

TRAFFIC ADVISORY BOARD  
CORAL GABLES YOUTH CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2013 5:30 P.M.

- MINUTES MEETING -

MEMBERS	D 12	J 13	F 13	M 13	A 13	M 13	J 13	J 13	A 13	S 13	O 13	N 13	APPOINTED BY:
Ignacio G. Borbolla	P	(#)	-	-	+	+	P	A	+	+	+	P	Jim Cason
Gordon Sokoloff	P	P	P	P	+	+	P	P	+	+	+	P	Patricia Keon
Deborah Swain	P	P	P	P	+	+	P	P	+	+	+	P	Vince Lago
VACANT	P	P	P	E	+	+	A	(#)	-	-	-	-	William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Jorge L. Arrizurieta	P	P	E	E	+	+	A	P	+	+	+	P	Frank C. Quesada
Donna Kupper	E	P	P	P	+	+	P	P	+	+	+	P	Commission-as-a-Whole
VACANT	P	A	A	E	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	City Manager

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

**STAFF:**

Ernesto, Pino, Interim Public Works Director  
Ludwik Janiga, Public Works Civil Engineer  
Jeannette Reyes, Public Works Clerical Assistant II  
Jesus Garcia, Sergeant, Coral Gables Police Department  
Edward Hudak, Major, Coral Gables Police Department

**GUESTS:**

Robert Ruano, Coral Gables Resident  
John Swain, Coral Gables Resident  
Ramon Sierra, P.E., FDOT, Assistant Traffic Operations Engineer

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mrs. Swain called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

**MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:**

• **July 16, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

Mrs. Kupper made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Borbolla second the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**MOTIONS:**

Mrs. Kupper made a motion to have staff meet with FDOT and look into the blue/white traffic light warnings. Mr. Borbolla seconds the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Swain advised the Board that there will be a Bicycle Master Plan meeting at 6:30 pm and would like to end the TAB meeting early in order to attend.

**FDOT PRESENTATION:**

Mr. Sierra presented the Board with the September & October study of suggested pedestrian crosswalks on Bird Road at University & Granada. Mrs. Swain submitted this request to FDOT due to no crosswalks on Bird Road between Red Road & Riviera.

According to the information submitted to FDOT, this area is 90% residential. There are no crosswalks on University and therefore the suggestion was to build crosswalks and sidewalks connecting the two sides of the road and a push signal for pedestrians to cross the street.

*Vehicle, Pedestrian and Bicycle Data Collected* – data was collected from the past three years and there wasn't much pedestrian activity. Data was also collected for an hour at different times, including during a weekend and about 22 pedestrians were recorded on University and 12-16 pedestrians at Granada. Mr. Sierra advised the Board that he has the study with him for the Board to view.

*The crash data for the last three years* – 50% were rear-end collisions which are expected for an intersection as such and only (1) involved a bicyclist/pedestrian.

*Types of crashes* – 16% injury and 84% property damage with no fatality. The leading cause is 56% careless driving, 11% are people who run the red light or run the stop sign and the rest are people who fail to stop.

Mrs. Kupper understands the complexity of the intersection and does not want to see it slow down anymore. However if the City wants to see more walking and biking, there is a need for the crosswalks.

Mr. Swain understands that there are not a lot of bicyclists at this intersection but if the intersection was made pedestrian/bike friendly, there would be more volume. Mr. Swain stated that part of their group's (Bike/Walk Coral Gables) goal is to encourage more walking & riding. However an intersection like this one, it discourages that.

Mr. Swain suggested having dotted lines with a sign reading "State law requires you to yield to pedestrians" giving pedestrians and cyclist a safe way to cross the street.

Mrs. Swain added crossing Bird Road, going south bound at University, pedestrians cannot see any traffic signals. They don't know if the cars that are going west bound have a red light or a green light.

Mr. Borbolla asked if there is a study on how the traffic will be affected if there were crosswalks.

Mr. Sierra will take all the information obtained and come back with a presentation explaining all the questions and suggestions the Board presented.

Major Hudak explained the issues from an enforcements point of view is. He said if there are crosswalks in place, pedestrians have to use them, therefore if people cross in the middle of the street and there is a crosswalk then it's legal to cite the pedestrian. If there is no crosswalk, as per State statute, they can cross wherever they can. Major Hudak suggested placing a white light underneath the traffic light indicating enforcement and with some education to the pedestrians that the traffic light is red and they can cross. Also the timing factor of the traffic light, he suggested extending it 3 seconds which will extend it a minute or minute in a half if you are a half a mile away. He defers the timing factor to the state to come back and give the board an idea of what it is.

Robert Ruano asked if FDOT did a traffic study at Bird where the new bridge and walkway was installed, when it was done. When was the last time a study was done before this request was submitted? Mr. Sierra responded this is the only time a study has been done at this intersection. Mr. Ruano suggested something of a refuge friendly for the disabled or strollers crossing the street. Mr. Ruano suggested that the median, which is listed as a refuge for pedestrians is not friendly to someone in a wheelchair or a parent with a stroller. He questioned the count for pedestrians and suggested that perhaps the unfriendliness of intersection had a lot to do with the low count.

Mr. Swain mentioned the reason he is interested in this intersection due to the Bicycle Master Plan meeting they are attending today. They are brain storming on how students and other pedestrians go from downtown Coral Gables to the University of Miami which is a common place. They have a map of roads that are good but when they get to Bird, Granada and University they are stuck wondering what to do. Mrs. Swain added that freshman students at UM are not allowed to drive, they must walk or ride their bikes to campus.

Mr. Sierra will come back to the Board with another presentation of all the suggestions submitted by the Board. Mr. Swain also mentioned that Alhambra Circle has the same scenario as this intersection although it was not mentioned at this presentation.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm