

# MARION COUNTY STREETS

## Ways to Get Around the Traffic

Ocala, and Marion County, traffic can get packed up a bit, especially at rush hour and during the various holiday seasons. While many of us are retired, and don't have anything else to do, waiting in traffic is often less desirable than cruising down the back roads clapping at white horses<sup>1</sup>.

All these paths start from the OTOW entrances.

### GOING NORTH

We're pretty far in the SW quadrant. Most often we'll go north toward Ocala, or the restaurant row, or theaters, or what shopping there is. The trick is to avoid the 200 corridor as much as possible.

Some routes north include:

- Highway 200. Use this in the middle of the morning or afternoon, but you may want to avoid it during the rush hour, at peak shopping times around Paddock Mall. After 8pm, this is the best route, though, since it runs on a diagonal and is usually the quickest way home.

80<sup>th</sup> STREET: This is the street immediately out (to the east) of our north entrance to Candler Hills. Cross 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue (carefully), and drive east on 80<sup>th</sup> Street, and it will take you to HW 200 several miles north-east of the main entrance.

- 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue: This is the roadway immediately east of OTOW. Our entrance for Candler is on 80<sup>th</sup> STREET, just off of 80<sup>th</sup> AVENUE.
  - Turn north on 80<sup>th</sup> Ave and go north, past Del Webb, until you get to the stop light at West Port High School. That's SW 38<sup>th</sup> Street. Turn right (east) and stay on it until you get to HW 200. That will come out at SAM's club, a Burger King, Waffle House, and HW 75 entrances.
  - Stay on 80<sup>th</sup> Ave to the first next light. That's HW 40. Turn right (east) there, and you'll end up in the center of Ocala in 8 miles.
  - Stay on 80<sup>th</sup> Ave longer, to the next light, and you'll be on HW 27. Turn right there, go two miles to the Publix shopping center for pretty good pizza.
- 60<sup>th</sup> Avenue:
  - North on 80<sup>th</sup> Ave, East on 38<sup>th</sup> Street, to 60<sup>th</sup> Ave.
    - Turn right on 60<sup>th</sup> Ave 1 mile to the post office.

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<sup>1</sup> According to my Mother-in-law – which you'll understand carries considerable weight in importance – good luck will come to you if you see a white horse and clap twice. I think this originated during trips to the Indian Gaming Casinos.

- Turn left (north) on 60<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the airport, such as it is. The little restaurant in the airport has had pretty good burgers.
  - Also left on 60<sup>th</sup> Ave will take you to SW 20<sup>th</sup> Street. This is a pretty big intersection. Turn right (east) and follow 20<sup>th</sup> street and it will take you back to HW 200, 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue, all north of the big 200 traffic. Turn right on 27<sup>th</sup> Ave and you'll get to OfficeMax and Staples, and some other shopping my wife knows about, but I don't.
  - Turn left on 60<sup>th</sup> Ave, right on 20<sup>th</sup> Street, and go to HW 200 and you're really close to 17<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 66<sup>th</sup> Street: This is the east/west roadway just north of the corner of 200 and 60<sup>th</sup> Avenue<sup>2</sup>. At the light, turn right, go past the horse farms, to the first light.
  - Turn left at 475, and follow it, without speeding, until you're behind Paddock Mall, at the Goodwill Store. And McDonalds, and the Walmart store. Also you'll find SW 19<sup>th</sup> Ave Road at that intersection. Turn right and you go to restaurants, and the local theater.

## GOING EAST

66<sup>th</sup> Street: Same as above, just going further east.

- Turn left at 475 (27<sup>th</sup> Avenue), then right at the first light, on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. This street is very new.
  - Be very careful during kid time – the intersection is a school zone, and watching local drivers, they really do drive at 20 MPH around this area.
  - Follow this roadway to the first light, turn left on 475 (yes, I know, another one, go look at the map), and you'll come to a stop sign. Turn left, go to the light, and you'll be on Pine Street, just south of 17<sup>th</sup> Street, without any of the 200 traffic.
  - Follow the 42<sup>nd</sup> Street roadway further, and it will take you to the SE quadrant, and on the way it will turn into SE 31<sup>st</sup> Street. Follow that out to SE 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue for a pretty straight shot at the eastern part of HW 40.
- Continue on 66<sup>th</sup> Street. It will turn south about 2 miles, and turn back into 80<sup>th</sup> Street, which will take you to 301, 441, and HW 27 on the way to Belleview.
- Continue on 66<sup>th</sup> Street, just past the turn to the south. Watch carefully on your left side and you'll see a little street (63<sup>rd</sup> Street Road). Turn there and you'll go through a really pretty area, with a dead end on Magnolia. Turn left, then left when it sort of dead ends and you'll be back on Pine Street just south of 17<sup>th</sup> Street. Don't speed here.

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<sup>2</sup> This corner is where the Walgreens and CVS pharmacy are.

## **BETTER YET – The Flyover**

In 2012 Marion County added an additional route over Hwy 75.

- Proceed north toward Ocala on Hwy 200.
- At the Sullivan car dealer, just before you get to the Hwy 75 junction, turn right onto a new 4-lane road.
- Proceed east on this road. After a while you'll reach SW 27<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- Going north to Ocala
  - Turn left on SW 27<sup>th</sup> Ave. You'll end up behind the shopping center, with the theater on your right along with Walmart.
- Going east cross town (this is the neat part)
  - Stay on the flyover road. It will take you all the way across town without any traffic and only a very few lights.
  - You'll end up on SE 36<sup>th</sup> Ave, or at Maricamp Road just a little further down.

HW 484 (just past Walmart): This will take you to Bellevue. If you're adventurous, there are several ways to 484 that are shorter and faster than taking 200 to 484 and turning left. Look at the maps.

- 484 will take you directly to Belleview.
- If you're going to The Villages, though, there's a shortcut. Stay on 484, instead of turning left into Bellevue. This will take you to 301 and 441 for transit to The Villages.

## **GOING SOUTH**

Routes going south can vary widely, depending on the experience you want.

HW 75: This works for Tampa and Orlando. This is, as you'll know, freeway driving, and probably toll road driving as well.

HW 200: If you're going south west, however, HW 75 is considerably out of the way. Bus drivers going to Tampa do not take 75. You'll need to look at a map to be clear on these next comments. Here's some routes.

- 200 / 41 – Go southwest on 200, and turn left at the dead end, and you'll be on HW 41, going to Inverness.
- 200 / 491 / 50 – Just south of the Withlacoochie River, turn right on 491. That'll take you to HW 44.
  - Go straight, staying on 491, and it will dead end on some little street. Turn right, follow it around, and you'll be on HW 50.
  - Turn right on 44 about ¼ mile, then left on 490, and it will take you to HW 19 around Crystal Springs.

## **GOING WEST**

There are a bunch of ways to go west (young man?). Depends on where you're going. 484, 40, 44, all go somewhere. Look at the maps.

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## **EXAMPLES**

### **Going to Paddock Mall, Theaters, Walmart**

200 / 42<sup>nd</sup> Street / 27<sup>th</sup> Ave (475) / left at 19<sup>th</sup> Ave Road.

200 / 66<sup>th</sup> Street / 27<sup>th</sup> Ave (475) / left at 19<sup>th</sup> Ave Road.

### **Going to SE 17<sup>th</sup> Ave (You'll do this a lot)**

200 / 48<sup>th</sup> Street or 66<sup>th</sup> Street / 27<sup>th</sup> Ave / 42<sup>nd</sup> Street / then it depends

- Turn left at 475, and left at the stop sign, to come out on Pine just south of 17<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- Turn left at SE 36<sup>th</sup> Ave, to go to HW 40 just west of the Silver Springs park, Ocala Civic Theater, and more restaurants.

### **Restaurants on 200**

- 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue / 38<sup>th</sup> Street right / 60<sup>th</sup> Ave left / 20<sup>th</sup> Street right / Right at 27<sup>th</sup> Ave / right at 200.