

**From:** [Marc Lautenbach](#)  
**To:** [Dana A. Souza](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Blakely](#); [Colby Keefe](#)  
**Subject:** Scope of request  
**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2025 6:12:18 PM

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Dana,

Pursuant to our conversation this morning, Colby's request to lower the speed limit to 20 mph includes Wulfert, Troon, and Baltusrol. Thank you and let me know if further clarification would be helpful.

Sent from my iPad

February 27, 2025

**Via Federal Express and Electronic Notice**

City of Sanibel  
ATTN: City Council  
800 Dunlop Road  
Sanibel, Florida 33957

Re: City Council Meeting on March 18, 2025  
Public Comment Regarding Roadway Speed Limit Discussion

Dear City Council Members:

Please accept this correspondence submitted on behalf of The Sanctuary at Wulfert Point Community Association, Inc. (“the Sanctuary”). This correspondence is intended to serve as a public comment in support of reducing the speed limit of the roadways within the community, including Wulfert Road. While this correspondence is written and submitted by the Board of Directors of the Association, the concerns and requests set forth in this letter are representative of the 225 families that call the Sanctuary home, as well as countless others who enjoy the neighborhood as visitors and the wildlife that also calls the neighborhood home. The Sanctuary Golf Club has also expressed its support of our request.

As the Councilmembers are aware from our prior requests, the Sanctuary is requesting that the City of Sanibel promote the safety of residents, their guests, and wildlife by taking the necessary step of reducing the speed limit of the public roads located in the community. The speed limit presently is 30 m.p.h. A speed study conducted on Wulfert Road between February 24, 2024 to March 10, 2024 revealed that the average motorist is already driving at about 25 m.p.h. or less (76.9% of the vehicles captured). The speed study does not differentiate between golf carts and passenger vehicles, so the average speed of a passenger vehicles cannot be ascertained. However, it is apparent that reducing the speed limit would not interrupt the existing driving habits of those who live in the community and most frequently use the roads. During the time period observed, at least 24 cars exceeded the speed limit by driving at 36 m.p.h. or higher, in some cases as high as 56 m.p.h. **A reduction of the posted speed limit to 20 m.p.h. is needed and requested to better reflect the actual speed the residents of the community observe, while isolating those motorists who travel in excess of the posted speed (thereby making it easier to pursue enforcement).**

Reducing the speed limit would be not only supported, but arguably mandated, by the Sanibel Plan. Section 3.3.3 of the Sanibel Plan and Vision Statement recognize that the streets on the Island are a place “rather than a channel designed for the benefit of the car and driver.” Wulfert Road is the primary walkway for the residents of the Sanctuary. Consistent with the Sanibel Plan, the City must reduce the speed limits to “reduce the frequency and severity of accidents, and provide increased opportunities for pedestrians and bicyclists to share the rights-of-way and driving surface with motor vehicles.”

A reduction in the speed limit is certainly supported by the residents of the Sanctuary. A survey conducted in February 2025 that 74.17% of 120 respondents would support reducing the

speed to at least 22 m.p.h. Many of the respondents added comments expressing their concern that they feel threatened walking their dogs or exercising on Wulfert Road.

The City's personnel have expressed the desire for a traffic study to be performed for the Sanctuary. The cost and delay of this can be avoided. Section 316.183(2), Florida Statutes, was amended in 1990 to include an exception for local municipalities to reduce a road speed to as low as 20 m.p.h. and rely upon a traffic study done in another residence district. In this case, the City can justifiably rely upon the Dunes study which included reasoning in its Section 7.1 Recommendation / Signing that is applicable to the safety concerns in the Sanctuary; namely, that due to the **"high volume of pedestrian traffic sharing the corridor with motorists, and the curvature of the roadway, it is recommended that the speed limit within the Dunes community be reduced to 20 MPH."** The intent of the statute is to allow municipalities like the City of Sanibel to exercise police power to reduce the speed of a roadway where the conditions warrant doing so for the safety of pedestrians and motorists.

During the 2024 Annual Membership Meeting of the Sanctuary, members in attendance vocally and enthusiastically expressed their concern regarding the excessive speeds in the community. With the 2025 Annual Membership Meeting approaching in April, we are hopeful that we can provide them with positive news of City plans to address and reduce the threat to public safety presented by the existing speed limit. Each day that passes at the current speed limit poses a new risk of serious injury or death to Sanibel's motorists, pedestrians and wildlife.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter affecting the residents and wildlife of the City of Sanibel.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors of the Sanctuary at  
Wulfert Point Community Association, Inc.

*/s/ Diane Knight*

Diane Knight, President

*/s/ Bob Blakely*

Bob Blakely, Director

Copies to:

John D. Agnew, Esq., City Attorney ([john.agnew@mysanibel.com](mailto:john.agnew@mysanibel.com))

Enclosures:

Section 316.183, Florida Statutes

February 2024 – March 2024 Traffic Study

Community Survey Results

Select Year: 2024 ▼ Go

## The 2024 Florida Statutes

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[Title XXIII](#)  
MOTOR VEHICLES

[Chapter 316](#)  
STATE UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL

[View Entire Chapter](#)

**316.183 Unlawful speed.—**

(1) No person shall drive a vehicle on a highway at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions and having regard to the actual and potential hazards then existing. In every event, speed shall be controlled as may be necessary to avoid colliding with any person, vehicle, or other conveyance or object on or entering the highway in compliance with legal requirements and the duty of all persons to use due care.

(2) On all streets or highways, the maximum speed limits for all vehicles must be 30 miles per hour in business or residence districts, and 55 miles per hour at any time at all other locations. However, with respect to a residence district, a county or municipality may set a maximum speed limit of 20 or 25 miles per hour on local streets and highways after an investigation determines that such a limit is reasonable. It is not necessary to conduct a separate investigation for each residence district. The minimum speed limit on all highways that comprise a part of the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways and have not fewer than four lanes is 40 miles per hour, except that when the posted speed limit is 70 miles per hour, the minimum speed limit is 50 miles per hour.

(3) A school bus may not exceed the posted speed limits at any time.

(4) The driver of every vehicle shall, consistent with the requirements of subsection (1), drive at an appropriately reduced speed when:

- (a) Approaching and crossing an intersection or railway grade crossing;
- (b) Approaching and going around a curve;
- (c) Approaching a hill crest;
- (d) Traveling upon any narrow or winding roadway; and
- (e) Any special hazard exists with respect to pedestrians or other traffic or by reason of weather or highway conditions.

(5) No person shall drive a motor vehicle at such a slow speed as to impede or block the normal and reasonable movement of traffic, except when reduced speed is necessary for safe operation or in compliance with law.

(6) No driver of a vehicle shall exceed the posted maximum speed limit in a work zone area.

(7) A violation of this section is a noncriminal traffic infraction, punishable as a moving violation as provided in chapter 318.

**History.—**s. 1, ch. 71-135; s. 1, ch. 76-159; s. 3, ch. 76-218; s. 3, ch. 76-286; s. 1, ch. 77-174; s. 6, ch. 87-161; s. 2, ch. 88-47; s. 5, ch. 88-91; s. 4, ch. 88-93; s. 21, ch. 90-227; s. 17, ch. 94-306; s. 20, ch. 96-350; s. 135, ch. 99-248; s. 32, ch. 2005-164; s. 5, ch. 2012-181.



Start: 2024-02-24  
End: 2024-03-10  
Times: 0:00:00-23:59:59

**Speed Summary**  
**Sanibel At Large - 30 MPH, XB**

Speed Range: 1 to 150

**Overall Summary**

Total Days of Data: 16  
Speed Limit: 30  
Average Speed: 18.62  
50th Percentile Speed: 20.03  
85th Percentile Speed: 25.59  
Pace Speed Range: 17-27

Minimum Speed: 6  
Maximum Speed: 56  
Display Mode: Single Message  
Average Volume per Day: 846.7  
Total Volume: 13547



Start: 2024-02-24  
End: 2024-03-10  
Times: 0:00:00-23:59:59

Volume by Time  
Sanibel At Large - 30 MPH, XB

Speed Bins: Size 10, Range 41 to 150  
Time View: By Day (Total Volumes)

Date	00:00	01:00	02:00	03:00	04:00	05:00	06:00	07:00	08:00	09:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00	17:00	18:00	19:00	20:00	21:00	22:00	23:00	Total
02-24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
02-25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
02-26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
02-27	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
02-28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
02-29	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
03-01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
03-02	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
03-03	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
03-04	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
03-05	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
03-06	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
03-07	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
03-08	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
03-09	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
03-10	0	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4

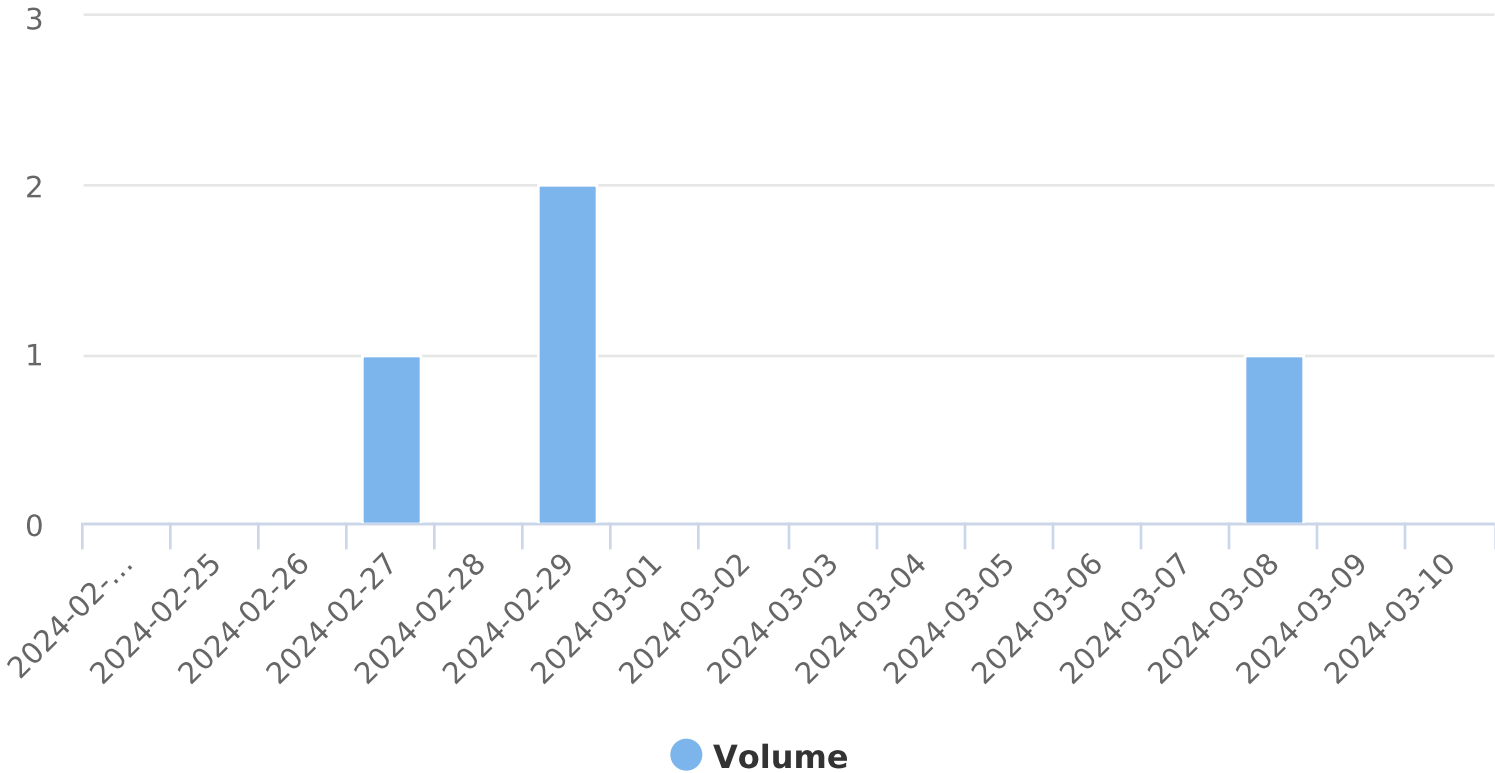


Start: 2024-02-24  
End: 2024-03-10  
Times: 0:00:00-23:59:59

Volume by Time  
Sanibel At Large - 30 MPH, XB

Speed Bins: Size 10, Range 41 to 150  
Time View: By Day (Total Volumes)

Daily Total Volume





Start: 2024-02-24  
End: 2024-03-10  
Times: 0:00:00-23:59:59

Volume by Time  
Sanibel At Large - 30 MPH, XB

Speed Bins: Size 10, Range 36 to 150  
Time View: By Day (Total Volumes)

Date	00:00	01:00	02:00	03:00	04:00	05:00	06:00	07:00	08:00	09:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00	17:00	18:00	19:00	20:00	21:00	22:00	23:00	Total
02-24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
02-25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
02-26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
02-27	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
02-28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
02-29	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
03-01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
03-02	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
03-03	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
03-04	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
03-05	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
03-06	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
03-07	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
03-08	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
03-09	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
03-10	1	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	3	0	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	24



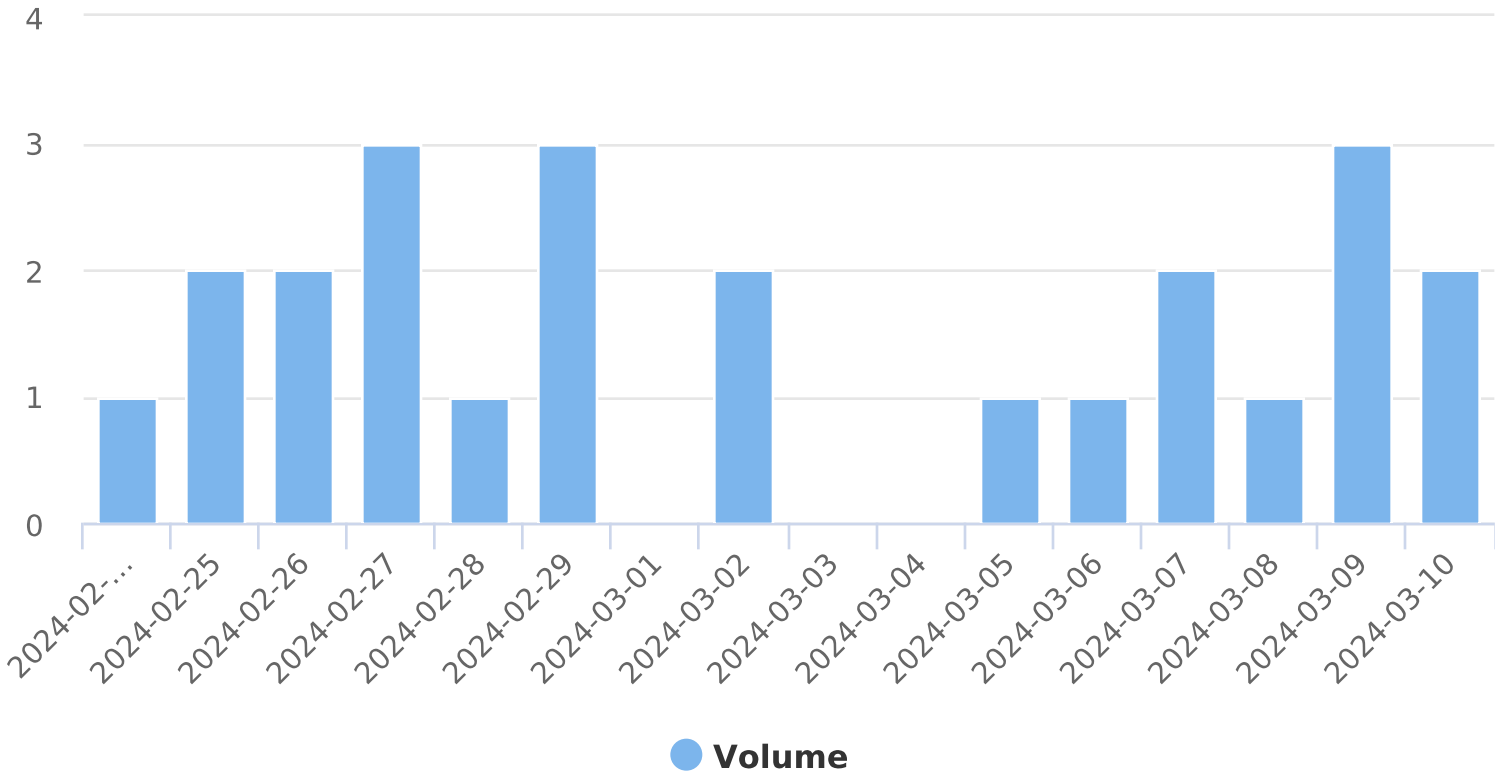


Start: 2024-02-24  
End: 2024-03-10  
Times: 0:00:00-23:59:59

Volume by Time  
Sanibel At Large - 30 MPH, XB

Speed Bins: Size 10, Range 36 to 150  
Time View: By Day (Total Volumes)

Daily Total Volume



Q1

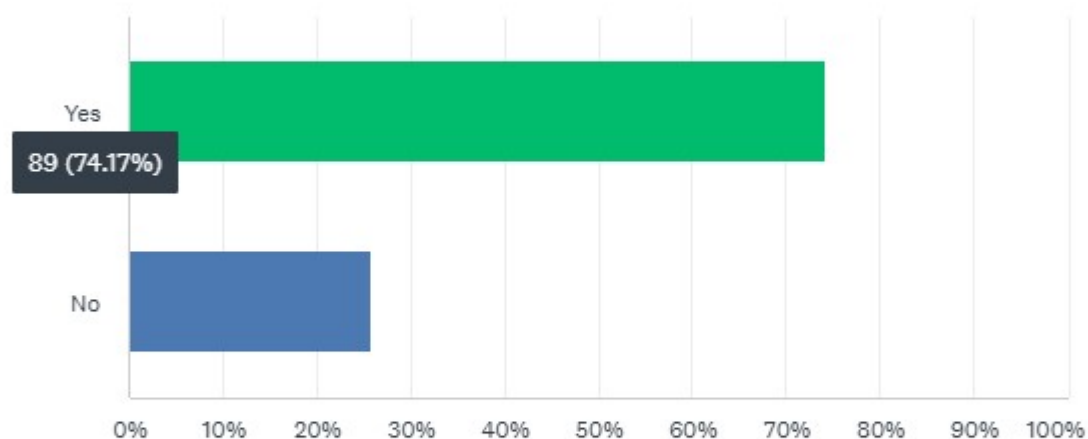


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Given the safety concerns, would you support reducing the speed limit on Wulfert from 30mph to 22mph?

Answered: 120 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Yes	74.17%	89
▼ No	25.83%	31
TOTAL		120

**From:** [Marc Lautenbach](#)  
**To:** [Dana A. Souza](#)  
**Subject:** To be placed/read into the Sanibel City Council Meeting on February 4, 2025  
**Date:** Monday, February 3, 2025 3:07:43 PM

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Dear Councilman,

The Sanctuary Homeowners Associating and the Sanctuary Golf Club respectfully request that the speed limit on Wulfert Rd be reduced from 30mph to 22mph. The Sanctuary is a residential community anchored by the Sanctuary Golf Course. There are approximately 300 doors in the community.

Wulfert Rd is a windy road with poor sight lines. The sight lines are made worse by substantial contractor vehicles parked half on and half off the street. Wulfert Rd has substantial pedestrian traffic along with golf carts from the Sanctuary Golf Course. For the most part, there are no sidewalks on Wulfert. All of these conditions make Wulfert a dangerous road with a speed limit of 30mph. In 2019, there was an accident between a golf cart and a car. I personally walk on Wulfert several times a day walking a dog and a day doesn't go by when there isn't a near miss with an automobile. It is only a matter of time before there is another accident and next time we may not be as fortunate.

At 30 mph experts say a pedestrian/auto accident has a 50% probability of a fatality. At 20 mph that probability is less than half of that.

State statutes say that local provinces have the ability to change the speed limit in residential areas after the local province conducts a traffic study. The statute goes on to say, however, if that a traffic study has been done the province does not need to conduct another study. A study was conducted at the Dunes in 2014. Worth noting that the Dunes is also a residential community anchored by a golf course with approximately 300 doors. The Dunes had an additional consideration as it had become a "cut through" road. While the Homeowners Association stipulates the cut through aspect of the Dunes situation is different, the two situations are substantively similar enough so that another study is not required.

The situation on Wulfert Rd is an accident waiting to happen. We respectfully ask that the speed limit is immediately reduced to 22mph.

Thank you for your consideration.