

TRAFFIC ADVISORY BOARD
CORAL GABLES YOUTH CENTER
CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA
OCTOBER 21, 2008

D J F M A M J J A S O

MEMBERS:

Ian Martinez
Larry D. Kries
Douglas Yoder
Frank Quesada
Christopher Morrison
Bertram Goldsmith, Jr.
Ramon Irigoyen

*	E	P	P	P	P	E	**	P	P
*	P	P	P	P	P	P	**	P	E
*	P	E	E	P	P	P	**	P	E
*	P	P	E	P	A	E	P	**	E
*	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	**	P
*	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	**	P
*	P	P	P	A	A	E	P	**	A

APPOINTED BY:

Donald D. Slesnick, II
Maria Anderson
Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Wayne "Chip" Withers
Commission-as-a-Whole
City Manager

(*) Board recommended not holding a meeting due to holiday vacations

(**) Board meeting cancelled due to threatening hurricane

A - Absent
E - Excused
P - Present

STAFF

R. Alberto Delgado, P.E., Public Works Director
Esther Zabalo, Civil Engineer
Dr. Hesham Elbadrawi, Marlin Engineering
M. Francomacaro, Central

Chairman Morrison called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. Mr. Morrison noted that he is reviewing the draft of the September Minutes and asked the Members to review once they have been distributed and send their corrections to Mirtha Francomacaro . Once the corrections have been received from all members of the Board we will move to approve them. He asked for a motion to that effect.

Mr. Martinez moved that the members review the draft of the minutes and send their comments/corrections. Once received, the minutes will be moved through as approved. Mr. Goldsmith seconded. The motion carried.

Mr. Morrison reminded the members that Mr. Kries and Dr. Yoder's absences were approved in advance at the September meeting.

Mr. Morrison asked to proceed with the Veronese presentation.

Mr. Delgado explained that Marlin Engineering, the City's consultant, had been asked to present their recommendation on a traffic calming device at the intersection of Veronese and South Alhambra Circle, and the original study/recommendation that was submitted about a year ago had some kind of a plan around the green area which the neighbors in the area referred to as a "park" which in actuality is a right-of-way.

Because of that, the neighbors in the area did not like that the green area was to be divided into two portions. Therefore, they did not like the original plan. That is why we asked the consultant to come

back with an alternate plan since there is a need for a traffic calming device at that intersection because of the configuration. This is the report he will be presenting today. Mr. Delgado continued, that this is not a done deal. This is only the first presentation of that recommendation. We will have neighborhood meetings with the neighbors in the area to receive and review their comments. This is a presentation for the benefit of the Traffic Advisory Board and the neighbors who are here and who will be able to provide their comments. If this presentation is acceptable, then it will be incorporated to our next year's (October 2009) plan for installation of traffic calming devices.

Mr. Delgado noted that there are other projects ahead of this one and that we need to meet with the neighbors because we need to get consensus; conduct a vote, and then present it to the County for approval. It is a long process which usually takes about six months. Therefore, we will be in a position to start the project during the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

DR. HESHAM ELBADRAWI

Dr. Elbadrawi had to make his presentation from the information booklet he distributed because he was having troubles with his slide presentation.

Dr. Elbadrawi referred to the original study which dates back to 2002. He noted that he would be reporting on the findings and what were the conditions they came up with. Then he will discuss the results of the studies and how we expect to move forward in diminishing some of the traffic problems that we are experiencing.

Dr. Elbadrawi noted that back in 2002 they had taken three different traffic counts to measure the volume. At that time, the consultant found that in the main corridor on South Alhambra along Barquera and Capilla, the speed was 30/39 MPH and drivers tended to go over the speed that is shown on the report. The consultant recommended a traffic circle at Barquera and South Alhambra and Capilla and South Alhambra. Also, he recommends a traffic circle at Veronese and Mendello without affecting the green area. At that time we would have to take from 6' to 8' from the property on the north side of the intersection. Comments from the Board Members.

The consultant then recommended reconfiguring the traffic circle, but the neighbors, again, did not like that alternative. The recommendations along Barquera and Capilla were implemented and the two residents worked with us and would allow the City to take part of the swale. We would have to change the entrance to another resident's driveway, which he agreed to. These did not work.

When studying the area in 2003 the consultant found that the residents along South Alhambra, even the large section that they took between Camarin and Altamira and found that the speed was 40 MPH. When people find a circle they slow down before that. There is still some volume between the bridge and Altamira, of drivers going to the school on Sunset. The consultant also noticed speed at Mendello and Camarin. The consultant would like to convert this intersection to a four-way stop.

For the intersection at South Alhambra and Veronese, they propose two alternatives. Alternative 1: Four-way stop for South Alhambra and Veronese; alternative 2: besides the four-way, tear drop islands and bump outs on the T side.

The consultant described the pictures on the report and the renderings showing the changes once they took place and how the intersections will look in the future.

To the question from Mr. Goldsmith on how it would look, Dr. Elbadrawi responded that it would have to be after the installation was in place. Mr. Morrison stated that with either alternative, it would appear that we would be adding green space. Dr. Elbadrawi responded yes and added that we will not be adding pavement and we are not touching the swale.

Mrs. Mendoza again brought up her complaint that new neighbors are using the green area as a parking facility. She asked whether the City would place some kind of curb, because those particular neighbors are using the green area as an overflow parking facility. Comments from all those present. Mr. Goldsmith commented that he has the same situation in his neighborhood with boaters who park, no only during the day, but all night long, seven days a week. He noted that we need someone to look into this situation.

Mr. Morrison: "Alberto, curb or not? Has anyone been prohibited from parking on a swale in the City in the past?" No, Mr. Delgado responded, unless it is posted. Mr. Morrison: "So we could post it, No Parking." Mr. Delgado noted that the neighbors could request that **No Parking** signs be posted.

Dr. Elbadrawi continued with his report regarding the realignment of intersections at South Alhambra and Camarin.

Mr. Martinez wanted to know if this proposal had been run through the Fire Department and Dr. Elbadrawi said, No. Mr. Delgado clarified that the proposed traffic calming could be changed or modified.

Mr. Quesada questioned whether there would be stop signs or yield signs at the roundabout. Dr. Elbadrawi confirmed that there would be yield signs.

Mr. Morrison: "On both the Camarin and the Altamira drawings, will the crosswalks or sidewalks extend through the swale, it does not show on the drawings." He replied that they would.

A copy of Dr. Elbadrawi's report is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes.

Mr. Morrison inquired as to the estimated cost for all the projects. Discussion ensued among the attendees and the Board Members.

Mrs. Mendoza questioned why the project would be pushed to 2009. Mr. Morrison explained to her that when the original project was turned down by the residents in the current year, the funding allocated to that project was re-directed to another project. He also explained that we have a standing waiting list.

The attendees discussed various items as to no left, no right turns at the proposed installations and the consultant addressed all of those comments.

Mr. Morrison asked for further questions from the Board about the presentation. Since the Board had no further questions, Mr. Morrison asked those in attendance if they had any further comments on the plan.

Darrel Pane, 6800 Almansa Street: He agreed with everything the Board is trying to do, but recommended some kind of a circle for the intersection.

Marlin Ebbert, 6935 Almansa St.: At Almansa and Veronese there will be no need to add to anyone's swale.

Mr. Delgado commented on the proposed improvements for Camarin circle, the changes to Alhambra and Veronese and the additional green space that we are proposing for the area.

Mr. Morrison thanked everyone for coming and for their comments. He noted that we are finally moving in the right direction in the neighborhood, and that we have spent quite a bit of money on South Alhambra and we have had a presentation on another problematic circle on South Alhambra and Nervia. He further noted that the City had tried to go with that but there is one neighbor in particular that was unhappy with the effect on his driveway and we are working towards a resolution there, as well.

Ms. Mendoza: Asked as to what happens next and when are we going to implement the plan.

Mr. Delgado: "We will have another meeting with the neighbors in the affected area. We will send notifications so they can come to our office and be able to see the drawings of the plans. Then we will send the letters to the affected area residents. Once this is accomplished, within one to two months, we will submit the plans to the County. The consultant will be taking care of providing whatever additional information the County requires. Once the County approves, the project will be scheduled for construction.

Mr. Morrison confirmed that it would take a minimum of six months to go through the entire process. Unless one of the current projects stalls, in all likelihood it will be a 2009-2010 budget year, which starts October 1 and ends September 30. But, we will have completed the entire approval process within this fiscal year. Our goal is to have the process completed by March/April.

Mr. Martinez encouraged the attendees to get the right-of-way (green area) dedicated in tandem as a park by the City Parks and Recreations Department. If the neighbors get organized, it may something they could address, since there is nothing to prevent the right-of-way being cancelled ten years from now, but if it is dedicated as a park the residents may be able to preserve the green space. From what he gathered at the meeting, it appears that the residents like the additional green space in the neighborhood and if they want to preserve it that is the way to go about it i.e. have it formally dedicated as a park. Right now, it is a public right-of-way.

Mr. Delgado noted that with the proposed plan the green area is going to be enlarged substantially to the east once the re-alignment is done. Once the consultant submits the final plans, the City can take a survey of that particular land and it can be presented to the Zoning Department to check the drawings. Right now is a right-of-way but it can be converted to a park. It will be a passive park. Nothing could be built over there.

Mrs. Mendoza brought up the issue of the removal of the tree on the green area, which was never part of the plan, which was the reason why many neighbors found the plan objectionable. She recommended that a stipulation should be put in the new letter going to neighbors emphasizing that the tree will not be taken down.

Mr. Morrison suggested to Mr. Delgado to make it quite clear in the letter to the community that we, actually, in fact, are adding green space. And then Mr. Martinez added that the City Commission is in favor of adding green space within the City.

Mr. Morrison thanked everyone for attending. A list of the attendees is attached and made a part of these Minutes.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Delgado had nothing to report. Public Works is still working on the priority list on the projects to be prioritized for next year.

Mr. Morrison asked for any updates on the remaining projects for the current fiscal year. Mr. Delgado noted that we are moving along on the remaining projects. The South Alhambra Circle and Palazzo project is one of the last ones we have to do. We are moving along nicely with the Segovia/Coral Way roundabout. We are making a lot of progress. It is hoped that it will be completed before the end of the year.

We have already submitted our plans to the County for the Biltmore Way and Segovia Circle. The JPA has been finalized and is coming back for Commission approval, in conjunction with the alignment of Segovia to the north and Alhambra with the bicycle lane. That will complete Segovia corridor.

Mr. Goldsmith questioned whether we are working at all with the City of Miami on the bicycle project. Mr. Delgado noted that we are.

In the new legislature in Tallahassee they want to address funding for the bicycle master plan. If we can get some funding we may be able to expedite this project.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Goldsmith discussed the meeting he attended regarding the trolley advertising. It is going to go to the Commission for approval and the folks would like to get this before the end of the year so that advertisement can be in place for the Christmas holidays. They hope to make \$100,000.00 out of the whole deal. Mr. Delgado noted that the contract is being signed this morning. They will have a presentation on November 17 before the Commission, but they have already signed the contract.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m. with the Board to relocate to the Theater for a 6:30 p.m. meeting.

ATTENDANCE

10-21-08

5:30

ANTONIO E. RIOS

VERONESE

6930 TERRERA ST.

CORAL GABLES, FL 33146

Marlin Ebert

6935 Almansa St

Coral Gables 33146

-DARRELL PAWNE

6809 ALMANSA ST.

CORAL GABLES 33146

Luisa Yendora

740 South Alhambra Circle
Coral Gables 33146

Sallie Quillian

6901 Camrin St.

Coral Gables, FL 33146

BRAD HORNBY ACTOR

700 S. ALHAMBRA CIRCLE

CORAL GABLES FL 33146

BERT MEDINA

6925 CAMRIN ST

CORAL GABLES, FL 33126