



MEDIA CONTACT:

Emily DeCou

E: amplifycayman@gmail.com

W: www.amplifycayman.com

OPEN LETTER - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 10, 2023

***Amplify Cayman* voice opposition to proposed road development
through Central Mangrove Wetland**



We must ask ourselves - are we really trying to resolve the traffic crisis with this road? For decades, building more roads has not solved traffic, so perhaps what we really need is to discuss fixing traffic issues. Amplify Cayman is not anti-development, but pro-sustainable development, and are in favor of development that brings long-term benefits for Cayman - the East-West Arterial Extension road in its proposed location would not be such development

A solution that creates another problem isn't a solution. Long-term, this road will not even prove to be a solution to traffic. Time and time again, we see that more bypass roads lead to more development, and more development equals more traffic (and carbon emissions). Further, the proposed road will be below sea level, leaving Cayman less resilient during hurricane season.

From a climate perspective, destroying mangroves increases greenhouse gas emissions and depletes our already limited healthy coastal ecosystems, which are critical to our climate resilience. We cannot afford to keep slicing up the Central Mangrove Wetlands - healthy wetlands equal healthy humans, a thriving tourism industry, and a resilient community.

Our actions should be aligned with protecting what we love - in this case, the coastal environments of our verdant isle set in blue Caribbean sea. We must get to the root of

the traffic issue and solve the issue in a more sustainable way, in harmony with nature. The order in which we solve this issue is critical to balance: conserve, weigh our options, make a development plan, and implement progressive infrastructure.

We plead with Cabinet to no longer dismiss expert advice against harmful developments and instead ask Cabinet to listen to public concern, expert advice, and action groups when developments of a grand scale are being proposed. Time and time again, these developments prove to be harmful, as they decimate our marine and terrestrial environments, harm our socioeconomic health, fracture our communities, and negatively impact our culture and heritage through removing Beach Accesses.

We ask Cabinet only to approve developments that meet the nested interdependence framework, explored in Amplify Cayman People's Sustainability Charter, which was published September 27th, 2021 on the 20th anniversary of the 2001 Environmental Charter and can be read [here](#), which holistically ensures community and nature are balanced with economic growth.



To develop the wetlands in our Islands shows a disregard for negative environmental and socio-economic impacts, and is in direct conflict with the 2001 Environment Charter, our Constitutional Bill of Rights, the [UN's Sustainable Development Goals](#), internationally recognized [best practice for Climate Action](#), and the [One Planet Living Principles](#).

Part of Amplify Cayman's mission is to empower people to participate in their own democracy. As can be garnered from public commentary, the majority of residents are not reacting positively in relation to the proposed road.

-End

About Amplify Cayman

Amplify Cayman is a non-partisan full community-invested group of diverse and civic-minded Cayman residents, who wish to participate in the decision-making processes that impact our communities. Amplify Cayman focuses on working together with all stakeholders to achieve the best possible outcome for the nation, through three functions: thought leadership, education and advocacy. For more information, visit amplifycayman.com.

Find us on Social Media:

