

The City of Coral Gables



Office of the City Commission

City Hall 405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134

The City Beautiful

April 26th, 2024

Stacy L. Miller, P.E
Florida Department of Transportation
District Six Secretary
Sent via Email: Stacy.Miller@dot.state.fl.us

Re: FDOT Street Improvement Request

Dear Secretary Miller:

As you discussed during your meeting on April 10th with Vice Mayor Anderson, the City of Coral Gables has experienced an abnormally high number of car crash fatalities this year. In the first quarter alone, the city has endured as many fatalities from roadway incidents as it has had in any of the prior seven years.

Further, as an example of the grave cost of these accidents, we have suffered the loss of a beloved young college student—Daniel Bishop—who showed leadership potential well beyond his years. Daniel and the others who unnecessarily lost their lives on our roads deserved better. Therefore, the City of Coral Gables is working diligently with our staff and residents to safeguard our streets for all motorists and non-motorists. The city has committed to achieving Vision Zero—zero roadway fatalities—by 2030 and will prioritize this effort to ensure we meet our target date. Even so, we cannot solve this problem on our own and are in urgent need of your help.

As you are aware, several state-owned roads run through our City Beautiful. And much to your credit, the Florida Department of Transportation has made significant efforts to protect our roads, including various completed and ongoing infrastructural improvements along Tamiami Trail and South Dixie Highway. We are aware that the Department has projects planned at several intersections on LeJeune Road¹ and will install a sidewalk on the south side of Bird Road if there is favorable resident support. We thank you for these improvements and

¹ Locations on LeJeune Road where the Florida Department of Transportation has planned projects: Bird Road, Andalusia Avenue, Minorca Avenue and Valencia Avenue, the latter of which will have a “Do Not Block the Box” markings.

sincerely recognize the efforts you have made for us; but more must be done to decrease fatalities and injuries.

There are concerns amongst our Commission, staff, and residents that drivers speed along state roads in our city and create hazardous conditions for other drivers and non-motorists. With the high volume of traffic cutting through Coral Gables, it is not possible to resolve this with enforcement alone even though Coral Gables has one of the highest officer to resident ratios in the country.

Additionally, there are many vulnerable people like students, the elderly, and those with disabilities that use the roads, crosswalks, and sidewalks. To rectify this, Vice Mayor Anderson has worked with city staff to identify key intersections where safety counter measures would help control traffic speeds, protect motorists and non-motorists, accommodate individuals with disabilities, better direct the flow of traffic and decrease fatalities and injuries.

To this end, we respectfully request that you conduct traffic studies along these corridors and their intersections, and if appropriate, add our recommended counter measures to your road system. These recommendations are in the exhibit attached to this letter.

Thank you for your prior efforts and continued support of our city. We look forward to working with you to make not only Coral Gables safer, but our surrounding communities as well.

Very truly yours,

Mayor Vince C. Lago



Commissioner Kirk R. Menendez



Commissioner Ariel Fernandez



Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson



Commissioner Melissa Castro




Exhibit:
Recommended Countermeasures

Countermeasure:	Intersection/Location:
A. Reduce Speed from 40 mph to 35 mph	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LeJeune Road from Tamiami Trail to South Dixie Highway 2. Douglas Road from Tamiami Trail to South Dixie Highway
B. Lead Pedestrian Intervals with Push Buttons & Audible Push Buttons	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LeJeune Road and Altara Avenue 2. LeJeune Road and University Drive 3. LeJeune Road and South Grand Avenue 4. LeJeune Road and South Dixie Highway 5. LeJeune Road and Tamiami Trail 6. LeJeune Road and Coral Way 7. LeJeune Road and Alhambra Circle 8. Bird Road and Riviera Drive 9. Bird Road and Granada Boulevard 10. Bird Road and Alhambra Circle 11. Bird Road and Red Road 12. Bird Road and University Drive 13. Bird Road and Douglas Road 14. Tamiami Trail and Ponce de Leon Boulevard 15. Coral Way and Ponce de Leon Boulevard 16. Douglas Road and Tamiami Trail 17. Douglas Road and Ponce de Leon Boulevard 18. South Dixie Highway and Maynada Avenue 19. South Dixie Highway and Granada Avenue 20. South Dixie Highway and Riviera Avenue 21. South Dixie Highway and Douglas Road 22. South Dixie Highway and LeJeune Road 23. South Dixie Highway and Red Road
C. Speed Feedback Signs	Where appropriate to reduce speed
D. No Left-Hand Turn Signs during peak hours	Non-signalized Intersections on LeJeune Road and Douglas Road
E. Repainting & Restriping	Wherever necessary for road maintenance