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and those fatalities occurred less guardrails and the divider, (accident rate has diminish

'We are very glad to see the barriers go up'



Dividers make 'killer causeway' safer in Pinellas

BY ALLAN BEAVER
Staff writer

CLEARWATER — The parkway that once claimed more lives than any other stretch of road in the city has been tamed.

Tamed in part, anyway. The last fatality on the Pinellas County side of the Courtney Campbell Parkway occurred less than a year ago. As a result of improvements completed in May 1987, the Pinellas side of the parkway is wider, better lighted and divided by a three-foot high concrete wall called a Jersey Barrier.

"I think it is a whole lot safer," said Dee Kuncz, of Largo. "I used to make sure I was in the right-hand lane (for fear of) head-on collisions. Now I do not have to."

Yet, approximately half, or the Hillsborough side, of the nine-mile parkway is undergoing a similar reconstruction and will not be on par with the improvements on the Clearwater side for two years.

Tampa's improvements call for changes similar to Pinellas' safety implementation.

In 1986, the American Automobile Association (AAA) labeled Courtney Campbell "one of the 10 most dangerous" roadways in Florida. Officials with AAA recently said the modernization is long overdue.

The 53-year-old causeway's last face lift came more than 20 years ago when Clearwater's pop-

Fatalities on Courtney Campbell Parkway
(Pinellas side only)

1983	1
1984	3
1985	6
1986	1
1987*	1

* 1987 fatality was prior to installation of concrete median. No fatalities occurred after the median's completion.
Source: Clearwater Police Department

Sun staff photo by HOWARD BALM

COURTNEY CAMPBELL TRAFFIC IS worse than ever, but fatalities are down.

Please see * CAUSEWAY, next page