

# THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES



Office of Vice Mayor  
Rhonda Anderson

City Hall 405 Biltmore Way  
Coral Gables, FL 33134

*The City Beautiful*

August 21, 2025

Daniel Iglesias, P.E.  
District Six Secretary  
Florida Department of Transportation

Re: FDOT Pedestrian Safety and Street Improvement Request

Dear Secretary Iglesias,

First and foremost, thank you for your prompt attention to critical infrastructure improvements in Coral Gables, including the Bird Road and Granada Boulevard Intersection Improvement. We are especially grateful for your ongoing support of The Underline Project, a visionary linear trail that will benefit not only Coral Gables but the broader South Florida region.

Your responsiveness to recent requests for pedestrian safety enhancements along specific segments of The Underline is particularly appreciated. As we prepare to launch the first segment, we are encouraged by FDOT's continued partnership and urge sustained focus on pedestrian safety and much-needed street improvements throughout the area.

Recently, the undersigned—alongside Underline Founder and Chair Meg Daly—met with Senator Ileana Garcia and City of Coral Gables Senior Transportation Engineer Melissa De Zayas to identify and discuss solutions for intersections throughout Miami-Dade County that pose significant risks to pedestrians and cyclists, particularly along The Underline and within the City of Coral Gables.

In 2024, under the leadership of Stacy Miller, your office advanced several important projects on FDOT roadways that are already enhancing pedestrian safety. We are especially appreciative of the improvements near Coral Gables High School, where Daniel Bishop tragically lost his life. Your commitment to safety in that area has been meaningful and deeply valued by the community.

We also seek your continued support for several pending initiatives within Coral Gables, including the Le Jeune Road and University Drive Intersection Improvement, which includes a Leading Pedestrian Interval (LPI). In addition, we are pleased by FDOT's recommendation to install audible push buttons at four key intersections along Le Jeune Road: Minorca Avenue, Andalusia Avenue, Valencia Avenue, and Bird Road at Le Jeune Road. We respectfully request assistance with two additional intersections recently submitted for consideration:

- Le Jeune Road and Miracle Mile
- Le Jeune Road and Alhambra Circle

As we focus on the successful implementation and long-term impact of The Underline, we want to highlight several critical safety concerns that require immediate attention along this corridor. These recurring issues not only hinder safe multimodal travel but also limit the full potential of The Underline as a safe, connected, and vibrant public space:

- Right turns on red from southbound US1 occurring simultaneously with pedestrians and cyclists legally entering the crosswalk, creating direct conflicts.  
*Requested fix:* Introduce a signal phase with no vehicular movement to allow safe crossing; prohibit right turns on red where feasible and provide stacking lanes where necessary.
- Pedestrian signals that remain active during vehicular turning phases, increasing the risk of conflict.  
*Requested fix:* Adjust signal timing so that pedestrian intervals only activate when no conflicting traffic movement is permitted, including a 6-second pedestrian-only phase.
- Drivers failing to yield to or recognize pedestrians and cyclists. A study by Kimley-Horn found that prohibiting right turns on red along The Underline would result in only minimal travel delays—an acceptable trade-off for greatly improved safety.  
*Requested fix:* Implement a 6- to 10-second Leading Pedestrian Interval (LPI) at key intersections to give pedestrians and cyclists a clear head start.

We not only appreciate and fully support The Underline project, but we also strongly advocate for a comprehensive and consistent approach to pedestrian safety throughout the corridor. This transformative initiative offers far-reaching benefits to the entire community, and its success depends on a strong foundation of safe, accessible infrastructure. Pedestrian safety must remain a top priority as this project progresses.

If you are interested, we would be delighted to invite you to join our City staff and project team for a site visit and walking tour of The Underline within Coral Gables. This would offer a valuable opportunity to observe current conditions firsthand, discuss proposed improvements in context, and further strengthen our ongoing collaboration.

Thank you again for your continued leadership and dedication to creating safer, more accessible streets for all.

Sincerely,



Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson