

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-2 and G-3
October 25, 2022
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Michael Mena

Commissioner Rhonda Anderson

Commissioner Jorge Fors

Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Attorney, Miriam Ramos

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item G-2 [10:13 a.m.]

G-2: Discussion regarding Valencia traffic flow and speed.

(Sponsored by Commissioner Anderson)

G-3: Dover Kohl Up-Date and availability of preliminary bike lane recommendations to Mobility Hub east and west of LeJeune from Anderson to Ponce. (Sponsored by Commissioner Anderson)

Mayor Lago: Item G-2.

Commissioner Anderson: G-2. We have a picture to put up. A picture is worth a million words here. I went through on Valencia, if we can bring that picture up. Can we click on that item. It's uploaded to the agenda. So, I went on Valencia, and I was wondering why I was being crowded out of the middle lane. I shot this through my windshield, so I'm sorry, guys. But if you look at the parking on the left, you can see the people are not parking properly. There's a vehicle that you see, there's a Porcha ahead of it with its front end hanging out; and if you look at the vehicle on the right that's straddling the lanes, you can see why the traffic flow is not effective in that section of Valencia. I had to beep the horn at the individual who side-swiped me earlier in the day and when I came back through it, I said, oh, my God, no wonder, we have three lanes there. But if you

City Commission Meeting
October 11, 2022

look at Ponce, we only have two lanes. If you look at Bird Road, we only have two lanes. So, this may not be the most effective use of the space, and as we're discussing a bike lane to and from the Mobility Hub, we may want to look at bringing this back down to two lanes, safer lanes, and it may be that Dover Kohl decides that the return route from the Mobility Hub can be built into this in a much safer travel lane process. I just wanted to bring that photo to your attention, so you could see the situation we have on Valencia between, there's – you can see Publix, you see the back end of the Post Office there, and I'm sitting at the intersection of Ponce heading the rest of the way east.

Commissioner Menendez: My experience with that area right there is, we see three lanes, but you can tell by the way the SUV is parked on the left-hand side, it's really almost two and-a-half. There's little room for error, and I've seen chaotic situations there. We could do probably something a little bit better, safer.

Commissioner Anderson: Right. Food for thought here. That's it.

Vice Mayor Mena: The issue you are going to have there is less about, I think, whether we are able to reduce to two lanes, but if you are going to do a bicycle, you are probably going to have to limit the parking.

Commissioner Anderson: Not necessarily. If we eliminate one lane and move it over, and this is why we have Dover Kohl in here, in the room, because I'm not an expert on traffic planning and I'd like to – we have a traffic expert in here – a right-hand turn lane maybe necessary, left-hand turn lane maybe necessary as we get close to intersections and they need to plan it out, but we definitely have a problem here with people parking and using the lanes because they feel uncomfortable being next to the vehicles.

City Manager Iglesias: I think, Commissioner, I think what you would like to initiate is Dover Kohl also includes Valencia in their connectivity to the Mobility Hub, is that what you are proposing?

Commissioner Anderson: Yes, we had that discussion earlier and we included Valencia. We need someone that can plan this properly to establish what is the best option where the bicycle travels, because we have a complex set of intersections to deal with.

City Manager Iglesias: As you know, Dover Kohl are actually planners, they will work with our Transportation Manager and our traffic consultants to make sure that everything works out from a traffic perspective, but if the Commission wishes, we can certainly add Valencia as part of that study also.

Commissioner Anderson: Thought we had done that, because in order to make an effective circulating route for bicycles on there to the Mobility Hub, you have to get back somehow, and

*City Commission Meeting
October 11, 2022*

you can't put the salmon upstream back onto Andalusia, so you have to bring the route back on a street that heads west, and Valencia is the next closest one, and it appears to have the space, more space than any of the other streets.

City Manager Iglesias: We can certainly look at that and look at Biltmore Way, Anastasia and then Valencia, incorporate that into the Dover Kohl study.

Commissioner Anderson: Right. Remember we had the discussion that Villa Valencia got a provision in a development agreement to put a bike lane in front of their property. Now we have to decide whether that is the best choice. Having it for the span of one block is not going to make sense, unless it connects to something else. That's why I brought the picture, so we understand we have an extra lane there. Keep in mind, Andalusia only has two lanes heading east, we have three lanes heading west here, so we do have some space to work with. Thoughts on that matter.

City Manager Iglesias: Those right-of-ways are approximately similar, as far as width, I believe they are both 60-foot right-of-ways.

Public Works Director Diaz: They are.

City Manager Iglesias: And so, we can certainly look at that. Its just a messy area because things are weaving in and out, but we can certainly look at those two and try to look at, try to incorporate the connectivity to the Mobility Hub using Anastasia and Valencia. So, we can certainly have Dover Kohl look at that as part of the analysis, if the Commission wishes.

Commissioner Anderson: Okay. Thank you. Appreciate that.

Vice Mayor Mena: I want to understand what Dover Kohl has to say. I don't want to tell Dover Kohl make this work. I want to say what are your thoughts.

City Manager Iglesias: Vice Mayor, we are not going to make them – the idea is to look at this from a planning and traffic engineering perspective. Can it work? – and how can we make it work, but not really tell them what to do.

Mayor Lago: Alright.

Commissioner Anderson: That somewhat covers a little bit of G-3.

City Manager Iglesias: G-2 and G-3 are inter-related.

Commissioner Anderson: So, do you have any further update on Dover Kohl's recommendations?

City Manager Iglesias: We have a meeting this week with the team to make sure that everything is focused in the right direction, and it's a good time for this, because we can also discuss the Valencia issue at the same time.

*City Commission Meeting
October 11, 2022*

Commissioner Anderson: Can you get back to us by the next meeting just to give us an update, if it's moving forward because there are a lot of folks very, very interested in this area.

City Manager Iglesias: We can definitely update the Commission next meeting.

Commissioner Anderson: Okay.

Mayor Lago: Thank you.