

From: Mulla, Ali

Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 4:22 PM **To:** richardhineman@bellsouth.net

Subject: Gopher Tortoise Burrows Near Road

Hello Richard,

Thank you for contacting FWC with concerns for gopher tortoises in your neighborhood. I was forwarded your email message, and wanted to follow up with you.

FWC receives several reports of gopher tortoise mortalities and injuries from vehicle strikes on public road ways each year. Increases in vehicular traffic in an area can certainly contribute to a greater frequency of road mortalities and injuries to wildlife.

In areas where gopher tortoise road mortalities or vehicle related injuries are frequently reported, FWC recommends installation of signage and speed reduction measures (bumps, tables, raised intersections, etc.) to local government departments. You can find more information on Gopher Tortoise Signage on our webpage (https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/wildlife/gopher-tortoise/help/signage/).

Do you happen to know if any local government meetings to discuss this proposal have been scheduled as yet?

If this proposal has not yet been approved or publicly discussed, the best thing you can do at this point is to document observations of burrows close to the road, and instances where you observe gopher tortoises crossing the road. You can document sightings by using FWC's Gopher Tortoise Sighting Web Form (https://public.myfwc.com/HSC/GopherTortoise/). I would also encourage you to attend any commission meetings for this proposal, and voicing your concerns during the public comment period.

Please let me feel free to reach me either by responding to this email, or by phone at 850-921-1030 if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Ali Mulla
Gopher Tortoise Assistant Biologist
Division of Habitat and Species Conservation
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
(850) 921-1030
620 S. Meridian Street, 2A
Tallahassee, FL 32399
www.myfwc.com

COMMISSION RECORDS
MARTIN COUNTY, FL
Date LOS Time
CAROLYN TIMMANN
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
By D.C.





Exhibit B

Hobe Hills-Papaya Village Fact Sheet → Say 'NO' to destroying our dead-ends!

- Connecting Streets within and into our community <u>DOES</u> opens us up to an INCREASE in CRIME. (ask your neighbors on these dead-ends)
- Connecting Streets within and into our community does NOT reduce flooding.
- Connecting Streets within and into our community does NOT increase safety from emergency vehicles. (see below)
- Connecting Streets within and into our community was NOT requested from Waste Management. (see below)
- Connecting Streets within and into our community opens us up to an INCREASE in Speeding and Community traffic accidents. (review records)

If these dead-end berms are destroyed and these streets are connected, the following negative impacts will occur:

- <u>negative drainage impact</u> (environmental & economic) these berms (dead-ends) currently act as retention areas for water in the rainy season and allows that water to return to the natural aquifer. More paved roads equal more surfaces that are impenetrable and that means MORE drainage problems, and MORE flooding.
- <u>negative safety impact</u> the end-of-street berms act as buffers to limit traffic and keep speeds low in this area.
- <u>negative safety impact</u> the end-of-street designation lowers opportunistic criminals coming right off US-1, by limiting multiple escapes routes and increasing neighborhood accountability.
- <u>negative economic impact</u> the home values in the community could decease, due to being <u>less desirable</u> as the area would become a higher traffic, higher crime area.
- <u>negative economic impact</u> homes bought in this community are more desirable because of the end-of –street designations, and specifically marked 'no outlet' streets. This area is a beach town design, just like the Island and east on Bridge Road.
- <u>negative environmental impact</u>- many of these dead-end berms are currently part of the habitat for the protected 'scrub jay' and 'gopher tortoises'.
- <u>negative environmental impact</u> increased wildlife damage/deaths from Jonathan Dickinson Park. (Jonathan Dickinson park is less than 80 feet or less away from some of these dead-end berms and connecting these separate roads, will cause increased speeds (already being experienced in a road connection made last year), and the increased wildlife deaths.





Related Information/References:

Waste Management said (in writing), they have no issues with their big trucks in all our deadend streets. (ask, Jeff Sabien at Waste Management)

Safety Vehicles, Firemen have contests across the country showcasing their skills in driving emergency vehicles in all terrains and road types. See below links:

Point – Our highly trained and <u>heroic</u> firemen/women can navigate the big trucks as effectively as their peers driving waste management trucks. (see video)

https://www.citylab.com/design/2016/01/firetruck-design-smaller-city-street/425142/

Drainage – Flooding is not solved by adding more impenetrable surfaces. We cannot cover the few natural dead-end berms that are currently allowing water to return (sink back) into the aquifer. If these areas are covered with black-top and connected roads, the water has nowhere to go but down the road....to the lowest areas. Even though you may not live in this low area, your neighbors do, and that is not socially responsible or right.

Speeding – If you are concerned with speeding now? Then consider that both frequency and speeds INCREASE with more road connections.

Crime – If you are thinking, we do not see that much crime. Yes, that is because the neighbors living on these dead-end roads, often work together to stop it before it proliferates through-out the community. And, with only one way in and out of this beach community it is very unattractive to opportunistic criminals, especially because many have been caught.

As a community and a neighborhood it is important that we stand together to protect our property.

Please sign the online petition, at the address below:

http://chng.it/FyCzv4jxQR

June 1, 2020

for Preserving/Protecting the Berm (at Flamingo & Fharan) that makes Sharon St. a 'No Outlet' area

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