

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item F-4
May 21, 2024
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago
Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson
Commissioner Melissa Castro
Commissioner Ariel Fernandez
Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez
City Manager, Amos Rojas, Jr.
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Public Works Director, Hermes Diaz
Transportation Division Manager, Melissa DeZayas

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item F-4 [4:26 p.m.]

Update regarding temporary speed tables.
(Sponsored by Vice Mayor Anderson)

Mayor Lago: We're going to move onto item F-4, update regarding temporary speed tables.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Ms. DeZayas is on her way in, as well as Mr. Diaz. I asked staff to bring back some information, so we can determine what costs are, determine if this is going to be something feasible to provide residents relief while they are waiting whether its three months, six months, nine months or a year for speed tables to be installed. The floor is yours to educate us. What's the wait time? What's the cost? How much effort does it take to install them?

Public Works Director Diaz: From an individual vendor and the price that we got was \$4,700 per device, not installed, just the device itself.

Mayor Lago: How much?
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Public Works Director Diaz: \$4,700. It comes in like three pieces on every location and then they did offer to train our people, so our own staff could potentially install it. It's possible if you buy enough of them, the price may come down a little bit, but you are looking at a few hundred dollars savings, you are not looking at a thousand dollars less. As far as timing, right now we're getting ready for Zone 3, which is – we have about eleven.

Transportation Manager DeZayas: No, we have nine. We have two that are pending, one in Zone 1; one in Zone 2; and then we have an additional nine in Zone 3, so 11.

Public Works Director Diaz: So, in total we have eleven in the stuff that's currently in the program. Our current contractor, weather permitting, takes about a week and-a-half to do a speed table. This is a significant improvement from when they started. When they started, they were taking a month. There's a little bit of a learning curve as they go through this. These eleven that we have right now ready to go, ready to be installed, this should be done anytime within the next four and-a-half to six months. So as far as any time savings for those, if we do purchase some of this, we're probably have to go through a bid waiver process, a couple of weeks for the PO, and I think they told us it was like three to four weeks. So, we're looking at about a two or three month saving in timeline for the ones that we have right now. For the larger batch that we have coming down the pipe, part of the original program, we have in total 44 left; 18 on Zone 4; and then the remainder on Zone 5. The ones for Zone 4, we're currently in the process of getting new consultants, the contract expired, so we'll probably come to Commission sometime soon to get the new batch of consultants approved. The idea is for them to have all the designs and be ready for construction for Zone 4 towards the end of this year; and then for Zone 5, we're still pending the public meeting, which we'll do in the fall. Usually in the summer we're told not to have public meetings because people go out of town. We're looking to get new contractors on board also. We're working with Procurement on that. So, we're hoping to have more crews out there doing some work. At that point, sometime next year, maybe if we buy, I don't know how many you would like us to buy, 10, 20. We could start doing something with the next batch, that's more than six months away, we could do those.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Let me just ask a few questions so that we're all on the same page. The process starts with your public meeting, like you're going to have for Zone 5.

Transportation Manager DeZayas: Yes.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Then you have the Shield Six data that determines if its going to meet the minimum threshold to order a traffic study; and you order the traffic study.

Transportation Manager DeZayas: After we have a certain number, because each time that you have to go out there, there is a mobilization fee. So, we try to get about ten to fifteen that look like they are going to qualify before we ask for an official date.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, you do the traffic study and then you do the balloting.

Transportation Manager DeZayas: Then we do preliminary design.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Preliminary design so people have something to vote on, because they want to know if it's going to be a speed table in front of their house or their neighbor's house.

Transportation Manager DeZayas: And design.

Vice Mayor Anderson: And design, whether it's a big one or a smaller one, hopefully. When are we going to get that one back from the county.

Transportation Manager DeZayas: I'll reach out to the county and see if we can get a date.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Hopefully we can get a date this summer, I hope.

Transportation Manager DeZayas: Hopefully.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, we can get these going.

Transportation Manager DeZayas: We were only going to use those where we had a conflict and thankfully, we really haven't had any more conflicts.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes, I think we had a conflict in the 500 Block of Majorca Avenue.

Transportation Manager DeZayas: Majorca Avenue.

Vice Mayor Anderson: The real question here is, from the time you have balloting, and you know that that block wants a speed table till the time you start construction, how many months are we talking about?

Transportation Manager DeZayas: Anywhere from two to three months probably, because once the preliminary design is complete, since we've already designed so many of these, the design process really shouldn't take that long.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Okay. So, you're only talking about a two-to-three-month period of time.

Transportation Manager DeZayas: For the design, but then we would have to schedule construction, yes.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Okay. No, no, no. Let's go back to my question then. From the time you have the answer on the ballot that you know folks want it, until the time you can begin construction, how many months are we talking about?

Public Works Director Diaz: So, for example, let's take Zone 4, which is the next one we're going to tackle. Let's say we have those designs ready to go at the end of this year. So, with our current contractor knowing where the problems are, it takes about a week and-a-half, let's just say two
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weeks for the sake of a round number – 18 speed tables, two weeks divided by four, you are looking at about nine months.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Nine months to construct.

Public Works Director Diaz: That's if we do it the way we've been doing it. Now, we just have one crew, one contractor. We're working with Procurement to see if we can get additional crews, additional contractor. We're hoping to get maybe two or three or four crews at any given moment. We do expect at the beginning to take a little longer. I don't expect these folks to start from the beginning and take two weeks to do the speed tables. When these people started, they took about a month. So, if we now take those same 18 tables for Zone 4, divided by 4, 4 ½ and let's say each takes a month to do, you're looking at five months. So, it all depends on the availability of how many crews we have available, how quickly they take. And in our current way, the way we've been doing it with a single crew throughout, you're looking at about nine months. If we get four crews to do it, and let's say even if they take a little longer, it could take four to five months. That will be for 18, right. So, the more you get, the time...

Transportation Manager DeZayas: So, it would be six months to a year, basically.

Public Works Director Diaz: It goes up.

Transportation Manager DeZayas: Because you would have to add the design.

Public Works Director Diaz: And keep in mind that in addition to the ones that are previously programmed, we have about 100, because a lot of people who were not paying attention, they are seeing them built, and now they are saying I want one too.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I know. I realize we're going to have that and we're probably going to be starting all over again.

Public Works Director Diaz: Correct.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, I'd like to see if we can get more crews.

Public Works Director Diaz: Yes. That's something that we're working on.

Vice Mayor Anderson: And get this down to three-to-six-month period of time. If we can get it down to three to six months, buying the temporary tables may not be necessary.

Public Works Director Diaz: So, we're looking at what, four or five months for design, balloting and the whole thing.

Transportation Manager DeZayas: Once the balloting is complete it should be about three months, two to three months, and then with construction on top of that.

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Public Works Director Diaz: So, if we get enough crews out there, and like I said, that's something we are working with Procurement, it will help us get to the point that we can get these batches done in six months, no more than six months at a time. That's our goal. We need to work towards that, because right now we just don't have enough crews available to us to really make that happen.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Is there any other option other than these temporary speed tables to help slow things down, maybe a cone, put a cone out there.

Public Works Director Diaz: They are not really – you know there are things that are appropriate in a parking lot. They are not necessarily appropriate, or I guess you want to call it street legal and that's probably not the right wording, but I see Cristina...

Vice Mayor Anderson: Some creative residents create some slalom patterns for folks to go around to help slow down the traffic, but a cone in the middle of a street, tree roots. No, we have some of those. Those work very effectively. It's a natural speed table.

Public Works Director Diaz: So, if you all decide to...

Commissioner Fernandez: Something that – two or three months isn't really a big impact, but I had talked to the Manager and the DCM about the possibility of expediting the design in balloting the process for all the pending speed tables, so that we can then purchase the ones, the ones that are going to take more than say six months, and start putting those in for the year or year and-a-half that they are going to be waiting for those speed humps to come in, because that will alleviate a lot of the traffic concerns that we have. I think all of us, the biggest concern that we get from residents who are already waiting is, have to wait another three or four years for it, I'm having the traffic problem now. So is there a way, obviously it has to be done in the fall, because you still haven't done the community meetings.

Public Works Director Diaz: For Zone 5, yes.

Commissioner Fernandez: For Zone 5, to expedite that process of balloting – design and balloting for the remainder of what we have left and try to purchase these to put them in the locations where those would go in once they are balloted and approved.

Public Works Director Diaz: So, what we could do, we can spread further. We're going to get five consultants now, find new consultants through the process, and we can spread the designs among all of them, it will cost more, right, because it's a bare minimum that anybody is going to charge you to do anything. And these speed tables by themselves, they are not that big, right, so the more you give somebody the cheaper its going to cost you, and until I have those consultants, I couldn't tell you exactly what that's going to be, but it will cost us a little bit more and then instead of giving a consultant, let's say we have 30 to design, instead of giving it to two consultants, we can give it to four, right. And then that will...

Mayor Lago: Mr. Diaz.

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Public Works Director Diaz: Yes.

Mayor Lago: So, when we were buying them before and they were \$2,000, it made a lot more sense, obviously. When you are talking about it costing with tax and everything almost \$5,000 per, and this is not with the installation, correct.

Public Works Director Diaz: No.

Mayor Lago: It's a pretty significant number. You need two speed tables per street, correct.

Public Works Director Diaz: No. This is for one location.

Mayor Lago: \$5,000.

Public Works Director Diaz: That \$4,700.

Transportation Manager DeZayas: Its set.

Public Works Director Diaz: It's a set. They just come in pieces. You cannot build it together like a Lego.

Mayor Lago: Like the one that was done at Biltmore, the one that happened at Biltmore Drive.

Public Works Director Diaz: Keep in mind, we looked at, you know, this is one vendor, right.

Mayor Lago: What is the price for the installation of the speed table?

Transportation Manager DeZayas: So, for a speed table it's like \$12 to \$14,000. Now with our current unit prices. Now, we're going to be going out to bid again, those prices may increase.

Public Works Director Diaz: The price will likely go up.

Mayor Lago: You know, I don't know about that. I'm not seeing prices going up and I'm actually seeing, I've seen concrete – it went up a little bit, but I think there's a lot of hunger on the street right now. You are starting to see it.

Public Works Director Diaz: So maybe...

Mayor Lago: So, look, those were my numbers, the \$400 million to 190 was our Property Appraiser's numbers. It's a significant drop in one year in construction. So, I'm seeing it already across the board that people are starting to call me and say, hey listen, do you have any work available. I have a backlog finishing in six months. I want to start working on the next thing. So, I think that we're going to have an opportunity to get some good pricing, it's not going to be amazing, but we may be able to get a little bit of a reduced pricing. I just find it hard to swallow to spend \$5,000 on an item that we'll be spending \$12,000 on one that's permanent. I know we want to alleviate the situation, but imagine, how many areas would we – if we expedited all of

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these, and we were able to get all of them approved and then how many – by what – 30, 40, 50 of these?

Public Works Director Diaz: So, if we follow – I was talking to Procurement a few days ago about this, if we go through the bid waiver process, it would probably be the fastest way we can get them. I think we're limited to \$100,000, so we're looking at about 20 that we could buy through that process, give or take.

Mayor Lago: 20 we'll be there at \$12,000; it would be \$240,000. So, you're almost halfway the price on something that's permanent versus temporary, so why – it makes a lot of sense to push something and get it done quickly. We want to get it done quickly because we're all tired of hearing, so are you, hearing from residents saying, I want speed calming, I want traffic calming, I want traffic calming, but this is something we have to think about. In this instance, whether the value is really there.

Public Works Director Diaz: The biggest thing that we hear is from people who are seeing it done. They were not part of the...

Mayor Lago: Remember Milan? How many meetings did we have on Milan until they finally got their traffic calming a few months ago.

Public Works Director Diaz: Right. Correct. So, those are the ones, and we tell them, well, you know, this is only fair that we finish the one that we already had in the books, before we kind of go back and get to those, right. What I think with additional consultants and additional crew, I think we can expedite the construction and get there a little – One of the things that and really the reason we can have this conversation, if the number of traffic circles, especially in Zone 1 that the residents voted down. If those traffic circles hadn't been voted down, we would really have no money left to really even expedite anything, but because those traffic circles were voted down. Now there are some conversations now that are asking us to look at alternatives. We're looking at possibly doing raised intersections. So, we'll probably end up spending that money in a different way eventually down the line, but if it wasn't for that reason, that money would be gone, and we wouldn't even have without additional funding really any option of doing any kind of...

Mayor Lago: I mean again, I agree. We want to get it resolved, but I think that spending our money on permanent, on this front its going to be something that is a little better bang for your buck, especially when you're telling me, you are almost at 50 percent cost. When you run the numbers at 50 percent cost, does that \$12,000 include installation all in?

Public Works Director Diaz: Yes. Yes.

Mayor Lago: Okay. I could even be wrong. It could be over 50 percent, because the \$5,000 doesn't include installation.

Public Works Director Diaz: Right. The idea is if we buy those it will have to be our staff.

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Mayor Lago: Which by the way, what's the opportunity cost, you are taking them away from something else.

Public Works Director Diaz: Right. Correct.

Mayor Lago: I'm just saying, again, whatever the will of the Commission is, because at the end of the day, the city is going to look good. We're going to look good when we address the issue of traffic calming with the residents, but we're also not going to look so good when we spend money on things that we have to take away and we have to replace them eventually with something that's permanent and I don't want to use that money.

Commissioner Fernandez: You said we have 55 left to do.

Public Works Director Diaz: Including in Zones 3, 4, and 5, we have 55 left, yes, from the original batch.

Commissioner Fernandez: And then how many requests have we had since.

Public Works Director Diaz: We have about 100, but that doesn't mean that all those locations qualify, I couldn't tell you right now how many of those actually do.

Mayor Lago: We're going to do the same thing we did in the county a few years ago when we went over there with Craig Leen and we had the approvals, the blanket approvals, we're doing the same thing, or they fall into...

Public Works Director Diaz: No, no, they fall within.

Mayor Lago: I didn't know if we had to go back and resubmit the 100, like we did that time, when we submitted all the...

Public Works Director Diaz: If you meet the criteria we don't have to go to the county. As long as we're within the criteria of the interlocal, we don't have to go back to the county.

Mayor Lago: Excuse me. I apologize. Have we looked at most favorite nations to make sure that we haven't lost the opportunity to maybe be a little bit more aggressive on the traffic calming front, because if other cities were able to get something approved, we can apply most favorite nations in our contract in our agreement and be able to get also that benefit.

Public Works Director Diaz: So, our traffic calming, we really have locations that are qualifying for traffic calming where there is barely any sustained speeding at all, very minor. You do get additional points for lack of sidewalks, so we have a very lenient process already to begin with.

Mayor Lago: I'm just saying just in case, you never know.

Public Works Director Diaz: But we can always look around and see, but I think our process – you know we were looking actually at the original list when we started collecting data, some of which was back to 2012, with those original requests. We had like 280 and we looked at the average 85th percentile speed out of that batch, and it was like 30.3 miles per hour and a good chunk of those go back to a time where the speed limit in the city was 30 miles per hour. So, there's a few areas where, yes, you see significant speeding. Just because you don't have a consistent speeding problem, doesn't mean that you don't have the occasional speedster, right.

Commissioner Fernandez: What is the total funding needed to complete what's left?

Public Works Director Diaz: I'll have to get back to you.

Mayor Lago: Come back with that.

Public Works Director Diaz: And if you're talking about just speed tables...

Commissioner Fernandez: Completing the traffic calming plan that we currently have.

Public Works Director Diaz: Let us get back to you.

Commissioner Fernandez: 55 or whatever that we have left, just so we have an idea going into budget. Maybe that's something we can try to make a priority and if you are able to find right now additional contractors who can get the work done, that's something that we can move the money to, to get those shovel-ready projects done, then that might be a different approach that we can take.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, what I was expecting to hear was that these were significantly cheaper, we're talking under \$1,000, so that's what I was expecting. Now, don't forget, we have some of the projects that we've had done or approved, had conditions of approval where the developer had to pay for the speed tables and those include the ones that are slated to go on Palermo and Catalonia, those are coming from the developer's dollars.

Mayor Lago: Madeira – Madeira also has an agreement.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Madeira, yes. Correct. That one as well. So, those are again opportunities for us to find the funding on projects, let's not forget that that is something that, although projects are coming in, there is a way to ameliorate some of the speed here. I would like to see if we can speed up the process, so to speak. I know that sewer installations are going to add an additional wrinkle to this, which is why I was looking at the temporary ones to begin with. If we're going to be digging up the street again for a sewer pipe in a short period of time to have some option for folks. Yes. Let's see if we can move this along for folks.

Mayor Lago: Vice Mayor, do you want to put this on the next agenda again, so that the director and Assistant Director can provide us with a budget number for what's left in regard to the 50 or 50-plus traffic calming areas that need to be addressed.

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Vice Mayor Anderson: We need to do that. We also need to talk sidewalks.

Mayor Lago: We'll do it now. We'll talk sidewalks now.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Let's talk sidewalks because we do need to move that along. I was hoping that we were going to have that on the website to let people know where we're heading next on sidewalks.

Mayor Lago: You want to talk F-5, which is your next item and then we'll talk sidewalks which is F-6.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes, since we have the team up here right now.