

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD  
CORAL GABLES YOUTH CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM  
405 UNIVERSITY DRIVE  
CORAL GABLES, FL 33134  
TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2016 @ 5:30 PM

**MEETING MINUTES**

<b>MEMBERS</b>	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	<b>APPOINTED BY:</b>
	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	16	16	16	16	
Ignacio G. Borbolla	P	P	+	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	P	E	Jim Cason
Gordon Sokoloff	P	P	+	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Patricia Keon
Deborah Swain	P	P	+	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Vince Lago
Courtney Thompson	-	-	+	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	Jeannette Slesnick
Albert Corrada	P	P	+	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	Frank C. Quesada
Chris Morrison	P	P	+	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	Commission-as-a-Whole
Al Smith	-	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	City Manager

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

**STAFF:**

Jessica Keller, Public Works Assistant Director  
Yamilet Senespleda, Public Works City Engineer/Senior Traffic Engineer  
Antonio Aleman, C. G. Police Sergeant

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mr. Thompson called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

**GUEST:**

Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark, City of Coral Gables, City Manager  
Jack S. Schnettler, PE – Atkins Vice President, Senior Engineer  
Molly Cutely, Coral Gables Resident, 1200 Castile Avenue

**MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:**

**March 15, 2016 meeting minutes - Mrs. Swain made a motion to approve the minutes, Dr. Sokoloff seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

**MOTIONS:**

**Mrs. Swain made a motion to excuse Mr. Borbolla absence, Mr. Morrison seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

**Mrs. Swain made a motion to accept the Standard Operating Procedure with amendments made to the Community Engagement procedures, paragraph 6 to read Professional Engineering Judgement and change the last sentence to read “determining the impacted area of a project”, Dr. Sokoloff seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

**Mr. Morrison made a motion to table the Zones discussion for another month, Mrs. Swain seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

**CITY MANAGER:**

*City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark* - stated that the City’s Boards process has always been part of what Coral Gables is. As discussed with her team, they agree that the board represents a big commission and a pulse on the street. She said that the Transportation Advisory Board is very important because the commission is also interested in the quality of life. Cathy said a lot of the City’s traffic is non-local traffic and in order for the City to manage that, the Commission identified \$300,000 in their budget for a *Multimodal Transportation Plan*. Cathy said the whole creation of a Traffic Advisory Board from the beginning, and breaking it up into zones was to address the different areas experiencing different concerns. For example: recognizing that all of the problems were not going to be solved by closing off streets, the recognition that what you do on one street impact or can influence another street nearby. How do you have a big picture view of traffic and what are the different ways to encourage it, how that brain storming happens and how that community dialogue happens, the Transportation Advisory Board is a big part of that.

Cathy said that the roll of the Board is to offer up what is believed to be the best recommendations and then it is up to the Commission and staff to decide how to receive those recommendations. Cathy said the recommendation for a moratorium will be addressed after the Traffic Study is completed. The recommendation for the moratorium was presented to the commission, it was considered but it was not accepted and implemented. It was the Boards process right to request a moratorium, it does not mean that every recommendation will be accepted and implemented.

Mr. Thompson asked what could the Board have done better in recommending the moratorium and would she have done something different. Cathy said what could have happened was seeing what the technical process of review is when projects go forward, what information does the city

require, what does the DRC committee require, what does the Planning & Zoning Board look at when considering recommendations for projects, what are the other Boards reviewing as part of traffic and how does the City look back after a project has been approved to make sure the projections came to fruition.

Cathy stated that with the proper education to the residents and the public on traffic calming measures the better the understanding when it comes time to having community meetings. Cathy said there will be more police presence; there will be an increase in trolley to include holidays and weekends.

Mrs. Swain mentioned to the CM that back in November she presented to the board (who intern asked she continue working on it), a recommendation to have the City perform its own traffic study analysis instead of hiring developers or consultants. Mr. Thompson added that the board feels strongly on this and voted unanimously on it, that the City take control in being the one to conduct the traffic studies and not the developers. Mr. Thompson said it will be the beginning of a legacy left behind with the residents, commission and the City from the Transportation Advisory Board. The CM said this is something that would be welcomed by staff and the commission.

Mr. Thompson asked for the CM's comments on the Board requesting that something be done or provided to educate the residents on how to use a traffic circle or roundabout. Cathy strongly agreed with Mr. Thompsons comments.

Mr. Thompson wants to put on record that the Board has attempted on numerous occasions to contact the Planning & Zoning Board to no avail. They have not responded to our invitation to our meetings nor have they invited our Board to their meetings. It was clearly noted by the CM that in order for the Transportation Advisory Board to be more effective there needs to be collaboration between the two boards. Mr. Thompson asked Jessica what has been her experience and results when reaching out to the Planning & Zoning Board. Jessica said she reached out to Maria Menendez who in turn asked that she reach out to the Chair. Jessica reached out to the chair who asked that our board attend their meeting and plead their case as to why the P & Z Board should attend Transportation Advisory Board meetings. Mr. Thompson said that the CM told him Maria Menendez is the liaison to the P & Z Board, therefore he asked Jessica to please reach out to her again and update the board on the outcome.

**SECRETARYS REPORT:**

Jessica announced that she is now the Acting Public Works Director as well as the Public Works Assistant Director for Sustainability & Transportation. In her current roll, staff is developing Steering Operating Procedures and one of them is:

*Community Engagement* – Jessica provided the Board with the procedures, step 6 explains that all property owners within 1000' will be notified, however the area may expand depending on

the scope of the project. Some projects may impact users across the City and professional judgment must be made when determining the impact of the project.

*Strategic Action Plan update* – Public Works Neighborhood Enhancement Program sets target for the next 3 years; targets are:

- Two (2) miles of new sidewalk construction in each year, starting from 2017 through 2019. The goal is 6 miles of new sidewalk in the City by 2019.
- One (1) mile of new bicycle route construction in 2017, 5 miles of bicycle route construction in 2018 and 5 miles of bicycle construction in 2019. The goal is 11 miles of new bike routes by 2019.

The City will be developing a community survey, one of the areas being surveyed is pedestrian satisfaction.

*Miracle Mile project* – Mr. Thompson said two meetings ago it was stated that the work on Miracle Mile will be starting and there has been no evidence of such work as of yet. Jessica said they are actively out there now.

*Agave Project* – Dr. Sokoloff asked about the Agave project. Jessica said to stay tuned to the next commission meeting as there will be a discussion on that.

### **TRAFFIC UPDATE:**

Comprehensive Transportation Plan - Jessica stated that due to her current position she has not been able to give the Comprehensive Transportation Plan the attention it needs. Yamilet has been working with the CTP but it needs both of their attention and therefore they are a little behind schedule. Jessica spoke with the CM and she will be writing a letter to the commission to address some issues with the County in reference to the e-mail written by the board comparing all the traffic calming criteria developed by other cities. Jessica will be drafting a memo suggesting the City resolves their issues with the County that relates to traffic calming criteria before moving ahead with the community meetings. Jack said a meeting has been set up with the County's Public Works, Assistant Director Darleen Fernandez. Jack will provide some progressive information to the board at the next meeting.

### **POLICE UPDATE:**

Mr. Thompson spoke with Police Chief Hudak who said the County has been unable to confirm a date for the trip to the Communications Control Center.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

*Maintenance of Traffic Plan update* – Mrs. Swain mentioned a couple of times the maintenance of traffic plan to provide more protection for pedestrians, Jessica sent her some information a few days ago in reference to other cities and what they do. What the City of Coral Gables does is follow the States standards which to Mrs. Swain is inadequate because it doesn't provide protection.

*Zones* – Mr. Morrison had requested that a map of the zones and who represents each zone be provided for this meeting but would table it for the next meeting.

**CASTILE AVENUE:**

*Molly Gail Cutely, C.G. Castile Avenue Resident* – stated 7 or 9 years ago the neighborhood met with the Board in reference to the traffic problems on Castile Avenue, she said it's a freeway. Jessica said all the Cities traffic issues are now incorporated into the Comprehensive Transportation Plan and it will be addressed all at the same time. Castile Avenue's area will be the first zone area addressed as it has been deemed the hot zone. Mr. Thompson suggested to PD that they assist in the meantime. Sargent Aleman is aware of the issues; it is a volume issue unfortunately they have not tracked enough speed issues. Officer Fleres is the person in charge of the area; they can control the speed but cannot control the volume issue.

**ADJOURNED:**

6:40 pm