

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item H-3
May 12, 2009
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Donald D. Slesnick, II
Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Commissioner Maria Anderson
Commissioner Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Commissioner Wayne "Chip" Withers

City Staff

City Manager, Patrick Salerno
City Attorney, Elizabeth Hernandez
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
City Clerk Staff, Billy Urquia
Alberto Delgado, Public Works Director

Public Speaker(s)

H-3 – Discussion Items [Start: 9:41:29 a.m.]

Mayor Slesnick: H-3.

City Manager Salerno: H-3 is a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a Joint Participation Agreement between the Florida Department of Transportation and the City of Coral Gables for financial assistance in the amount of \$377,641.00 for the purchase of two (2) new 30-foot long, heavy-duty, low-floor, replacement shuttle buses for the Coral Gables Trolley Program.

Public Works Director Delgado: This is a combination of funding that we are going to be using for the Department of Transportation in the amount of \$377,641 and the impact fees. The impact fees right now in the new ordinance we are allowed to buy capital projects, or capital equipment for transit, so the trolley qualifies for that particular funding use, therefore the idea is to match the \$377,641 that we are getting from the FDOT with the impact fees, Dade County impact fees, to be able to acquire two new trolleys. The estimate cost of the trolleys right now three hundred and sixty-five thousand dollars (\$365,000), so the trolleys have gone up in price, of course. This is the trolley that will match the existing trolley that we have as far as the look and will have the low platform not the steps for the disabled accessibility; with that combination of funding we will be able to acquire these two trolleys, the acquisition of those trolleys probably will take about a year because of the time we put together the RFP that will have to meet all of the standards, and we go out for bid and fabrication of the trolley, which are almost custom made, will take between a year to 14 months to realize. So we will not have those trolleys for at least a year or a year and two months.

Commissioner Cabrera: Where would the \$352,359 be spent on impact fees, rather than on the purchase of these trolleys?

Public Works Director Delgado: We have the program of impact fees and right now we have about five million dollars in impact fees.

Commissioner Cabrera: I know, but let's say we didn't need to buy the two trolleys because the old trolleys were doing fine and I know they are not, what would we do with the \$352?

Public Works Director Delgado: It would have to be for capacity improvement projects.

Commissioner Cabrera: Capacity improvement projects like the Segovia Median.

Public Works Director Delgado: For example the Segovia Median qualifies for that, but we already have it funded.

Commissioner Cabrera: OK. I am just trying to...

Public Works Director Delgado: It can be a roundabout that will bring capacity improvement, for example the DeSoto Fountain roundabout, that is a project that we have inline for the future, it can be also repaving, resurfacing of roads in the County, or it can be also for the use of any modification that we do at an intersection, like for example a traffic light, so that type of project are capacity improvements.

Commissioner Cabrera: And currently the balance on the impact fees is how much?

Public Works Director Delgado: Right now we have a balance pending, right now of five million dollars in projects that we are going to do, which are the second phase of Ponce De Leon median, which is coming it is in the [inaudible], the plans are completed. We also have the two roundabouts on Blue Road at San Amaro and Alhambra, we have the Biltmore and Segovia roundabouts, the Segovia median, bicycle facility and median, we also have the light at Sevilla and LeJeune by the Bacardi Project and we also have the paving, the resurfacing of Old Cutler Road when we finish all of the force main lines.

Commissioner Cabrera: And all of those projects that you mentioned, they have already gone through the funding mechanisms.

Public Works Director Delgado: Absolutely, they have gone through that.

Commissioner Cabrera: You know, one of the things the former manager and I struggled through was impact fees being allocated by Miami-Dade County, because the County, just because we have five million dollars does not mean we get five million dollars, but what you are saying to us is that the five million dollars, or the projects that you just mentioned will be funded through those impact fees.

Public Works Director Delgado: That is right, and they are TIP programs, which is a Transportation Improvement Program, which is a five year program and they are going to be done in the next five years.

Commissioner Cabrera: But what I really want to understand is, every project that you mentioned has the appropriate funding through impact fees.

Public Works Director Delgado: And has already been placed in the program approved by the MPO.

Commissioner Cabrera: And what are you going to do with the old trolleys?

Public Works Director Delgado: The old trolleys, the idea is to phase out the trolleys, they already completed the five year period of grace that was given by the MPO, remember the MPO funded those projects, those trolleys, they said you need to use it for at least five years, the life expectancy of those trolleys is seven years according to the manufacturer, so we are already in the six year of those trolleys. Three of those five trolleys are out of commission. What they are doing is using their parts, to keep two in operation, the idea is to replace those two hybrid electric trolleys by the two new trolleys that we would like to buy with the FDOT monies and with the stimulus money, which is another funding source it is \$477,000 we would be able to buy another trolley in the future, when that goes through all of the process. We have also that allocation of money. So the idea is to buy three new trolleys that will complete the fleet, will give the eight trolleys in operation, plus one spare trolley.

Mayor Slesnick: Any further questions?- any further comments?

Commissioner Withers: Just one quick question, is there a way to refurbish the existing trolleys, you know instead of buying new ones, is there a way to retro fit them or clean them up.

Public Works Director Delgado: We would like at least like museum piece put it this way to keep at least one of those original trolleys, the problem is that right now to maintain and keep them in operation is very costly. Parts are very expensive, they have an electronic system that is very complicated and they are not heavy-duty, the trolley is operating in a heavy-duty mode right now.

Commissioner Withers: So the answer is no?

Public Works Director Delgado: Yes, so those trolleys, one of those trolleys will be good to keep it as a museum piece that you know we can keep it, and if we want to take it out and show it, but that would be the only purpose not to be in operation. They are of course they are cute, they are smaller, the interior is beautiful really compared to the others.

Commissioner Cabrera: It looks like a trolley.

[laughter]

Commissioner Withers: One last question when this whole project started years ago, we talked about the possibilities of allowing the trolleys to be used for private rentals and things like that.

Public Works Director Delgado: And they are doing that now.

Commissioner Withers: OK.

Public Works Director Delgado: They have a program, which I think a very successful program, for weddings and everything, and I think that so far they have the funding of about twenty thousand dollars that have been collected in the last month of this year that they have been doing that and now it is more demand, more demand for the trolleys to be used in the weekends, yes.

Commissioner Cabrera: We talked about using the trolley for historic tours, which never came to fruition.

Public Works Director Delgado: That would be a good application, but they have been used privately for weddings, and for tourism activities, they have been used lately.

Commissioner Withers: We should be able to find somebody to do that. I think a Saturday or Sunday.

Commissioner Cabrera: Yes, but we couldn't do it before because the demand was so high for the trolley and they needed to literally rest in the weekends.

Commissioner Withers: That is right.

Commissioner Anderson: Time off.

Mayor Slesnick: Do I have a motion?

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: So moved.

Commissioner Anderson: Second it.

Mayor Slesnick: Moved by Mr. Kerdyk, seconded by Ms. Anderson. Any further discussion? Mr. Clerk.

City Clerk Foeman: Vice Mayor Kerdyk?

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Yes.

City Clerk Foeman: Commissioner Withers?

Commissioner Withers: Yes.

City Clerk Foeman: Commissioner Anderson?

Commissioner Anderson: Yes.

City Clerk Foeman: Commissioner Cabrera?

Commissioner Cabrera: No.

City Clerk Foeman: Mayor Slesnick?

Mayor Slesnick: Yes.

[End: 9:50:03 a.m.]