beach Civic Association recognized him and Palm Beach Walks for spearheading the North County Road tree initiative. The Safety Council of Palm Beach County's safety committee surprised the resident with its Citizen Award last week after receiving a nomination from Capt. Ann-Marie Taylor.

Mr. Corey used the honor to draw attention to other projects, including repainting crosswalks with eye-catching hash marks near The Brazilian Court and The Chesterfield. He is concerned about pedestrians jaywalking at the foot of the Royal Park Bridge at South Lake Drive and has asked the state to consider a crosswalk or pedestrian bridge.

Last month, he attended a forum to address gridlock on Okeechobee Boulevard as pedestrians, bicycles, vehicles and mass transit compete for space amid a development growth spurt.

It's rare to see an activist in town become so appreciated, mostly without controversy. The determination speaks to his love of Palm Beach and ability to work with businesses and town officials, plus state transportation officials. He also serves as an alternate on the Architectural Commission.

His work serves as an example to other community-minded residents with one goal: making the town a better place to live.



Mr. Corey