

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item J-1
February 13, 2018
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Pat Keon
Commissioner Vince Lago
Commissioner Frank Quesada
Commissioner Michael Mena

City Staff

City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
Assistant City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Public Works Director, Ed Santamaria
Assistant Finance Director, Celeste Walker

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item J-1 [4:05:21 p.m.]

Update of 25 mph speed limit signage implementation and consideration of a resolution accepting the recommendation of the Procurement Officer to award the Speed Limit Signs, Furnish and Install contract to A.U.M. Construction, Inc., the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, in the amount of \$149,999.60, pursuant to Invitation for Bids (IFB) 2017.11.MS and Section 2-763 of the Procurement Code entitled "Contract Award".

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay, next item is J-1, update on 25 mile an hour limit implementation and resolution accepting the recommendation.

Commissioner Lago: It should be quick.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: So, before we ask you to award the contract, we wanted to explain the implementation schedule for the 25-mile per hour. So, Public Works, Ed Santamaria, the Public Works Director, will present the -- how we will move forward in implementing the 25-mile per hour, and then Celeste Walker, our Assistant Finance Director for Procurement, will ask you to award the bid.

Public Works Director Santamaria: Good afternoon, Mr. Mayor, members of the Commission. Ed Santamaria, director of Public Works. IT, I have a presentation. Would you please put it on the screen? I'm going to go briefly through some history on this particular item. Going back to 2001, the City Commission had initial discussions reducing the speed limit to 25 miles an hour on residential streets. In May of 2015, the City Commission directed staff to analyze objective data and determine if this speed limit reduction was warranted. In April of 2016, the staff submitted the analysis to Miami-Dade County, requesting for the reduction of residential -- speeds on residential streets to 25 miles per hour. And, in July of 2016, Miami-Dade County did approve the request for the speed limit reduction. In May of 2017, the City Commission approved the 25-mile per hour speed limit reduction on second reading. This is based on several considerations. Reducing the speed limit provides for greater safety for pedestrians and bicyclists. It's more forgiving with reaction times. Incidents can be avoided and vehicular speeds at impact can be reduced. We also noted that 48 percent of all traffic-related concerns from 2012 to 2016 to Public Works were related to speeding. And, we believe that although there will still be speeding, reduced 25-mile per hour speed limits have been proven elsewhere to slow down vehicular traffic. Furthermore, there are also considerations for pedestrian safety. In vehicle pedestrian crashes, the chances of injury increase significantly as the vehicle speed increases. If you have a crash between a pedestrian and a vehicle traveling at 16 miles per hour,

the chance of severe injury is 10 percent. Whereas, if you incrementally increase that speed, you'll notice on this slide that the chances of severe injury increase dramatically. I would note that there is a sudden jump between 23 miles per hour and 31 miles per hour, where the chance of severe injury doubles from 25 percent to 50 percent. And, at 39 percent (sic), chances of severe injury is 75 percent. Also, in considerations that were taken into account, over the last five years in the City of Coral Gables, there have been a total of 167 pedestrian crashes. Of these, 21 percent occur -- 21 crashes occurred on residential streets. There were also a total of 165 bicycle crashes, and 46 of these occurring on residential streets. We believe that a reduction of the speed limit on residential streets will significantly reduce all types of crashes, providing safer streets for all modes of transportation. One of the things that was also considered is the impact of reduced speed limits on commute times. The average vehicular speeds that decline from 30 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour add 24 seconds to every mile traveled. So, if one takes into account our geography as a city and our boundaries, if it takes a half mile to a residential neighborhood, which is not unreasonable in our city, the reduced speed limit of 25 miles per hour would add 12 seconds to an average trip by car, all routes being equal. As additional background, we offer that some US cities that have adopted reduced 25-mile an hour speed limits are...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Wait, wait, wait. We already adopted the 25. We're talking...

Public Works Director Santamaria: Yeah.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Now about signage.

Public Works Director Santamaria: Yes, sir.

Commissioner Lago: He's just giving some background.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay.

Public Works Director Santamaria: Boston, New York, Springfield, Ohio, Colombia and Missouri and Austin, Texas. And also, a significant number of US cities have historically maintained 25-mile an hour speed limits. There are also cities, like Seattle, which have recently implemented 25-mile per hour speed limits on residential streets, in conjunction with a 25-mile per hour speed limit on arterials and collectors. There are also other examples. I will note that the cities, which have implemented reduced 25-mile per hour speed limits have experienced statistically demonstrable reductions in crashes and severe injuries. City arterials in our city that are not going to be affected will be Alhambra Circle, Granada Boulevard, Ponce de Leon Boulevard, University Drive. These streets are all excluded from the speed limit reductions. The streets -- as are the streets in the Central Business District. And, there is no change in posted speed limits for state and county roads, such as Douglas Road, Ingraham Highway, LeJeune Road, et cetera, et cetera. So, right now, the status of this particular item -- and I think this is where the particular interest is on the panel -- is -- right now, we're -- we have issued an Invitation for Bid, which was received. And a number of responsive bidders presented. The bids were opened last year. And, the Procurement Department's recommendation to award will be before you briefly. Pending contract award, the Department is ready to commence implementation. So, as far as next steps in the implementation. Once we award the contract, we'll enter into an intergovernmental agency agreement for the signage with Miami-Dade County. Within 30 days of the award, we begin public outreach and educational campaign. We replace the existing 30-mile per hour speed limit signage on residential streets with the new 25-mile per hour signs. And, then once all signs are installed citywide, we will begin full enforcement, after a 30-day grace period, when only warnings will be issued. There is a target project schedule that we produced. It's based on the award of the contract today, which is February 13, 2018. Within 30 to 45 days of contract award, we'll have our contract execution. The contract is for a 180-day period, 150 days to substantial completion, which places at August 27, on the outer edge for substantial completion of the installation of the signs, with a final completion of September 26, for the installation of signs. And, that means that we'll start enforcement no later than October 25, 2018. That assumes that the schedule holds. The

installation plan is fairly simple. We're going to be commencing in the areas of the city, which generate the highest amount of speeding related to complaints, and that's typically in the northwest area of the city, in the North Gables. And so, we'll begin at that northwest zone. We'll work west to east and north to south, where we'll be replacing the existing signage with the new 25-mile per hour signs. The 30-day grace period will begin after the completion of citywide signs installation. During this period, only warnings will be issued to allow for residents and the commuting public at large to acclimate to the reduced speed limit.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Now, just as clarification, we will still be enforcing the posted speed. It is the new speed that will have that grace period. But, if you come down 42 miles per hour on our streets, you're going to get a ticket.

Commissioner Lago: Okay.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright.

Public Works Director Santamaria: At this point, we'd like to deploy our Shield 12 devices and our other radar speed indicator signs to help out with the education and use it as informational tools during the 30-day grace period.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Do I hear a motion?

Commissioner Lago: Just two quick points, then I'll make the motion. The old signs -- go ahead. I'm sorry.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Your questions are excellent. Keep going. We can't pass a motion until you hear from...

Commissioner Lago: Okay.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Celeste, who's asking -- questions are (INAUDIBLE) your questions are timely.

Commissioner Lago: Can we recycle the old signs? Is there a plan for that?

Public Works Director Santamaria: Sure. We can definitely look into recycling.

Commissioner Lago: One. And number two, if you -- let's say you encounter a sign that has a twisted pole for some reason or that's bent, do we have monies on contingency to, you know, fix those posts that maybe are twisted or that...

Public Works Director Santamaria: There's going to be completely new sign assemblies installed.

Commissioner Lago: Completely -- the whole thing.

Public Works Director Santamaria: Completely new sign assemblies.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Can we paint the posts?

Public Works Director Santamaria: I'm sorry? Yes, it'll be green.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Good.

Commissioner Lago: Okay.

Public Works Director Santamaria: It'll be -- they'll be aesthetically pleasing.

Commissioner Lago: I didn't know that. Very nice.

Commissioner Mena: I had two quick questions. One was, I just want to make sure -- and I don't know, Chief, if you would know the answer or Miriam or who, but what you just described, does that create like some sort of due process issue if you're trying to like enforce a ticket at a 30-mile per hour limit, even though you have a posted 25, but you're not enforcing the 25 yet. Does that create an issue?

Chief Hudak: We wouldn't -- really, it's a difference of two miles an hour.

Commissioner Mena: Right.

Chief Hudak: So, usually, what we do, if we write -- if it's a 30-mile an hour, which it is right now, we usually write at 37. That has been kind of what's been acceptable in the county courts. If somebody was going over 25, they'd be doing about 32 or 33 miles an hour, as opposed to what the Manager said. If somebody's doing 42, we would write them for the 30 mile an hour posted, because the statute reads if there is no signs there, it's 30 miles an hour in residential unless otherwise posted. So, we've met and we've talked about how this is going to happen. We'll be giving out warnings for the 27 -- 32 miles an hour in those 25-mile an hour zones. But, the people that buzz through at 40 miles an hour will get it based on the 30-mile an hour.

Commissioner Mena: Okay, thank you. And then the second point, which I don't want to -- it's not for you -- is -- and I don't want to get -- go down a tangent on this today, because it's been a long day and we still have some more issues. But, at a future meeting -- I know when this first came up, we talked about analyzing all the other sort of signs out there and some of the, I think, sign pollution, as you called it, and I'd like to hear back on that. I mean, it's been a while and...

Public Works Director Santamaria: Sure.

Commissioner Mena: Figure out what we're doing about that.

Public Works Director Santamaria: We can provide an update.

Commissioner Mena: Yeah.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: And, we are already removing like "No Dumping," "No Parking," other signs with the sign shop.

Commissioner Mena: Okay.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: The clutter signs that you all were concerned about.

Commissioner Lago: Just a little bit to add onto what Commissioner Mena said. My favorite ones, when you get to the rotundas, you know, "Yield," "Prepare to Yield"...

Commissioner Mena: Yes.

Commissioner Lago: "Stop" sign. You got to go right, obviously. If not, you go through the circle. So, maybe we can find out how to reduce. I think I brought it up like four or five times.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay.

Public Works Director Santamaria: Yes. We've looked at the superfluous signage. In fact, we've already started removing some.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: We have Mr. Boinos CD also.

Commissioner Lago: Perfect.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Which is a good guide.

Commissioner Lago: Yes, yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright.

Public Works Director Santamaria: There was also a public engagement element. One of the most exciting things that we're looking at is having a PACE car program. In addition to -- we're going to use Miami Herald, Coral Gables TV, Community Newspapers, Twitter and the City Beautiful Magazine, there's a PACE car program where folks would actually sign up. They'd get a magnetic decal on their car saying that they observe the 25-mile per hour posted speed limit, and they also sign a pledge to participate in very, very -- how can I put it? -- kind and responsible behavior at the wheel of a car. So, we're excited to roll that out. So, at this time, I'd like to turn it over to Celeste Walker, who's going to talk about the particular item, which is the award of the contract.

Assistant Finance Director Walker: We'd respectfully ask that you approve this particular solicitation. It was competitively solicited. We received six bids. We are requesting to move forward with the lowest responsive bidder, that is to A.U.M. Construction, Inc. They are responsive and responsible. We don't have any issues or concerns with the bidder, and so we're asking to move forward with the award, please.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Do I hear a motion?

Vice Mayor Keon: So moved.

Commissioner Lago: Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Will you call the roll, please?

Commissioner Mena: Yes.

Vice Mayor Keon: Yes.

Commissioner Lago: Yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes.

(Vote: 4-0)

[End: 4:17:29 p.m.]