

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD
 HYBRID MEETING AT CITY HALL/ZOOM
 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MARCH 15, 2022

	M ^H	A	M	J	J	A	S ^v	O ^H	N ^H	D ^H	J ^H	F ^H	
	15	20	19	21	21	21	20	19	18	21	18	22	
Silvia Pinera-Vazquez	p	/	/	*	P	P	/	p	P	+ -	p	/	<i>Fors</i>
Oscar Sosa	p	/	/	/	/	/	/	P	P	+ -	A	P	<i>Mayor</i>
Debbie Swain	p	P	/	P	P	P	P	P	P	+ -	P	/	<i>VM Mena</i>
Sue Kawalerski	p	P	/	P	P	P	P	P	P	+ -	P	P	<i>Anderson</i>
David Fournier	p	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	A	P	<i>Menendez</i>
Roberta Neway	p	/	/	/	P	P	/	p	P	+ -	P	P	<i>Commission</i>
Peter Wood	P	P	/	P	P	E	P	P	P	+ -	P	/	<i>City Manager</i>

P: Present in person P: Present virtually (zoom) ^vVirtual Meeting
 E- Excused Absence A- Absent ^HHybrid
 *-New Member (+ -) No Meeting

Staff:

Melissa de Zayas P.E., Sr. Transportation Engineer
 Cherie Menendez P.E., Transportation Engineer
 Jessie Acebo, Assistant to the Public Works Director

Guest:

Lt. Barnet
 Carlos Miquilarena

Via ZOOM:

Jessica Keller
 Sheryl Gold
 Maria Cruz
 Gables Insider
 Gal521

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order by Sue Kawalerski at 5:34 PM. Sue Kawalerski, Oscar Sosa, David Fournier, Roberta Neway, Silvia Pinera-Vazquez, Peter Wood, and Debbie Swain, started meeting. Quorum was met.

Meeting Minutes Approval:

The Board requested to move the February 22, 2022 meeting minutes approval to the next Board meeting. All Board members agreed. Silvia suggested to add two statements made by resident, Jessica Keller, the first statement is to revise the minutes regarding the Granada concurrence topic and state that this is Jessica's opinion and should not be said by an ex-city employee. Roberta stated this is not an opinion, but a fact and it does not matter who states it as long as the statement is factual. The second statement is to

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add that, Jessica stated that funding is available for sidewalk projects provided by the Biden Administration. Jessie confirmed that the February minutes did include this statement under the item "Sidewalk Extension". Debbie requested the link to the ZOOM recording for February's meeting and was informed the link is included in the calendar invite along with the Vision Zero presentation.

Chairmans Report

Sue welcomed resident, Carlos Miquilarena. Carlos expressed his concern with the traffic on Coral Way. Carlos advised the Board of accidents he has witnessed in the past and his efforts to have a roundabout installed at the intersection of Coral Way, Anderson Road, and South Greenway Drive. The Board asked Melissa if she is familiar with this intersection. Melissa stated Coral Way is a Miami-Dade County (MDC) road and not under the City's jurisdiction. In the past year, the City has been in contact with MDC, and they are looking into a potential project at this intersection. City staff will follow-up with MDC to determine when they will move forward with this project. Sue asked what this project will consist of, and Melissa stated MDC is looking into the installation of a roundabout. Melissa added this project has not been finalized and it is currently in the planning phase.

Oscar asked what the speed limit on Coral Way is. Melissa stated the City cannot lower the speed limit on Coral Way as it's a County Road. Carlos stated he submitted a public records request to receive information on how many accidents have occurred at the intersection of Coral Way, Anderson Road, And South Greenway Drive. The Board requested for Melissa to follow-up with MDC to get updates on this project. Debbie requested for a police report for the last (3) years of incidents at this intersection. Sue requested for Melissa and Carlos to exchange contact information, for direct interaction.

Biltmore Way Speed Zone Signs

Sue advised the Board of a resident who sent in a photo of her car showing the MPH on Biltmore Way as 25 MPH, even though signs are not posted. Oscar advised that during the previous Board meeting, Melissa advised that the City was in the process of purchasing signs for Biltmore Way. Melissa updated the Board and stated that a purchase order is being processed for new signs as well as replacement signs for those that have faded.

Police Update

Lt. Barnet discussed the placement of the speed shields and that these capture data within a 1000 feet range. He added speed shields were placed on the 600 and 800 BLK of Biltmore Way. He also stated two Officers verified the placement and concluded this was the proper placement to capture the 700 Block, based on signs available and the range of the devices. A week's worth of data was collected which determined that there was a total of 55,000 vehicles that went through that block in a week:38,844 vehicles traveling eastbound and 16,356 travelling westbound. The current speed limit is 30 MPH until the 25 MPH signs are installed. Once The 25 MPH are installed, they will be able to enforce the new speed limit. In the past 2 weeks, the Coral Gables Police Department (CGPD) has performed 25 details, issued 52 citations out of those 55,000 cars, and out of those 52 citations, 24 were for speeding. The fastest speed clocked was 48 MPH. Out of the 24 speeding citations, 4 citations were for speeding at 48 MPH. Based on the data collected, there were 149 speeders, out of the 55,000 cars. Oscar asked what the average speed was of

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those 55,000 vehicles. Lt. Barnet stated that for the 600 and 700 blocks on Biltmore Way, going eastbound, the average speed was 16.39 MPH, and the 50 percentile was 15.4 MPH. The westbound average speed was 21.78 MPH, and the 50 percentile was 22.06 MPH. In addition, the peak for violations took place from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Lt. Barnet advised that CGPD will continue to monitor the area. Silvia asked about the 4 citations that were issued for speeding and if those citations were issued during the 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM peak time frame. Lt. Barnet stated he does not want to diminish perception, but the collected data showed more volume than speeding vehicles.

Sheryl Gold shared her personal observation and that she has a big problem with the location of the speed shields. Sheryl stated that one speed shield was placed at the traffic circle on Segovia, on a yield sign, where no one speeds. Sheryl also stated that there is no 800 Block, and the speed shield was placed on a pole where it says, "DO NOT ENTER". Sheryl expressed her discontent with the placement of the speed shields and added these were the 2 worst possible locations. She also expressed her concerns about the reliability of the data collected. Sue reiterated that the locations were not the most ideal locations to place the speed shields, but they were the only locations. Sue asked if the new 25 MPH sign poles will accommodate the speed shields. Melissa asked Lt. Barnet if the speed shields attach to a u-channel pole and Lt. Barnet confirmed the speed shields can attach to a u-channel pole. Melissa advised that the new signs attach to a standard round aluminum pole and cannot attach to the speed shields. Oscar requested for speed data to be collected in the area of concern by resident, Carlos Miquilarena. Lt. Barnet responded he will make arrangements. David stated that no matter what precautions are taken, speeding will continue on Biltmore Way. David suggested that trees be placed in the middle, or a traffic light be installed on Cardena. Sue reminded the Board that the Biltmore Streetscape Project is underway, and traffic will be one of the items addressed. Melissa advised that there will be concepts presented, but she does not know what the final Biltmore Streetscape Project concept will be. David asked about Ponce de Leon and stated that the visibility on Ponce de Leon and San Sebastian is not good. David asked for a mirror or device to enhance visibility at this intersection. Lt. Barnet deferred the question to Melissa. Melissa stated she will discuss with the Public Works Director.

Old Business:

Sue asked Melissa for updates on "The purpose of the Board Resolution" and the "Mobility-Hub Resolution". Melissa advised that the City Attorney's Office is working on finalizing these resolutions. Sue requested for a Board member to volunteer and present both resolutions to the City Commission, the Mobility-Hub, and the Purpose of the Board. Sue also requested for these resolutions items to be time certain. Roberta volunteered to present the Mobility-Hub Resolution and Sylvia to present the Purpose of the Board Resolution.

Sue requested an update on the sidewalk gap map TAB priorities. Melissa stated the map is complete however, there are many sidewalk projects and due to this, funding is depleted for the year. Sue asked how many projects will be completed by the end of October and Melissa responded about 4 to 5 projects.

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Traffic Projects Update

- **Citywide traffic calming**

Melissa updated the Board on the installation of 2 speed cushions at Obispo Avenue, just east of Ferdinand Street. Ballots will be going out for Castile Avenue, based on request received. The City is working on finalizing the design for the medians on Alhambra, Salvaterra, and Murcia. Conceptual design for Zones 2, 3, and 4 will be moving forward once Zone 1 is completed.

- **Ponce Phase III**

Melissa updated the Board on the progress of this project. The project is in the design stage and the design is expected to be completed before this summer and groundbreaking before the end of the year.

- **South Alhambra Bike Lanes**

Melissa updated the Board on the draft concepts. Concepts have not been finalized. Two separate concepts have been developed: (1) a protected bike lane; (2) a shared use path. The City is exploring the option of a hybrid concept. Suggestions have been mentioned to incorporate buttons or armadillos. Sue cautioned the Board on the dangers of armadillos. Melissa advised this is just an option, and it will be presented to the public. Sue asked for the concept plans to be presented and Melissa stated this expected to be done in May. Sue requested a presentation. Silvia asked for the list of people that are supporting the South Alhambra Bike Lane project, Debbie stated to ask staff for the list. Melissa stated she had to verify the City's procedure regarding sharing the requested list.

- **Vision Zero**

Roberta would like for the Board as a whole to ask the City to adopt Vision Zero. Roberta stated this opens the opportunity to receive grants. Sue asked if there is a grant writer on City staff. Melissa responded no. Sue asked if the City was involved in the Complete Streets initiative. Melissa responded she would look into it. Peter stated that it would be good if the City aligns itself with MDC and FDOT in supporting zero deaths and the Vision Zero initiative. Sue would like to know if the City is already supporting the Complete Street initiative because Vision Zero is included. Sue would like to know what it actually means to endorse the Vision Zero Initiative. Peter stated this is a philosophical and principle idea of saying let us work together as a community towards reducing deaths. Debbie stated that the City did adopt a Complete Streets Resolution a couple of years ago. Debbie stated she was on the safer people, safer streets task force and many cities including Coral Gables have targets they want to improve citywide to reduce the number of collisions and deaths. Vision Zero is just a message that the City supports zero deaths. Debbie stated that the Board can write a statement about zero deaths. Jessica Keller stated that we do not need to have a plan of how to achieve it, just to set a target. Oscar asked what the City is going to achieve by adopting this. Debbie responded the City will continue to do the same thing but just change the target. Oscar asked Melissa how Vision Zero will work when the City is approaching a project. Oscar wants to know what will change if the City adopts Vision Zero. Cherie responded it is not really a change, it is a thought process. The intent of all transportation projects is to make roads safer and reduce fatalities and hopefully to achieve zero fatalities.

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Oscar stated he assumes the City is implementing this now. Melissa stated we are implementing it. Silvia stated she does not feel comfortable endorsing a plan that is anti-car. Debbie would like to ask the City to target zero death by adopting Vision Zero. Oscar stated that Vision Zero needs to be more than a way of thinking. Sue asked Sgt. Barnett if there are any intersections within the City where a number of fatalities have occurred. Sgt. Barnett stated no, in Coral Gables we do not have a repeat location or a problematic location. Silvia expressed her concerns of stating that no one wants deaths, this is not something that has to be said. Silvia questioned what the end game for Vision Zero is. Debbie motioned to ask that the City target zero death in its traffic and transportation planning, and that the City implement a plan so that TAB coordinates with staff to identify projects that can be applied to monitor the impact and success of those plans. Peter Seconded. Roberta, Oscar, and David all in favor, Silvia – nay.

Youth Zones Resolutions

Roberta drafted the letter to be attached to TAB February minutes. Roberta read the letter to the Board. All were in favor.

Transit update:

Melissa updated the Board on traffic impact studies. The Codina Regency is getting a traffic impact study due to a change in the lane configuration. Sue requested for the plans of this project to be presented to the Board. Melissa advised she will check with our Department too see what is available. Melissa updated the Board on DRC applications: (2) new applications have been received; 1- for conditional use of mixed-use site plans for remote parking at 4311 Ponce; 2- comprehensive site plan for 1505 Ponce. These have been submitted for the March 25, 2022 DRC meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:10 pm.