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Navy, DPW consider Tiyan bypass

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The Department of Defense hasn't approved a government of Guam request to build a bypass on military property in Tiyan to ease traffic congestion at the intersection of Routes 8, 10 and 16.

Navy and Department of Public Works engineers are reviewing design plans submitted by Public Works last week, according to Navy officials.

"There is a relationship, (and we're) trying to make it a win-win," said Coleen R. San Nicolas-Perez, deputy public affairs officer for Joint Region Marianas. She said yesterday morning the request still is being reviewed.

Governor's spokesman Shawn Gumataotao said the plans were submitted to the Naval Facilities Engineering Command last week, following a Sept. 14 meeting between Navy officials and the governor regarding the bypass.

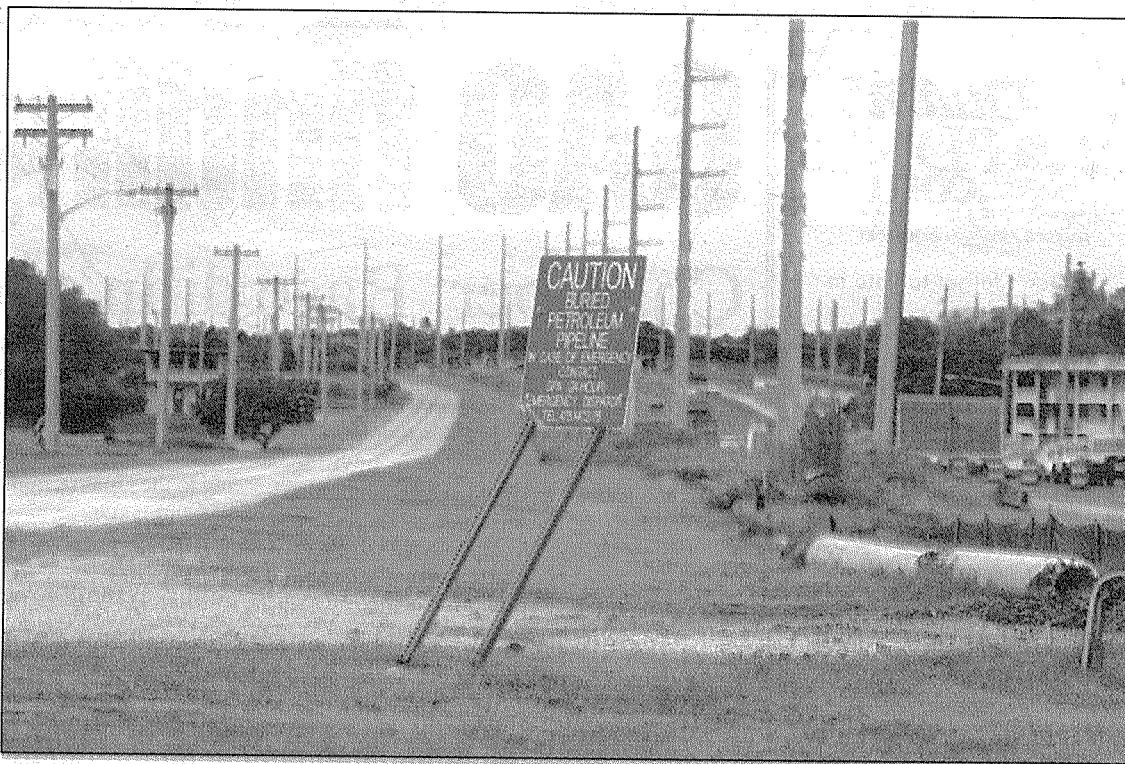
"It's consistent with what the admiral and the governor spoke about," he said. "It's taken quite a long time because the plans are not something you can do overnight."

Public Works had proposed the bypass before construction at the intersection had started, according to Public Works Director Andy Leon Guerrero.

Leon Guerrero on Wednesday said the Navy had granted permission to construct an overpass through Tiyan, directly across from Benbea Apartments. San Nicolas-Perez said yesterday the approval hadn't yet been granted.

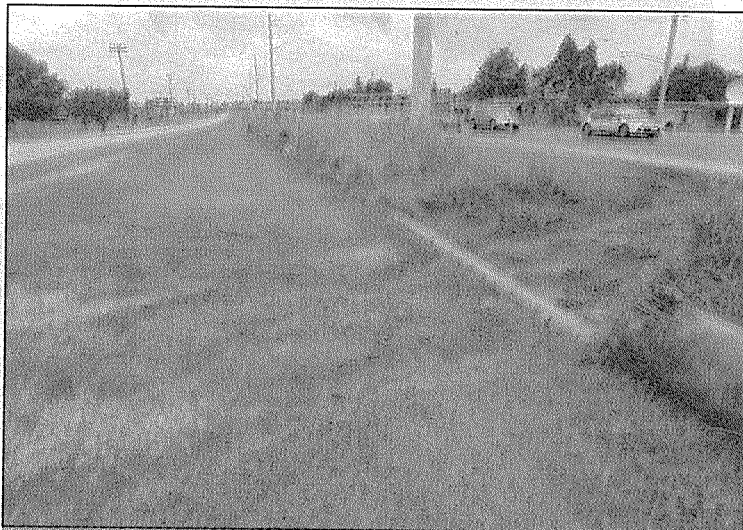
"If we turn in a design that is satisfactory to them, then we will be given the actual permission," Leon Guerrero clarified yesterday. "Everything is dependent on satisfying the military's concerns for the safety of the fuel lines underneath. We are not going to move until we get the clearance from them."

Months ago, when Public Works and the Defense Department discussed the possibility of constructing the bypass, the Navy was willing to entertain the idea — only if a number of conditions were met, said Miguel Otero-Jimenez, project



Masako Watanabe/Pacific Daily News/mwatanabe@guampdn.com

End to congestion?: A sign indicating a buried petroleum pipeline stands along a Tiyan road that runs parallel to Route 16 near the tri-intersection in Barrigada yesterday. Navy and Department of Public Works officials are reviewing design plans for a possible bypass to be constructed on Navy property in Tiyan to ease congestion at the intersection of Routes 8, 10, and 16 as a result of road construction.



Masako Watanabe/Pacific Daily News/mwatanabe@guampdn.com

Illegal crossing: Tire marks photographed yesterday indicate that traffic crossed between Route 16 at right and a Tiyan road over a buried pipeline.

engineer for PBAmericas, consultants for Public Works.

The conditions included:

▲ The consultants were to provide insurance for the fuel line that runs between the roads;

▲ The consultants were to complete an engineering study to show that the fuel line would be protected properly; and

▲ The request to build the bypass would have to come from the adjacent property owner, not from GovGuam.

Otero-Jimenez said when he met with Navy officials a few months back, the conditions set forth by the Navy were too difficult to fulfill within the timeline.

"So we thought by the time we got all the approvals, and the construction done for the connection, the cost would be too high for the benefits," Otero-Jimenez said. "It wouldn't justify the cost."

Leon Guerrero said yesterday the project may cost about \$40,000, although he said he couldn't provide an exact figure. It would be a local project, but with concurrence from the Federal Highway Department, he said.