

From: Melissa Beattie <contactus@vihamiami.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 12:32 PM
To: Melissa Beattie <contactus@vihamiami.org>
Subject: Request from the Venetian Islands residents

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**Mayor Dan Gelber,
City Manager Alina Hudak
Assistant City manager Eric Carpenter
CIP Director David Martinez
CIP Senior Coordinator Sabrina Baglieri**

The Venetian Islands Homeowners Association (VIHA) is requesting for the City to prioritize a solution for the completion of our roads, following the unacceptable amount of delays in the execution of our Capital Improvement Project (CIP). For the City to engage in new capital improvement projects in other neighborhoods before completing this long overdue project is irresponsible and unfair to our residents.

Following conversations with the city, it is our understanding that the latest holdup is due to LANZO's failure to timely renew the necessary permits with Miami-Dade County. As a result of the contractor's negligence, the new permits issued in April, further restrict the weight loads over our causeway and bridges. LANZO and the City have come to a stall, again, failing to come up with a timely solution to work around these new restrictions. Unsurprisingly, residents of San Marino, Di Lido, and Rivo Alto Islands are fed up with delays. It is long past the time when the City needs to step up to the plate, take action and get this Project done. For the past decade, the residents haven't had properly paved roads. (The Hoover Dam, a project larger in scope and in the middle of nowhere only took five years.)

Recap:

Almost two decades ago, the Venetian Islands were scheduled to undergo a Streetscape Project ("Project") encompassing the islands of Rivo Alto, Di Lido and San Marino. The project began in 2003. It called for nine months of design, four months of bid & award and eleven months of construction commencing in October of 2004. Since the Project began, the City has hired a design firm. Fired the design firm. Hired a different firm. Held meetings soliciting public input. Ignored the public input. Been surprised when residents were unhappy that public input was ignored. Updated the design to finally take into account public input. Started construction. Paused construction to redesign the storm water system. Restarted construction with a different design. Attempted to patch numerous cracks and failing asphalt due to substandard construction. Denied that there were construction problems. Hired an outside firm to examine the situation. Received confirmation of deficiencies by two engineering firms. Initially, the City opted for a "pave only" that did not address failures of the 28 million dollar project. Following pleas from VIHA, city reconsidered. September 2020, the commission and VIHA reached an agreement to undertake the necessary repairs and the final layering of asphalt. January 2021, delays due to processing of permits. March 2021, new delays due to permit expiration. It is now July 2021, almost twenty years after the project was initiated but is still not complete.

Safety and maintaining the integrity of our bridges is of utmost importance. That being said, there are many solutions to the new weight restrictions, and we are disappointed that none of them have been selected. Here are a few possible solutions that come to mind.

- The obvious solution is to use more trucks, each with a partial load.
- Another option is what was used for recent construction on Belle Island. Use off duty police to stop other traffic as the loaded truck goes across the bridge. If there are no other vehicles on the bridge, the truck can carry a heavier load.
- Bring materials in on barges, access to land via easements.

The residents, through the Venetian Islands Homeowners Association, ask that the City allocate the necessary resources to finally finish this project. We absolutely understand that the condition of our bridges requires a little creativity to complete this project, but we have faith that the City can find a way to finally do so.

We await your response,

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