

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-211

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT) TO ADJUST AND IMPLEMENT ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES AND DESIGN STANDARDS TO MITIGATE TRAFFIC IMPACTS AND PROMOTE SAFE AND CONVENIENT TRAVEL FOR VEHICLES, PEDESTRIANS AND BICYCLISTS; URGING OTHER COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES TO SUPPORT THE LIMITED DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO THE FDOT DISTRICT OFFICES IN ORDER TO BETTER RESPOND TO LOCAL NEEDS, AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK TO FORWARD THIS RESOLUTION TO THE FDOT SECRETARY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has jurisdiction over all state roads and maintains traffic control devices and roadway standards associated with the regulation of traffic pursuant to the Florida Uniform Traffic Control Law (Chapter 316, F.S.); and

WHEREAS, the FDOT Roadway Design Office develops and provides policies, procedures and standards for the design of all roadways; and

WHEREAS, the standards and criteria for the design, construction, and maintenance of all public streets and highways, including pedestrian crosswalks, traffic lane widths medians are uniformly applied throughout the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, under Florida law (Section 316.0745, F.S.), the FDOT is required to adopt a uniform system of traffic control devices for streets and highways; and

WHEREAS, County and local governments, along with the FDOT all share the same responsibility to find ways for vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists to coexist conveniently and safely; and

WHEREAS, population densities, accounting for uncontrolled crosswalks (mid-block) locations, unconventional intersections and locations, accommodating large numbers of pedestrians, including pedestrians with disabilities, and integrating adequate traffic control devices to safely and efficiently guide people across wide and busy state roads necessitates that the local offices of the FDOT provide certain flexibility when designing and implementing traffic control devices and roadway standards; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coral Gables recognizes the need to develop, implement, and manage a data-driven comprehensive traffic safety program aimed at saving lives, preventing injuries, and reducing related cost-associated with traffic crashes; and

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WHEREAS, the City of Coral Gables would benefit from a design standards aimed at traffic calming and pedestrian safety along the U.S. Highway 1 (hereinafter "US1") corridor; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coral Gables desires to promote safe and convenient travel by the public across US1; and

WHEREAS, in light of recent traffic fatalities involving children attempting to cross US1, the City of Coral Gables urges the FDOT to authorize its district offices to modify current FDOT design and management standards for crosswalks, traffic lane widths and medians where necessary, to fit the specific needs of pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, children, adults and seniors in particular communities; and

WHEREAS, the aggressive driving conditions which typically occur along the section of US1 that divides the City of Coral Gables often conflicts with bicycle and pedestrian activity, thereby leading to unsafe conditions; and

WHEREAS, children are subject to disproportionately higher levels of pedestrian injuries and fatalities; and,

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade Metrorail transports large numbers of school children on a daily basis that cross US1 in order to travel to the downtown area; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Coral Gables believes that the median widths are insufficient to safely accommodate the numbers of children attempting to cross US1 during peak hours; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coral Gables believes that it is critical for the FDOT to work closely with the City of Coral Gables to design, develop and manage options that respond to the city's **specific** needs and consequently raise the quality and civility of our shared public spaces and further enhance pedestrian safety and make Coral Gables a more walkable city;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. The foregoing “Whereas” clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution upon adoption hereof.

SECTION 2. That the Mayor and City Commission support the delegation of authority to FDOT district offices in order to encourage and facilitate design and roadway management improvements including but not limited to:

- (i) adjusting speed limits through the City;
- (ii) developing practices in pedestrian safety such as wider medians in the areas adjacent to crosswalks, flashing lights at crosswalks, and re-channelization;
- (iii) adjusting traffic lane widths to accommodate larger medians.

SECTION 3. That the City of Coral Gables will periodically meet with representatives from Miami-Dade County, the city of South Miami and Pinecrest, the University of Miami, pedestrian users of US1, FDOT representatives, an organization representing senior citizens, Public Schools representatives, a representative of bicycling advocates of Miami-Dade County, representatives from pedestrian advocacy groups, representatives of safe-driving-oriented organizations, and members of the disabilities community to work on pedestrian safety standards and concerns relating to crossing US Highway 1.

SECTION 4. That the City of Coral Gables urges Miami-Dade County, and other counties, municipalities, and organizations such as the Florida League of Cities, to adopt resolutions which support the limited delegations of authority to FDOT district offices to enable them to better respond to local traffic issues.

SECTION 5. That this Resolution shall be distributed by the City Clerk to neighboring communities for their support, including but not limited to the City of South Miami, the Village of Pinecrest, the Village of Palmetto Bay, to Miami-Dade County, and the Florida League of Cities. The City of Coral Gables urges other communities to support the recommendation to FDOT to provide the local offices more discretion in dealing with traffic and safety issues, particularly along the US Highway 1 corridor.

SECTION 6. That the City Clerk is hereby directed to send a copy of this resolution to FDOT.

SECTION 7. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage and adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS SIXTEENTH DAY OF DECEMBER, A.D., 2008.

(Moved: Anderson / Seconded: Kerdyk)

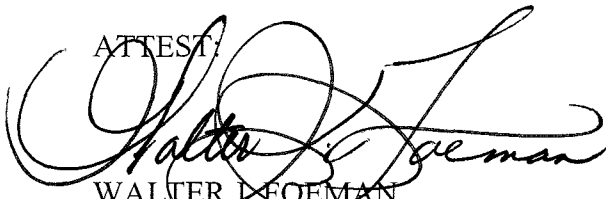
(Yeas: Kerdyk, Withers, Anderson, Slesnick)

(Absent: Cabrera)

(Majority (4-0) Vote)


(Agenda Item: C-7)

ATTEST:



WALTER D. FOEMAN
CITY CLERK

APPROVED:



DONALD D. SLESNICK II
MAYOR

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY



ELIZABETH M. HERNANDEZ
CITY ATTORNEY