

On October 20th, a public meeting was held with residents of Juno Isles and representatives from Toll Brothers and Palm Beach County. Notice of the meeting was given on our website and by a postcard mailing to all Juno Isles residents. Approximately 25 residents were in attendance.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss with the County and Toll Brothers the current resolution to have Toll Brothers build two islands on Ellison Wilson rd and what other speed containment measures might or might not be possible.

Palm Beach County traffic engineer Dan Weisberg stated that the County would not permit the proposed southern island to be built due to interference with the turn lanes into Bay Colony and FPL. When asked why the proposal was approved when originally submitted as part of a larger community improvement plan eight years ago he said he could not explain why since the person who approved it has since died. He reiterated that the approval eight years ago does not change the fact that the southern island violates current traffic safety standards and would not be permitted. When asked if the island could be relocated, he stated moving it either north or south would interfere with the numerous driveways situated on the roadway.

Various alternatives were discussed including humps, roundabouts, etc. One resident cited as examples numerous devices that are in use on various streets in West Palm Beach. Mr. Weisberg stated that Ellison Wilson road is defined by the county as a “collector” road and, as such, none of those speed mitigation methods are allowed. He also stated that, as a municipality, West Palm Beach was able to install devices that the County would not otherwise approve.

At the suggestion of a few residents, installing stamped concrete or concrete pavers along sections of roadway was discussed as an alternative to the islands. The County indicated it would have no objection to such an installation as long the material used is subject to its approval. The issue of what the county would maintain was unresolved and Mr. Weisberg promised to get back to the civic association with an answer.

George Gentile, the land planning consultant working for Toll Brothers stated that Toll Brothers is prepared to construct the two islands but could do only what the county would permit.

Donald Barnes, regional VP for Toll Brothers, indicated that Toll Brothers is trying to be a good neighbor by working with us to arrive at a mutually acceptable solution but he stressed that they can't allow the resolution of this issue to delay the completion of their project.

The existing plan for the northern island only and an alternative plan for stamped concrete or concrete pavers will be presented at the next regularly scheduled JICA board meeting on 11/1 at which time the board will vote to accept one or the other.