

From: [Edward Eliopoulos](#)
To: [Kathleen Weeden](#)
Cc: [City Council](#); [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Bayshore/Laguna Safety Problem
Date: Sunday, January 14, 2024 9:28:11 PM

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Kathleen,

I wanted to send you a note in advance of the January 23, 2024, Venice City Council meeting, which I plan to attend, and I will sign in to speak at the open to the public section of the meeting. As residents on Bayshore Circle, my wife Cindy and I appreciate this opportunity to share our safety concerns with Mayor Pachota and the Venice City Council.

As residents we regularly walk, bike, and drive Bayshore Drive and Laguna. Many of our walks include our two grandsons, age 3 and 1. Safety is our top priority and we have had far too many close calls while walking and biking.

The Island of Venice has changed, Venice today is not the Venice of ten or twenty years ago - there are more and more people here, both residents and visitors coming onto the Island - which only increases the chances of an accident or serious injury on streets like Bayshore and Laguna. Bayshore/Laguna remains one of three main thoroughfares (along with Venice Avenue and Barcelona) to get to the beach and the jetties.

Please consider -

- Bayshore/Laguna has become a heavily traveled and congested route, currently there is a dangerous mix of cars, golf carts, trucks, service vehicles, construction vehicles, motorcycles, motorized scooters, pedestrians, pet walkers, strollers, wheelchairs, runners, bicyclists and bicycle groups all traveling the same narrow stretch.
- From Harbor the road narrows down from approximately 100' to 20' onto Bayshore, this narrow roadway adds to the congestion, there are no sidewalks, no pedestrian or bicycle lanes - so everyone and every vehicle is on the road at the same time.
- There are no shoulders on either side of the road, in fact, much of the route has open swales for water run-off and that drop off is very close to the road.
- To further add to the dangerous situation, there are numerous landscape, service, and construction vehicles parked on both sides of the road every day.
- The posted speed limit is 25 miles per hour, which given the heavy motor vehicle traffic and mix of pedestrians and bicycles is too fast.
- There are stop signs, but too many motorists either ignore them completely or simply roll through them.
- The current "share the road" effort is not working because motor vehicles do not yield to either pedestrians or bicycles.

I would also point out that many residents expressed their concerns about the safety of Bayshore and Laguna at the March 28, 2023, Venice City Council meeting. Also, Police

officers, including Captain Andy Liesensring visited the area and determined that a safety issue existed and recommended to the City's engineering department that a sidewalk would help alleviate the problem. Furthermore, it was reported in the Venice Gondolier that there is an amount in the current 2024 budget to design and build the sidewalk and that the City Council unanimously approved that allocation.

The current state of Bayshore/Laguna is a dangerous situation that is made more dangerous with the addition of significant seasonal traffic and congestion. The City of Venice should not wait for someone to be seriously injured before it takes appropriate action to address this known hazard.

This is a dangerous situation, please do not miss this opportunity to fix it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Ed Eliopoulos

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Edward T. Eliopoulos
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330-805-5808

From: [Louise Wohlford](#)
To: [City Council](#); [Kathleen Weeden](#)
Cc: [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: safety on Bayshore Drive
Date: Sunday, January 14, 2024 6:39:29 PM

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Hello there.

It has come to our attention that there have been talks about how to make the short section of Bayshore Dr a safer place.

1. making it a one-way seems like it would be a great way to make plenty of room for one lane for traffic and one lane for bikers, walkers and runners. However, I can only imagine that is not an easy option as would affect more than just the short sidewalkless area.
2. add a sidewalk - yikes none of our driveways are that deep plus there are the ditches, driveways, etc that also would need to be figured out. If this happens as the best option I would vote for it, of course, to be on the other side (east side). I guess follow-up questions regardless of which side, who is responsible for when it fails (water), needs repairs, if there is an injury on it...etc.
3. adding a larger berm on each side? could this be an option that takes some from each side and gives a wider edge for walking, running or biking without making an actual sidewalk? Neither side loses, people are safer and no questions about repairs....etc.
4. speed bumps, not a fan but there is no doubt it slows traffic, certainly it does at the jetty whether I'm in the car, golf cart or my bike. They would slow traffic and maybe decrease its usage as a main throughway. I would guess one or two would be all that is needed.

I thank you for your consideration of these thoughts and questions. My vote would be for option #3 if that is even an option.

I travel for my job so am unable to attend the Jan 23, 2024 city council meeting. I wish you all the best in this important decision-making.

Until soon
Louise

(Lela) Louise and Bill Wohlford
321 Bayshore Dr
Venice, FL 34285
cell 937-620-1490

From: [Ron, Judy Lambert](#)
To: [City Council](#); [Kathleen Weeden](#)
Cc: [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Proposed Sidewalk on Bayshore Drive
Date: Monday, January 15, 2024 12:04:55 PM

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To City Council Members:

I am writing in support of the proposed sidewalk along Bayshore Drive. I am a walker and see many others walking, bike riding, and running along Bayshore Drive, most any time of day. It is a busy street and often there are service vehicles parked on the street, making it difficult even for motorists to pass. I understand this issue is on the agenda for Jan. 23 meeting. I request that you seriously consider the safety of all who live on or near Bayshore Drive. Thank you.

Judy Lambert
208 Bayshore Circle

From: [Larry Humes](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Kathleen Weeden](#); [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Bayshore Drive sidewalk
Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 8:30:22 AM
Attachments: [Bayshore Drive info sheet.pdf](#)
[VeniceGondolier 20230401 A01 4 Bayshore safety.pdf](#)

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Dear Council Members:

I know you have received letters by a few residents regarding the proposed sidewalk to be built on Bayshore Drive. I am sure the opinions range from “there is no problem here, just leave it alone,” to “let’s avoid a tragedy here before one occurs.” While I am one of those who believe the issue is worth taking a closer look, allow me to suggest a different approach.

Bayshore Drive was built in the early 1950s to accommodate the newly platted Bayshore Estates. What was designed as a 9-foot access road for new residents now serves as a heavily-traveled cut-through for site seekers and multiple commercial vehicles forced to share the road with all manner of pedestrians.

Last year, officers from the Venice Police Department were invited by some of us to investigate the issue and determine if there was a probable risk of injury. They felt that there was and shared their concern with the city’s engineering department who concurred. As a result, funds were allocated in this year’s budget by you to build a sidewalk on a yet-to-be determined side of the road.

Which brings us to the present, and what began as an invitation to evaluate the potential risk to one of divisiveness among some residents. This comes down to the natural tension between the rights of individual homeowners and the desire to seek the “common good” and do what best serves the needs of the community.

Rather than focus on who is right in this debate, let me suggest that the Council return to our original purpose: to evaluate the situation, determine if there is significant risk to the public, and then act accordingly. I thank you for your time spent addressing this issue, and I have faith that you will reach the correct conclusion.

--

Larry R. Humes
324 Bayshore Drive
Venice, Florida 34285
407-595-1604

From: [Sharon Mathews-Bellendir](#)
To: [City Council](#); sharon@rpchicago.com
Cc: [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Sidewalks on Bayshore Drive
Date: Sunday, January 21, 2024 2:32:47 PM

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Suggestions:

- Expand the street on both sides. Since this is not a concrete street it may not be as costly to widen the street on both sides with proper drainage – this would be fair to all. This would also allow for a bit more space when lawn and utility trucks park to service homes as well. There may not be a need to disrupt the brick paved driveways which many home owners had to pay for extra permits to install. AND install No Parking signs.

- Remove the bike lane signs and redirect the bike route to Barcelona where there are established, actual ample bike lanes on both sides of the street and very little traffic.

-

- Replace the double yellow line with a single yellow line. So many people fear crossing the double line because it is actually against the law.

We at 309 Bayshore Drive have a major concern regarding putting the concrete slabs on the West side of Bayshore Drive, down the entire street, and along our front lawns due to the potential for flooding. That's a lot of concrete no matter what side of the street it is on. Water cannot be absorbed into the ground through concrete. When we have had heavy rains, the swales on the west side of the street fill, they overflow into the street, and one can be walking in one to two inches of water. So far, through Hurricanes Irma and Ian, we have not had flooding in our home. Thankful for that. But water seeks it's own level and I would rather it not be at my front door. Once this concrete is installed there is no going back and I doubt there will be a recourse from the City if we do flood.

If it is going to happen then my suggestion is:

- Most everyone who walks to Venice Ave walks on the East side of the street whereby they utilize the sidewalk of the Catholic Church, because it takes you along and to the post office and to the shopping district. Importantly it is also the correct way to walk, to go against the traffic.

- Suggestion is to build a sidewalk that falls in line with the church sidewalk on the East side of Harbor taking it down Bayshore Drive. The statement was made that people would have to cross the street at the corner of Bayshore and Tarpon to get to the Church sidewalk. That is one crossing which is established and has a stop sign. Just need people to respect and obey the stop sign.

Whatever the outcome, I would also ask that everyone respect their neighbors concerns regarding their home and property. If you would not want it for yourself then maybe it should not be for others.

I have faith the City Engineers will do what is best.

Sharon Bellendir

From: [Bobbie Haehlen](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Sidewalk on Bayshore Drive
Date: Saturday, January 13, 2024 4:27:43 PM

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YES! YES! YES! Please take care of the pedestrians and put in a sidewalk. I am 80 years old and my husband is almost 89 and walks with a cane. Our home is located at 333 Bayshore Drive on the west side of the street and close to Bayside. Ever since we moved here 13 years ago we've been truly apprehensive about walking the long block from our house to the block closer to town that has a sidewalk. The cars drive very fast and I can walk on a neighbors lawn when necessary but my husband can't. Who would believe that a street just 2 blocks away from a major intersection that has a traffic light would not have a sidewalk? We are fortunate to have a perfect location for walking downtown but it is so very dangerous. We worry about all our visitors and others when they wander downtown. How ridiculous it would be to drive that short of distance so alas people walk it regardless of safety issues.

Of course no one wants a sidewalk on their side of the street! Many residents have beautiful vegetation and have invested a lot of money and effort to beautify in front of their homes, ourselves included. With that thought in mind, the closest the sidewalk could be to the street the better.

My husband and I for years have advocated to have a sidewalk on Bayshore Drive. We could not live with ourselves if someone got hit by a vehicle because we didn't want to give up part of our landscape.

Bobbie and Jim Haehlen
333 Bayshore Drive

Sent from my iPad