



Village of BHI Chapter 28 Transportation Ordinance Revision Member Survey Results September 2019

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BHA's Board of Directors recently solicited feedback on portions of the Village of BHI's revision to its transportation ordinance from property owner members via an online survey. The survey was available from August 20 – September 10, 2019. In total, 545* responses were received, and the typical time respondents spent answering the survey was approximately 6 minutes.

Below is a snapshot of the results; the full report can be found at BaldHeadAssociation.com/news.

- 80% of owner respondents are opposed to the proposed replacement of “golf carts” with “electric vehicles” in the ordinance and oppose increasing the maximum capacity to 9.9 horsepower for personal vehicles on BHI. In total, 336 comments were left on that issue alone.
- Property owners were asked how changing “golf carts” to “electric vehicles” may impact things like the marketability, ambience and culture of the Island. Over 200 comments were received in this section of the survey.
- One important question asked was, “Which mode of transportation do you prefer for residential use?” The numbers show that 88% of owner respondents are in support of golf carts only and 11% support electric vehicles. Ninety-two respondents left comments for review with that question.
- One area where a consensus seems less clear is in the support of electric skateboards, electric scooters, hover boards and Segways. Thirty-eight percent of owner respondents are in support of allowing them, while 60% prefer to prohibit their use on BHI. Two hundred thirty-seven comments were made regarding that question.
- As with all its surveys, BHA asked property owners to leave any comment they'd like to share with either BHA or the Village Council. There are 173 comments that have been left by property owners on issues not necessarily tied to the survey but are relevant, nonetheless.

BHA's goal with the survey was not to produce an instrument that met a statistical significance threshold. Instead, BHA had just two simple goals with the survey. First was to inform BHI property owners that the Village Council would be acting on the revised section of the ordinance and second, to engage property owners with the Village Council by asking them to share their opinions about the revision. These two goals were accomplished.

BHA's Board of Directors thanks the hundreds of individual property owners who took time to share their opinions on this important issue. The Village Council will hold a second public hearing on the revised ordinance on Tuesday, October 15th at 2:30pm at the Public Safety Building. Property owners who haven't expressed their opinions through the survey should contact Council members directly. Their contact information can be found at villagebhi.org/new_wordpress/index.php/village-council/

**BHA and its technology vendor believe the online survey was attacked by Internet bots the first couple of days it was available online. In total, it is believed that 98 responses were recorded by these bots as they were identical, successive responses that were entered within 30 seconds of each other from either exact or nearly exact IP addresses linked to one URL found on a “black list” of spammers. All suspected bot responses support the conversion to electric vehicles and the use of electric skateboards, scooters, hover boards and Segways. When reviewing the raw numbers, one should subtract the 98 responses from the overall number. The full report found on BHA's web site includes the bot responses; however, removing the suspected responses does not alter the outcome of the survey.*