

## **FINAL REPORT ON THE VOTE ON THE TRAFFIC CALMING SPEED HUMP INITIATIVE AND ANSWERS OF QUESTIONS POSED AT THE MEETING REGARDING THE VOTE.**

**BACKGROUND:** A vote was held on the speed hump proposal. The vote was conducted from mid-January through March, 2023. This follows an extensive process wherein a certified traffic engineer was engaged to properly engineer our streets and include a proposal on traffic calming including speed humps. The charge was to meet **BEST PRACTICES** and comply with all existing standards of Miami Dade County and national standards for traffic calming. We also have to meet the requirements of the by-laws. A report was made making many recommendations on the roundabout at the 125<sup>th</sup> Avenue gate, drainage improvements, sidewalk completion, handicapped accessible sidewalk ramps and other suggestions. The Board of Directors asked for the engineer to include ALL options for consideration. At the hearing some options were not authorized for various reasons and input from the community. Most items in the report were actionable by action of the Board of Directors. However, the speed hump proposal requires a 2/3 affirmative vote by both the Miami Dade County regulations on traffic calming on public roads and new capital items by our by-laws. This equates to 345 YES votes for the proposal from owners of property at Bonita Lakes.

There was a lengthy lead up process to the vote (see list below):

For meeting minutes go to our website at [www.bonitalakes.org](http://www.bonitalakes.org)

Vote: There were 78 votes cast. There were 345 votes required to pass the proposal. The motion failed.

Questions asked at the meeting and since the meeting included.

Q. Does that mean there will be no more traffic calming? A. We do have options which include chevrons, (painting narrowing yellow lines giving the illusion of the road narrowing encouraging many drivers to slow down. We can put in flashing speed limit signs in common areas which report your speed, and consider a three way stop at SW133rd Terrace and SW 118<sup>th</sup> Passage .

Q. What other traffic calming features were considered? A. Diverters (like the median at SW 140<sup>th</sup> Street and 124<sup>th</sup> Avenue Road), re-design small roundabout at the corner of SW 133<sup>rd</sup> Terrace and 122<sup>th</sup> Avenue to slow down traffic in that area, rumble strips. All were objected to by residents and removed from the final traffic study.

Q. Can there be a re-vote? A. Yes, the Board of Directors can be petitioned by owners. However since only 23 % of the required votes were received over a 75 day period it

seems to make no sense at the present time. It was observed that after the road is constructed and the speed bumps removed, there may be more interest and support at that time.

Q. Why would anyone vote against this proposal? A. There are many anecdotal reasons which have been made during the process, which include:

1. Cost.
2. Inconvenience.
3. Added response time for emergency personnel for heart attacks and other medical emergencies.
4. Too many on property.
5. Concerns about vehicle suspension.
6. Accidents occur with and without speed bumps/humps.
7. Why do parents allow their children to play in the streets anyway?
8. There are some who would like a speed bump/hump in front of their home, but nowhere else in the community.
9. Many people were asked to vote on the proposal. They knew a non-vote was the same as a NO vote. They knew this, but did not want to have a no vote on record.
10. Each person will have their own reason for voting for or against the proposal.

Q. Can the 345 yes vote threshold be changed to reflect foreclosures, property transfers, and deaths? A. No, there are 517 properties, and the requirement is a 2/3 affirmative vote on all properties.

Q. Can our insurance carrier be contacted to see if our insurance rates will increase? Q. Yes. The insurance carrier advises whether the proposal was passed or turned down it would have no effect on our insurance rates.

Q. It was reported that we do not have the proper reference to the Miami Dade County regulations. A. Our attorney advised that if an incorrect reference was made the motion can be corrected by a vote of the Board of Directors. Note: It would be greatly appreciated that if you think something is wrong, step forward and say something prior

to a community wide vote on the issue. The questioner has been asked for additional information and we will follow up when we receive his input, if he is correct.

Q. We have private roads, why can't we ignore county regulations and place speed bumps/humps anywhere we want, like shopping center? A. The answer to that is manifold:

1. We are not a shopping center or commercial property.
2. We don't have that type of pedestrian traffic and in fact some of our roads have extremely light travel flow numbers.
3. We followed the Miami Dade County regulations and will therefore be more able to defend any legal action.
4. Our bylaws require a 2/3 vote even if the County requirements were ignored.
5. The certified traffic engineer report will better shield the HOA from lawsuits, especially since BEST PRACTICES were followed.
6. The questioner would like to place the speed humps wherever we want. Who is we? The Board of Directors hired an expert whose knowledge in this area is more complete than most lay people, and responded to resident concerns expressed at the hearings and correspondence. The Board of Directors unanimously supported this proposal and placed it before the community. The community voted, however there was insufficient support in the community for the proposal. The Board of Directors cannot override community action. If 517 owners each want a speed bump are we to place them without concern to any standards or community support? That action would place us on the wrong end of a legal challenge.

Q. Is there any way to re-vote? A. A petition can be submitted to the Board of Directors asking for a new vote. Based upon the low voting pattern significant new support will be needed. It is not likely until such a time as the road is reconstructed and the speed bumps are removed.

Q. Will the speed bumps be removed right away? A. The speed bumps and asphalt will scraped to a level sub-base and milled along with the existing road asphalt when construction actually takes place. That will most likely take place in 11/2-3 years.

Q. What form should the petition take to be considered? A. We asked our attorney to draft a petition, which **is legal, proper and correct** and available to anyone who asks for it. We expect it to be available sometime towards the end of April, 2023.

**A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THAT TOOK THE TIME TO CONSIDER AND VOTE ON THIS PROPOSAL.**