

Narrowing of Harbor to Bayshore Dr.



Typical Day on Bayshore Dr.



From: Shirley Ricci cshirleyricci@gmail.com

Subject: Re: Sidewalk Bayshore drive

Date: February 10, 2025 at 9:18 AM

To: npachota@venicefl.gov, jboldt@venicefl.gov, jferrell@venicefl.gov, frank@venicefl.gov, rhoward@venicefl.gov, kengelke@venicefl.gov, rsmith@venicefl.gov

Cc: Shirley Ricci cshirleyricci@gmail.com

I have lived on Bayshore and Laguna for 21 years. I have been pushed off the road by various cars, some neighbors (reported to the police) over this period.



I live at 428 Bayshore Dr

For the attention of the Mayor, and Venice city council members.

I sincerely hope you are not going to once again defer the sidewalk project because a few selfish residents don't want a sidewalk in front of their house, on land the city owns. These few people only have a few hundred feet to walk before they are safely on the existing sidewalk.

On any given day landscape vehicles, delivery vans, cars, bikes, and pedestrians use this route and people with baby carriages, and the elderly, sometimes have no choice but to navigate around several obstacles, walking in the middle of the street, whilst dealing with traffic coming from both directions. It's incredibly difficult to navigate safely.

Without a doubt this is a serious matter of pedestrian safety. Pedestrians and vehicles should be separated. At some point there will be a serious accident due to this unsafe condition, and I know that if I was the decision maker I would not want that on my conscience.

This whole situation is ridiculous. Build the sidewalk so visitors and neighbors can walk and enjoy the area safely.

What price are you putting on a person's life!

Eventually of course, the whole of Bayshore/Laguna should have a sidewalk, but for the first phase let's just get this stretch of Bayshore dealt with please, before someone gets injured again, or worse killed.

In or around 2016 I was interviewed by ABC7 while I was walking on this particular stretch of Bayshore. I told the reporter that I thought we badly needed a sidewalk for safety reasons and that I didn't care whether the sidewalk was built on either side of the road, or even both sides of the road.

Why does this now feel like there's someone pulling some strings to get the sidewalk project shelved!!! Again. This is not the first time we've been here, and I assure you we're not going away anytime soon.

Thank you for your attention.
Shirley Ricci
428 Bayshore drive Venice.

Sent from Shirley's iPhone

The residents who are objecting to the sidewalk don't have a need for a sidewalk.

It's nothing to do with speed, there's no room for pedestrians.

When the sidewalk is continued I would not for public record that I DO WANT THE SIDEWALK ON MY SIDE OF THE ROAD.

inconsiderate

In my working life as an engineer, I was in charge of design, engineering and construction of many complex projects including buildings and infrastructure. I can say that Bayshore/Laguna Dr is an anachronism based on the user density.

Attached are my previous comments that were put in the record to Venice City Council concerning this unsafe road condition:

- 5/4/17
- 1/23/24

In 2017, we owned a house on the south side of Laguna Drive and a house on the north side of Bayshore Drive. My wife Shirley appeared on ABC 7 news stating that a sidewalk was required for the safety of residents and we did not care what side of the road it was placed.

You may recall that Bob Daniels was the Venice City Council representative to Florida DOT. He was a major supporter of the sidewalk as Bayshore/Laguna does not comply with the fundamental principle of road design, that is, separation of pedestrians, bicyclists and cars. Bob supported the budget allocation for the sidewalk back in 2017 and he believed everything was on track to correct the unsafe road condition.

Some time later, we were mystified to learn that Venice City Council reallocated this budget funding and used the 2017 survey results of "some residents did not want a sidewalk" as justification to ignore the serious safety problem. Stop signs were installed as an appeasement which have proven to be totally ineffective.

Now we hear that some residents don't want the sidewalk on their side of the road and Venice City Council has placed the work on hold.

So let's put this into perspective!

Venice has the right of way to put the sidewalk in place without violating any property owners' rights and remedying a serious safety problem. The few disgruntled property owners are within a few hundred feet of the safety of existing sidewalks. The rest of Bayshore/Laguna residents and beyond are thousands of feet from the safety of a sidewalk to walk to/from downtown Venice. Comments, such as, we want a sidewalk but not our side are nonsense and self serving. The comment that it is a sidewalk to nowhere ignores the fact that others will feed into this phase 1 sidewalk improvement. Infrastructure projects are done in phases as no municipality has unlimited funding. The west side was chosen as the least expensive option to solve the unsafe road condition. The budget is allocated, the engineering is done and the work is scheduled to be constructed this summer. Serious accident or death will occur sooner or later if this unsafe road condition is not corrected. The safety of the many should not be overruled by the nonsensical objections of the few.

We recommend that City Council should proceed with constructing the sidewalk as designed without further delay. A journey of 1000 miles must begin with the first step. Let's take the first step to solving this unsafe road condition!

BAYSHORE/LAGUNA DRIVE SAFETY PROBLEM

5/4/17

GOOD MORNING MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

I'M HERE TO SPEAK ABOUT THE BAYSHORE/LAGUNA DRIVE SAFETY PROBLEM AND TO SUPPORT THAT MONIES BE BUDGETED TO CORRECT THE SAFETY PROBLEM.

TO RECAP, THE SAFETY PROBLEM IS CAUSED BY:

- NARROWNESS OF THE STREET
- OVERALL USAGE OF THE STREET BY CARS, GOLF CARTS, TRUCKS, BICYCLES AND BICYCLE CLUBS, PEDESTRIANS INCLUDING RUNNERS, PET WALKERS, CHILDRENS' STROLLERS, AND WHEELCHAIRS.
- NO STREET SHOULDERS FOR SERVICE VEHICLES TO STOP AND GET OUT OF THE TRAVEL LANE
- PEDESTRIANS BEING FORCED INTO UNPROTECTED RUN-OFF SWALES BY ONCOMING OR OVERTAKING VEHICLES
- NO SIDEWALKS FOR PEDESTRIANS

I UNDERSTAND THAT THE CITY HAS RECENTLY TRIED TO GET VEHICLE COUNTS FOR THE STREET. IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO RELY ON OUT OF SEASON VEHICLE COUNTS TO DEVELOP A SOLUTION TO THIS SAFETY PROBLEM.

WHAT IS NECESSARY, AS A MINIMUM, IS A SIDEWALK ON BAYSHORE/LAGUNA DRIVE JOINING UP WITH THE EXISTING CITY SIDEWALKS.

SHOULDERS ON BAYSHORE/LAGUNA DRIVE MAY BE HELPFUL DUE TO THE NARROWNESS OF THE EXISTING STREET. HOWEVER, SHOULDERS BY THEMSELVES WILL NOT SOLVE THE FUNDAMENTAL SAFETY PROBLEM, I.E. VEHICLES AND PEDESTRIANS MUST BE HORIZONTALLY SEPARATED TO MINIMIZE ACCIDENTS.

THEREFORE, I URGE THE CITY COUNCIL TO BUDGET MONIES FOR:

1. AS A MINIMUM, A SIDEWALK ON BAYSHORE/LAGUNA DRIVE JOINING UP WITH THE EXISTING CITY SIDEWALK ON BOTH ENDS.
2. A SHOULDER OR SHOULDERS TO WIDEN THE STREET MAY BE CONSIDERED NOW IF BUDGET CONDITIONS ALLOW. IF NOT, SHOULDERS SHOULD BE BUDGETED AS A FUTURE IMPROVEMENT WHEN BAYSHORE/LAGUNA DRIVE IS REPAVED.

BAYSHORE/LAGUNA DRIVE UNSAFE ROAD CONDITION—1/23/24

GOOD MORNING MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

I'M HERE TO SPEAK ABOUT THE BAYSHORE/LAGUNA DRIVE UNSAFE ROAD CONDITION.

BRIEFLY, THE UNSAFE ROAD CONDITION IS CAUSED BY:

- NARROWNESS OF THE STREET
- OVERALL USEAGE OF THE STREET BY CARS, LANDSCAPE SERVICE VEHICLES, GOLF CARTS, TRUCKS, BOAT TRAILERS, BICYCLES AND BICYCLE CLUBS, PEDESTRIANS INCLUDING RUNNERS, PET WALKERS, CHILDREN'S STROLLERS, AND WHEELCHAIRS.
- NO STREET SHOULDERS FOR SERVICE VEHICLES TO STOP AND GET OUT OF THE TRAVEL LANE
- PEDESTRIANS BEING FORCED INTO UNPROTECTED RUN-OFF SWALES BY ONCOMING OR OVERTAKING VEHICLES
- NO SIDEWALKS FOR PEDESTRIANS

WE LIVE ON BAYSHORE DRIVE CURRENTLY AND HAVE LIVED PREVIOUSLY ON LAGUNA DRIVE. THE UNSAFE ROAD CONDITION IS NOT A NEW PROBLEM!

ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO, MY WIFE AND I WERE WALKING ALONG BAYSHORE DRIVE TO GO TO A DOWNTOWN RESTAURANT PRIOR TO WALKING ONWARD TO THE VENICE PERFORMING ARTS THEATRE. WE FREQUENTLY WALK AND TRY NOT TO USE THE CAR AND THE LIMITED PARKING SPACES DOWNTOWN. IT WAS DAYLIGHT AND A CAR WAS SPEEDING DIRECTLY AT US WITH NO PLACE FOR US TO ESCAPE OTHER THAN JUMPING INTO THE SWALE. LUCKILY, ABOUT 100 FEET FROM HITTING US THE DRIVER FINALLY SAW US AND TURNED AWAY AND ALMOST LOST CONTROL OF THE VEHICLE.

THIS IS NOT THE FIRST VEHICLE NEAR MISS THAT WE HAVE EXPERIENCED OVER THE YEARS LIVING ON BAYSHORE/LAGUNA DRIVE. MANY TIMES WHILE WALKING ON THE SHARED ROAD WE HAVE BEEN PUSHED OFF THE ROAD BY BICYCLISTS THAT DO NOT GIVE WAY. THESE ARE NOT ISOLATED INCIDENTS.

IF A SIDEWALK IS ONLY CONSTRUCTED TO BAYSIDE DRIVE WE PERSONALLY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DIRECTLY ACCESS THE NEW SIDEWALK UNTIL WE WALK ABOUT 1000 FEET AROUND THE BEND OF BAYSHORE DRIVE BEFORE REACHING THE PROPOSED NEW SIDEWALK.

TO SUMMARIZE:

BAYSHORE/LAGUNA DRIVE CURRENTLY DOES NOT SEPARATE VEHICLES, BICYCLES AND PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC. THEREFORE, THE ROADWAY IS PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS FOR PEDESTRIANS AND ESPECIALLY DANGEROUS FOR PEDESTRIANS AT NIGHT.

WE SUPPORT CORRECTING THE UNSAFE CONDITION WHICH EXISTS ALONG THE ENTIRE BAYSHORE/LAGUNA DRIVE I.E. FROM EPIPHANY CATHEDRAL TO THE ESPLANADE. THE PROPOSED SIDEWALK TO BAYSIDE DRIVE WHILE COMMENDABLE WILL ONLY CORRECT 20% OF THE UNSAFE ROAD CONDITION.

BAYSHORE/LAGUNA DRIVE RESIDENTS AND OTHERS DESERVE A SAFE ROADWAY ALONG THE ENTIRE ROUTE OF BAYSHORE/LAGUNA DRIVE.

From: Dean Ricci deanricci@gmail.com 
Subject: Fwd: Venice City Council - Bayshore/ Laguna Dr Road Safety Problem
Date: February 7, 2025 at 4:45 PM
To: Kathleen Weeden KWeeden@venicefl.gov, Jonathan Kramer jkramer@venicefl.gov
Bcc: Edward Eliopoulos eteliopoulos.1@gmail.com



Hi Kathleen and Jon
Fyi, I will be presenting the attached at the next Venice City Council meeting as the above work has been put on hold by the Council.
Best Regards,
Dean

Begin forwarded message:

From: Dean Ricci <deanricci@gmail.com>
Subject: Venice City Council - Bayshore/ Laguna Dr Road Safety Problem
Date: February 7, 2025 at 1:31:17 PM EST
To: npachota@venicefl.gov, jboldt@venicefl.gov, jfarrell@venicefl.gov, rfrank@venicefl.gov, rhoward@venicefl.gov, kengelke@venicefl.gov, rsmith@venicefl.gov

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,
Please see attachments concerning the Bayshore/Laguna Dr Road Safety Problem.
Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,
Dean Ricci

**Venice City Council -
Bayshore:Laguna Dr ...**
1 MB

