


Memorandum

From the Town of Juno Beach Planning & Zoning Department

To: Town Council; Joseph Lo Bello, Town Manager
From: Frank Davila, Director of Planning & Zoning 
Date: October 14, 2021
Subject: 2019 Goal Setting Workshop Item - MARS WAY.

Background

At the 2019 Goal Setting Workshop, Town Council directed staff to conduct a study of residents on Mars Way as to their preference in dealing with the issue and to contact traffic engineers to get their input as to options to deal with the issue. At that same Workshop, Council expressed their concerns of Mars Way in regards to the speed and an increased number of vehicles traveling through.

Staff contacted Palm Beach County Fire Rescue and received recommendations for adding potential traffic calming devices on Mars Way. The Town's Traffic Engineer recommended the Town to conduct a traffic study to identify if there truly is a speed concern on Mars Way.

Per the recommendation of the Town's Traffic Engineer along with the Town Council's approval, a volume and speed data study was conducted at Mars Way and Olympus Drive by the Town's Engineer on January 31st, February 1st and February 2nd. (*See attachment #1*)

As indicated in attachment #1, the 85th percentile or 15% of travelers are driving through Mars Way at an excess speed of 39-42 mph, the 50th percentile or 50% (average) of travelers are driving through Mars Way at a speed of 31-33 mph. The data used by traffic engineers to determine if traffic calming measures are needed is *if the 85th percentile speeds exceed 10 mph over the posted speed limit* (Posted speed limit for Mars Way is 25mph). The speed data study revealed that the 85th percentile of travelers on Mars Way are exceeding the posted speed limit by an average of **17 mph**.

The results of the study supported speeding concerns on Mars Way and the Town's Traffic Engineer recommend installing traffic calming devices. However, there are pros and cons to adding the proposed traffic calming devices.

At the February 26, 2020, Town Council meeting, Council approved staff starting the process of conducting a workshop with the residents of Mars Way and the Town Engineer. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, staff postponed the previously scheduled workshops for the year 2020. In 2021, Staff reached out to the residents of Mars Way and agreed to conduct a hybrid meeting (in-person and virtual) so that everyone would be able to participate.

On June 9, 2021, staff conducted the 1st Mars Way Workshop in which staff discussed the findings from the Volume and Speed Data study and proposed options for possible traffic calming devices. The options included speed humps, speed tables, and speed signs.



During the workshop, the residents of Mars Way provided staff with additional traffic calming options to investigate.

Discussion

On September 9, 2021, staff conducted a second (2nd) Mars Way Workshop to discuss the findings and recommendations received by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Palm Beach County Fire Rescue, Palm Beach County Traffic and Palm Beach County Engineering for the traffic calming options that were recommended by the residents of Mars Way. (See attachment #2)

During the workshop, the residents in attendance requested that the following options be considered by staff and Town Council:

- Solid Double Yellow Line Stripping down the entirety of Mars Way;
- The installation of additional “No Truck” signs on US Highway 1 and Ocean Drive;
- Code text amendment of Article IV.- Truck Routes to include additional enforcement language to aid the Police Department in enforcing the “No Truck” signs. Newly proposed language should be reviewed by staff, Town Attorney and Traffic Engineer;
- Elevated Police enforcement on Mars Way;
- Installation of temporary Speed Table(s) on Mars Way;
- Communicate with mapping software companies (Google Maps, Apple, and others) to reroute drivers to use other streets;
- Include speed and traffic concerns of Mars Way on the Town’s newsletter to help other residents adhere to the posted speed limit; and
- Conduct a follow-up assessment of the effectiveness of the traffic calming options and share them with the Mars Way residents.

Following the 2nd Mars Way Workshop, staff received an updated signed petition from 9 out of the 17 Mars Way homeowners that indicated the following: “*the undersigned residents are opposed to the speed humps or tables due to the noise they will cause which will reduce the value of our properties*”. (See attachment #3)

In recent weeks, staff received an additional petition dated October 6th which was signed by 9 out of the 17 Mars Way homeowners that indicated the following: “*We are presenting an additional petition to the Town requesting that the Town Council and staff further consider closing off the left turn median entrance from US Highway 1 onto Mars Way. We are requesting that additional traffic study be done as well as any other necessary action required*”. (See attachment #4)

With all the information received from the outside agencies, residents of Mars Way, Senior Staff and the Town’s Traffic Engineer, Town Staff recommends the following options for Council’s consideration:

- Adding a Solid Double Yellow Line Striping down the entirety of Mars Way;

- Installing additional “No Truck” signs on US Highway 1 and Ocean Drive;
- Making a code text amendment change of Article IV.- Truck Routes to include additional enforcement language to aid the Police Department in enforcing the “No Truck” signs. Newly proposed language should be reviewed by staff, Town Attorney and Traffic Engineer; and
- Elevating Police enforcement on Mars Way.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends Town Council direct staff on which traffic calming options shall be implemented.

Attachment(s):

- Attachment #1 – Speed and Volume Traffic Study
- Attachment #2 – Letter to Mars Way Residents w. staff recommendation
- Attachment #3 – Mars Way Residents Petition (dated September 9, 2021)
- Attachment #4 – Mars Way Residents Petition (dated October 6, 2021)



Figure 1 – Traffic Data
Town of Juno Beach



TOWN OF JUNO BEACH

340 OCEAN DRIVE
 JUNO BEACH, FL 33408
 PHONE: 561.626.1122 • FAX: 561.775.0812
 WEBSITE: www.juno-beach.fl.us
 E-MAIL: junobeach@juno-beach.fl.us

Dear Mars Way residents,

Following the June Mars Way Workshop, Staff had been conducting meetings with other governmental agencies that have jurisdiction over the proposed traffic calming option(s) that were discussed.

At the next workshop, staff will be seeking a consensus from the majority of Mars Way residents for the proposed traffic calming option(s) to review and deliberate along with the Town's Traffic Engineer and provide a recommendation to the Town Council at a future meeting.

The information provided below is a collection of responses that staff received from outside governmental agencies as well as other Town Departments that have jurisdiction over proposed traffic calming option(s). Based on those responses, **Town staff recommends the following options:**

Adding additional No Truck signs on US Highway 1 (FDOT, PBC, and Juno Beach);

- Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), no objections as long as proposed locations meet sight visibility regulations and the Town assumes responsibility for its maintenance.
- **Palm Beach County Traffic and Engineering (PBC), no concerns.**
- **Juno Beach, has no concerns and recommends this option to mitigate truck traffic.**

Additional Police Enforcement on Mars Way (Juno Beach);

- **Juno Beach Police Department will continue with elevated enforcement on Mars Way.**

Adding Speed Table(s) (Juno Beach);

- **PBC, preferred option, especially if starting as trial basis.**
- **Palm Beach County Fire Rescue (PBCFR), preferred option.**
- **Juno Beach, temporary installation is the preferred option (either 1 or 2 tables)**

Code text amendment to "Truck Route" section of the Code of Ordinance;

- **Juno Beach, recommends that the language be reviewed by the Town Attorney to assure that any new proposed language allows for enforcement measures.**

For the purpose of full transparency, the following responses were also provided to staff by outside governmental agencies as well as other Town Departments that have jurisdiction over the proposed traffic calming option(s). Based on the additional responses that were provided, **Town staff does not recommend the following options:**

Closing off Mars Way on the west end;

- FDOT, no objections if the Town of Juno Beach (TOJB) is able to confirm that Donald Ross Road and Olympus Way will not be adversely impacted (additional trips past threshold of road).
- **PBC, does not approve of the option as there is no turn-around possibilities for vehicles, much less emergency vehicles at the end of Mars Way. PBC has a policy not to have vehicles back into oncoming traffic (Ocean Drive).**
- **PBCFR, no concerns if the method of closing the road is via a motorized gate that gives emergencies vehicles the ability to open it up. Unsure if the installation of the gate is possible since it needs to slide open and there is lack of right-of-way area.**
- Juno Beach, does not recommend this option as it would reduce the emergency response time for emergency vehicles.

Making Mars Way a one-way street;

- FDOT, no objections if the Town is able to confirm that Donald Ross Road and Olympus Way will not be adversely impacted (additional trips past threshold of road).
- **PBC, no recommendation, they need traffic studies (trip generation study) for Donald Ross Road, and Olympus Drive prior to making a recommendation.**
- **PBCFR, same comment as PBC as this will require them to review and create new routes.**
- **Juno Beach, does not recommend this option as it would reduce the emergency response time for emergency vehicles and it may increase vehicular speed.**

Close off the left turn median entrance from US Highway 1 (FDOT, PBC, PBCFR, and Juno Beach);

- FDOT, no objections if TOJB is able to confirm that Donald Ross Road and Olympus Way will not be adversely impacted (additional trips past threshold of road).
- **PBC, no recommendation, they need traffic studies (trip generation study) for Donald Ross Road, and Olympus Drive prior to making a recommendation.**
- **PBCFR, same comment as PBC as this will require them to review and create new routes.**
- **Juno Beach, serious concerns with traffic being diverted to Olympus Drive and Donald Ross Road and as it would reduce the emergency response time for emergency vehicles.**

Reducing the width of Mars Way (Juno Beach);

- **Juno Beach, is not viable option nor would it be of any benefit as the current width of Mars Way is already 22 ft. and the minimum road width per PBC regulations is 20 ft.**

Adding a chicane on Mars Way (Juno Beach);

- **Juno Beach, chicanes are not viable options due to engineering design standards as they would have to be placed at dangerous locations (blind spots) due to the topography of the road.**

Adding a choke on Mars Way (Juno Beach);

- **Juno Beach, chokes are not viable options due to engineering design standards as they would have to be placed at dangerous locations (blind spots) due to the topography of the road.**

Adding Speed Hump(s) (Juno Beach);

- PBC, no concerns.
- **PBCFR, does not recommend, it slows down response time.**
- Juno Beach, this option would be effective in reducing speed, however, it is not recommended as it will reduce emergency response time and create an uncomfortable driving experience.

Adding an Electronic Speed Sign (Juno Beach);

- **Juno Beach, with the elevated enforcement by the Police Department the signs are an effective traffic calming option to reduce vehicular speed, not traffic volume. Staff recommends this option as a secondary method if the first options are not sufficient.**

Reducing the Speed Limit to 20 mph

- **Town Staff does not recommend this option as all public roads/streets should have the same speed limit for consistency.**

**Please be aware that any given information, such as input and/or opinion(s), received from the agencies above, does not automatically constitute as an endorsement or recommendation towards a specific proposed option(s) by the Town's Traffic Engineer or Town Staff.*

The next workshop is tentatively scheduled for September 9th between 4pm and 6pm (similar to the previous workshop). Please note that due to the current uptick in COVID-19 cases, there will be a limited amount of seating, however, you will be able to participate virtually via zoom. Due to the limited amount of seating, please RSVP with me by Monday September 6th if you plan on attending either in-person or via zoom so I can reserve you a seat or provide you with a Zoom invitation.

In the meantime, if you have any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 561-656-0306. Also, please feel free to share this information with your neighbors that were unable to attend the previous workshop.

Respectfully,



Frank Davila
Director of Planning and Zoning

Petition from the Residents/Owners of Property on Mars Way, Juno Beach, FL

September 9, 2021

**Honorable Mayor and Town Council
Town of Juno Beach, Florida**

Re: Traffic Calming on Mars Way

On June 9, 2021, the Town of Juno Beach held a workshop to discuss the Mars Way Traffic issues. The Town's traffic engineer provided the results of the traffic volume and speed study and provided a few options for traffic calming for resident consideration. The options included speed tables, speed humps and speed monitoring signs. All owners and residents except one that attended voiced their opposition to speed tables and speed humps/bumps and provided staff with other options for consideration such as:

- o Closing off Mars Way on the west end
- o Making Mars Way a one-way street
- o Closing off the left turn entrance from US Highway 1
- o Adding additional No Truck signs on US Highway one and Ocean
- o Additional Police Enforcement on Mars Way
- o Adding chicanes or chokes on Mars Way

Staff has indicated that they will be seeking a consensus from a majority of Mars Way residents on traffic calming option(s), then provide a recommendation to the Town Council for consideration.

The undersigned residents are opposed to speed humps or tables due to the noise they will cause which will reduce the value of our properties. The Town Manager said at the May 8, 2019 goal setting workshop that "residents do not like speed humps more complain than like them because of the noise, it might make one or two happy, but the rest are not happy. Even residents that want them said how noisy they are."

We have all invested in our neighborhood and we are extremely concerned about the negative effects the noise would have on our quality of life and our property values. We do not want to exchange one problem, traffic, for another problem, more noise. The street has enough noise due to the acceleration of cars and trucks up both sides of the hill.

The undersigned below, property owners and residents of Mars Way, are filing this petition, dated this 9th day of September, 2021, requesting the Town Council refrain from approving the installation of speed humps speed tables on Mars Way and choose another options.

**Petition from the Residents/Owners of Property on Mars Way, Juno Beach,
FL**

TOWN OF JUNO BEACH
RECEIVED

2021 SEP -8 AM 10: 23

September 9, 2021

**Honorable Mayor and Town Council
Town of Juno Beach, Florida**

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Signed:

Name	Address	Signature

Mary Peteran 481 Mars Way
9/8/21 Juno Beach
33408

Signed:

Name	Address	Signature
BARRY M RUSSO	491 Mars Way	Barry M Russo
JEREMY LE CLAINCHE	401 Mars Way	Jeremy Le Clainche
William Vignaro	420 Mars Way	William Vignaro
Tim Langloss	400 Mars Way	Tim Langloss
Virginia Langlos	400 Mars Way	Virginia Langlos
Gino Bologna	571 Ocean Drive	Gino Bologna
Gino Bologna	451 MARS Way	Gino Bologna

Cc: Joseph Lo Bello, Town Manager
Mr. Len Rubin, Town Attorney

Signed:

Name	Address	Signature
Andrea Erickson	480 Mars Way	A. Erickson

Cc: Joseph Lo Bello, Town Manager
Mr. Len Rubin, Town Attorney

Petition from the Residents/Owners of Property on Mars Way, Juno Beach, FL

September 9, 2021

Honorable Mayor and Town Council
Town of Juno Beach, Florida

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- Additional Police Enforcement on Mars Way
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The undersigned below, property owners and residents of Mars Way, are filing this petition, dated this 9th day of September, 2021, requesting the Town Council refrain from approving the installation of speed humps speed tables on Mars Way and choose another options.

Signed:

Karen & Robert Chaprnka
 471 Mars Way, Juno Beach FL
 Kam Chaprnka
 Robert J. Chaprnka

Petition from the Residents/Owners of Property on Mars Way, Juno Beach, FL

October 6, 2021

Honorable Mayor and Town Council
Town of Juno Beach, Florida

Re: Traffic Calming on Mars Way

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- Closing off Mars Way on the west end
- Making Mars Way a one-way street
- Closing off the left turn entrance from US Highway 1
- Adding additional No Truck signs on US Highway one and Ocean
- Additional Police Enforcement on Mars Way
- Adding chicanes or chokes on Mars Way

On September 9, 2021, an additional workshop was held and staff reviewed the details of their findings from discussions with FDOT, Palm Beach County and Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue. Staff indicated at that meeting that if a majority of Mars Way residents were in opposition to speed humps they would not be recommended to the Town Council. Signatures of 9 residents/owners on a petition have been provided to the Town equaling a majority. In addition, staff indicated that they planned to recommend to Town Council moving the no truck signage onto Ocean and US 1, striping the road, increasing police enforcement, and increasing the use of the speed trailer in order to improve the conditions on Mars Way.

We are presenting an additional petition to the Town requesting that the Town Council and staff further consider closing off the left turn median entrance from US Highway 1 onto Mars Way. We are requesting that the additional traffic study be done as well as any other necessary action required.

We believe that the closing of the median will reduce traffic on Mars Way by at least 50%. This, along with better placement of the no truck signage, striping the road, additional police enforcement, use of speed trailers and potential speed monitoring signs, the street can become safer and more pedestrian friendly for the residents.

The undersigned below, property owners and residents of Mars Way, are filing this petition, dated this 6th day of October, 2021, requesting the Town Council consider closing off the left turn entrance on Mars Way. We are requesting that staff and consultants complete the additional traffic study and any other necessary action for the Town Council to fully consider the closing of the left turn entrance off US 1 on Mars Way.

Signed:

②

Name	Address	Signature
Andrea Erickson	480 Mars Way	A. Erickson

Cc: Joseph Lo Bello, Town Manager
 Mr. Len Rubin, Town Attorney



The undersigned below, property owners and residents of Mars Way, are filing this petition, dated this 6th day of October, 2021, requesting the Town Council consider closing off the left turn entrance on Mars Way. We are requesting that staff and consultants complete the additional traffic study and any other necessary action for the Town Council to fully consider the closing of the left turn entrance off US 1 on Mars Way.

Signed:

	Name	Address	Signature
③	Kevin Lonny	⁴⁷⁰ 740 Mars Way	
④	William Viggiano	420 Mars Way	

Cc: Joseph Lo Bello, Town Manager
Mr. Len Rubin, Town Attorney

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Signed:

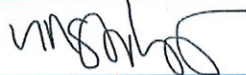
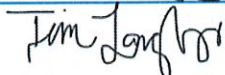
Name	Address	Signature
⑤ Jane & Jeremy LeClanche	401 Mars Way	Jane LeClanche

Cc: Joseph Lo Bello, Town Manager
Mr. Len Rubin, Town Attorney

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Signed:

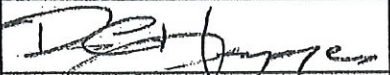
6
0

Name	Address	Signature
Virginia Langloss	400 Mars Way	
Timothy Langloss	400 Mars Way	

Cc: Joseph Lo Bello, Town Manager
Mr. Len Rubin, Town Attorney

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Signed:

Name	Address	Signature
① RICHARD WAGGER	450 MARS WAY	

Cc: Joseph Lo Bello, Town Manager
Mr. Len Rubin, Town Attorney

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Signed:

(3)
(9)

Name	Address	Signature
Piera & Gino Bologna	<u>571</u> Ocean Dr	Piera Bologna
Piera & Gino Bologna	<u>451</u> Mars Way	Piera Bologna

Cc: Joseph Lo Bello, Town Manager
Mr. Len Rubin, Town Attorney