

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD
CORAL GABLES LIBRARY
3443 SEGOVIA STREET
CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA 33134
(305) 442-8706
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2015 @ 5:30 PM

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	APPOINTED BY:
	14	14	14	14	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	
Ignacio G. Borbolla	E	P	E	+-	P	E	P	E	P	P	+	P	Jim Cason
Gordon Sokoloff	E	P	P	+-	P	P	P	P	P	p	+	P	Patricia Keon
Deborah Swain	P	P	P	+-	P	P	P	P	P	P	+	P	Vince Lago
Courtney Thompson	P	P	P	+-	P	P	P	P	P	P	+	P	Jeannette Slesnick
Albert Corrada	P	P	P	+-	P	P	P	P	P	E	+	P	Frank C. Quesada
Donna Kupper	P	P	P	+-	E	P	P	P	E	E	+	E	Commission-as-a-Whole
Al Smith	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	City Manager

P - Present
E - Excused Absence
A - Absent
*** - New Member**
+ - No Meeting
(#) Resigned

STAFF:

Jessica Keller, Assistant Public Works Director
Yamilet Senespleda, Public Works City Engineer/Senior Traffic Engineer
Jeannette Reyes, Public Works, Clerical Assistant II
Rene Tastet, C.G. Police, Lieutenant
Jesus Garcia, C. G. Police, Sergeant
Antonio Aleman, C. G. Police, Sergeant

CALL TO ORDER:

Mrs. Swain called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

June 16, 2015 Meeting Minutes Dr. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes, Dr. Sokoloff seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

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Mr. Thompson made a motion to excuse Mr. Borbolla and Mrs. Kupper, Mr. Corrada seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

GUEST:

Mr. Chris Morrison – C.G. Resident

Wael Majdalawi – Lux Solar, President

Victor Castro – Lux Solar, Vice President

David Diaz – Lux Solar, Sales Manager Florida

John Ciampa – ALTA Smart Balloons, CEO

Bertrand Dano – ALTA Smart Balloons, Chief Scientist

Nelson Melo – ALTA Smart Balloons, Director of Marine Research

SMART BALLOONS PRESENTATION

Mr. Chiampa CEO of the ALTA Systems a Coral Gables company that has a new patent technology called, Smart Balloon. According to the FAA the Smart Balloons are not drones therefore do not require any licensing or federal provisioning.

The Smart Balloons do not crash like drones, they don't fall down, they fall up. The technology is safe over urban areas and is safe over crowds in which drones are not.

Currently a site study of the Riviera Country Club is being conducted with the balloons and Dr. Smith came up with the idea that the balloons might be helpful in traffic. It is a platform that can carry any type of camera for instance a video camera, high resolution still cameras, thermal-infrared cameras and multi spectral cameras in order to sense many things from its point of vantage.

The evidence of traffic is collected and analyzed; ALTA Systems has never done a traffic study with the balloons however some shots of traffic in C.G. was taken. They're also able to do image analytic which means that the computer can look at thousands of pictures and do a count of speed, motion, objects etc. The collection of the data will be cheaper than a helicopter and the balloon can stay up all day. Drones only stay up 17 to 20 minutes; helicopters charge by the hour but cannot hover over an intersection for hours. The balloons are silent unobtrusive, collects data; is lower than a plane therefor has more resolution and more to see.

The balloon has an outer balloon and an inner balloon, it has valves and a computer on board which knows how much liquid gas to release, from which balloon to maintain an altitude. The balloons are for sale and the company trains on how to use the balloons. The balloons can also detect hot spots. If there's a fire, you put it out and leave thinking its out. The balloon can look and tell you where the hot spots remain.

LUX-SOLAR PRESENTATION

For the past two years Lux-Solar has been working with FDOT to improve safety on the Florida Highways, but the technology hasn't been available until 5 or 6 years ago. Lux-Solar mission is to save people's lives. Florida is the first state in the country to approve the use of the Lux-Solar

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lights; the product has a five (5) year warranty. The lights activate during the day during heavy snow, fog, smoke, heavy rain and fire. The lights can be used for:

Highway Lanes

Bike lanes

Fire Hydrants

Medians

Traffic circles

Roundabouts

Universities

Parks

The lights provide safety, prevents vandalism, they are waterproof. All the charging elements are included and are wireless. The lights can also be used as stop signs, stop bars and it's cheaper than a stop sign.

PROJECT UPDATES

Mr. Ramon Trias, Director of Planning & Zoning updated the board on projects throughout the city.

How some of the major projects will impact traffic and volume:

Each project is thoroughly reviewed by a great team of staff and consultants. One of the major projects is the Mediterranean Village and the way of dealing with the traffic impact in the neighborhood is through the design of certain intersections. Also the developer contributed a large amount of money towards transit, to enhance the trolley system with more trolley vehicles and extended hours. Bicycles and pedestrian crosswalks are also attempts to enhance transit by adding it to the project. Mr. Trias said everyone needs to be realistic as far as expectations in their community. His approach to traffic design and transportation in general is to optimize the actual design of the street to make them into high quality spaces for people.

Mr. Trias mentioned the more development you have, the more traffic gets worst but at the same time you have better connectivity because you have more pedestrian access, better transit and so on. People need to transition themselves when it comes to traffic as not only involving cars.

Mrs. Swain believes the development plan needs to contemplate the transportation solutions and being responsible for that.

SECRETARYS REPORT

Ingraham Corridor Study - Yamilet submitted some comments to the consultant who will meet with staff on Thursday, August 20th to discuss. Two roundabouts are being proposed, one on LeJeune and Ingraham and one on Ingraham Terrace and Edgewater for the 2017 budget year.

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Sevilla Bike Lanes - there's been a spike in congestion since the lanes were installed. Staff has been monitoring the area and currently it's only been a two minute delay. The delays are mostly in the mornings heading east bound on the road.

Augusto & Maynada - Field observations around the school were performed by the City and FDOT staff on Tuesday, April 28th during the morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up hours. The number of vehicles affected by the proposed improvements were counted and pictures supporting the need for geometric improvements were taken.

An e-mail was forwarded to the school with the following findings: The conflicting turning movements (vehicles traveling in the southeast direction on Augusto making a left turn movement onto Miami Homestead and vehicles traveling in the southwest direction on Homestead Avenue making a left turn movement onto Maynada St or Augusto St) have sight distance issues and are in direct conflict with Maynada Street and Augusto Street through traffic. The extension of the existing concrete island and the proposed small island restricting southbound left turn traffic are absolutely necessary to eliminate this Safety concern. Please keep in mind that only two (2) school buses in the morning and four (4) in the afternoon were observed on Miami Homestead Avenue traveling in the northeast direction making a right turn onto Marius Street. Once the intersection improvements are completed these buses will have to travel on US 1 in the northeast direction making a right turn movement onto Marius Street to access the school's drop off area (as most of the buses do).

Parking Day - An international C.G. Awareness day event where several parking spaces are converted into a park. Staff will like to get businesses involved, therefore if anyone has any recommendations, e-mail them to Jeannette.

Cartagena Circle - the county had a community meeting in which the residents opposed the design. The county is looking for alternative concepts and another community meeting will be scheduled.

ADJOURNED 7:10 pm