



Safer Speed Bumps for Ambergris Caye

tacogirl.com Hand Up program for RRR Response.
Road safety effort made possible by Victoria House Resort.

June 7, 2021

Safer Speed Bumps Proposal

Dear Mayor Wally, and San Pedro Town Council, thank you for taking the time to read this 8 page proposal and work with us to help make Ambergris Caye roads safer.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Billy Leslie - RRR Response

Laurie Norton - tacogirl.com Hand Up program

Safer Speed Bumps Proposal

We have identified poorly visible speed bumps (and dips) as a growing safety issue on the island. This is a major cause of both minor injuries and serious accidents.

When driving on the concrete road, to the normal driver, the speed bumps look flat and even, as you will see in Picture A below. Although residents generally know where they are placed, sometimes they still sneak up on us too fast as you will read on the testimonial pdf.

Due to poor visibility, tourists really can't tell until they are too close or already hitting the bump too fast. This poses a threat that sometimes results in traffic accidents. Triple R has transported many victims of speed bump mishaps for medical attention, some of which have resulted in injuries, paralysis, and even deaths.

In addition to making existing speed bumps and signage more visible, our community based research has identified a few areas that are in need of speed bumps - one being on Coconut Drive, as people in fast moving vehicles often drive at 30 mph and at times upwards of 50 mph. It was also reported that a speeding dump truck ran an oncoming motorcycle off the road into the bush. This happened last week on the North side of the Island which is another area in need of more speed bumps for safer driving.

Picture A: As you can see the indicator signage is on one side of the road only and the speed bump just before Victoria House Resort is almost invisible even in the daytime.



Picture B: This bump also located south is another big hazard, especially at night. It has a large drop off and is not clearly marked.



Islander Testimonies

1. A Government worker came to meet his wife who was working in San Pedro, for a weekend together with the kids. They went to Secret Beach, where bars often encourage you to get drunk, not considering that someone needs to drive. Returning after dark and not being aware of where the speed bumps were, they hit the one behind El pescador. The gentleman was thrown onto the hard concrete, hitting his head. Triple R was called by a security guard who heard the screams. We arrived and rendered immediate assistance and transported him to Dr. Daniel, where we realised the severity of his head injury. Tropic air was called and he was urgently transported to KMH during the night. The man went into intensive care and passed away 2 days later due to internal bleeding. By: Triple R Response - Ambergris Caye.

2. I was pretty new to the island, only having been here a few months. I was coming home one night from picking up takeout dinner in town, heading to 2.5 miles south. I was still being very careful, trying to be sure I didn't hit any of the dips or speed bumps too hard. All of a sudden I hit the speed bump in front of Grand Colony and went flying (me and the golf cart) across the

bump, into oncoming traffic. I almost hit the concrete wall, thankfully the oncoming traffic saw me hit the bump and stopped. Fortunately nothing was hurt or damaged except my dinner that was all over the floor of the cart.

The bumps & dips are hard enough to see during the day, especially with shadows from the trees and buildings. At night, the bumps & dips are close to impossible to see unless you're expecting them. The lights on the golf carts aren't very bright and very often there is little to no light near the bumps. When a bump is marked, it is a sign, only on one side of the road (the east side) so anyone going south doesn't even notice the sign, especially if there are tree branches hanging over it. Some type of reflective paint, "sparkles" in the concrete bumps, lights over the bumps, any of these items would be of great help. By: Rita Kronertz-Lee - Ambergris Caye.

Repeated Volunteer Vacationer Testimony

3. Ohhhh those lovely speed bumps, they've made for quite the topic of conversation. I understand why they are in place, but they can be dangerous. Those who live on the island know how to play the "ping pong game."

However, those of us who don't live there but have spent quite a bit of time on the island, aren't so good at it. Our Church group has had a few close calls. We've launched people or been launched due to not seeing a speed bump until the last minute - usually when it's dark.

As a result we've also had a few minor head injuries from being bumped on the roof. We have learned to take it slow. Others

who come to Belize may not know how many things can happen because of the speed bumps.

Over the years, I've seen broken carts, and many bounces - glass, groceries, packages... all bounced off carts as well as people coming off their seats.

Lastly, because of motorcycle drivers, animals and golf carts trying to go around the side of the speed bumps, I'm terrified a human being is going to be struck one day. By: Maureen Sowder - Johnstown Colorado.

Speed Bump Materials Findings

Yellow road paint is available at Benny's Home Center
Telephone: + 501 223-6236

1 gallon container price is \$97.96

5 gallon container - price is 491.36 per bucket

Preparation of concrete for durability

The surface needs to be grease free, clean and dry. Pressure wash with trisodium phosphate (TSP) scrubbing first if the concrete is really dirty/greasy. Most of the marking paint cures in a few hours. Overnight is definitely long enough to cure, same for the cat eye reflectors. If reflectors are determined viable, mounting them on the sides so they get run over less often would be beneficial. The paint bucket will have all the instructions needed. Biggest issue is humidity so experimenting with a heat gun might be helpful.

Experienced road construction option

Peter Tiechroeb (and Sons)

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<http://teichroebandsons.com/services.html>

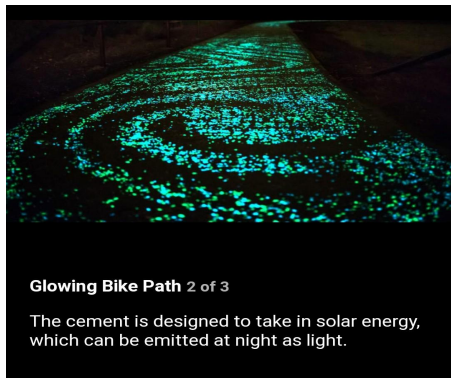
Road marking, signage, cat eye road reflectors and the adhesive. - Teichroeb & Sons Ltd. All of our signs are manufactured to British Standards and National Highway Sector Scheme for the design, assembly and provision of permanent and temporary road traffic signs. Signage cost \$200.00 plus Gst. The cat eye reflectors at \$15.00 and the adhesive for the cat eyes is \$4.50.

* Reflective road signage was sourced cheaper out of the country.



Glow in the dark concrete option needs further research, however our road sign poles could be a possible place to start for glowing visibility. From a 2014 article, the picture below shows artist Dan Roosegaarde's tribute to Vincent Van Gogh's painting Starry Night by creating this half-mile bike path in Van Gogh's hometown of Eindhoven.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2014/11/17/364136732/in-a-dutch-town-a-glowing-bike-path-inspired-by-van-gogh>



In the town of Lidzbark Warmiński in the northern part of Poland, a local company has built a prototype bicycle path that absorbs sun rays by day so that it can light up at night. The surface of the bike path contains a synthetic material called phosphor that can emit fluorescent light for 10 hours in the dark after absorbing sunlight all day long. Source a 2019 article.

<https://www.sustainability-times.com/clean-cities/a-sun-powered-bicycle-path-glows-in-the-dark-in-poland/>

