

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD
 HYBRID MEETING AT CITY HALL/ZOOM
 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON April 20, 2021

	A	M	J	J	A ^v	S ^v	O ^v	N	D ^H	J ^H	F ^H	M ^H	A	
	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	21	21	21	21	
Kevin Mase	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	-	*	P	(+ -)	P	P	P	E	P	<i>R. Valdes Fauli</i>
Gordon Sokoloff (Chair)	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	P	P	E	(+ -)	P		E	P	P	<i>P. Keon</i>
Steven Williamson	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	P	P	P	(+ -)	A	A	P-V	P-V	P	<i>V. Lago</i>
Debbie Swain	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	P	P	P	(+ -)	P-V	E	P	P	P	<i>M. Mena</i>
Sue Kawalerski (VC)	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	P	P	P	(+ -)	P	P	P	P	P	<i>J. Fors</i>
Nicholas Barshel	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	E	P	P	(+ -)	P	P	E	P	P	<i>Commission</i>
Peter Wood	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	P	P	P	(+ -)	A	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, Sr. Multimodal Transportation Engineer
 Jeanne Espinal, Assistant to the Public Works Director
 Douglas Cobb, Sr. Traffic Engineer
 Jessica Keller, Assistant Public Works Director
 Kevin Kinney, Parking Director

Guest: Joshua Goodman
 Kevin Moure
 Schneider St Preux, MDC-DTPW
 Joel Perez, General Superintendent of transit operations MDC-DTPW

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by the Chairman at 5:30 PM and roll call was done. All board members attended in person. In-person quorum was met.

Meeting Minutes Approval: Meeting minutes were revised, and changes were implemented as requested. *Sue Kawalerski motioned to approve the meeting minutes with the requested changes. The motion was seconded by Peter Wood, voted upon, and adopted unanimously by the board.*

Chairmans Report

The Chairman requested for City staff to investigate the City’s website to make sure that the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) meetings are showing in the calendar and the public has access. Melissa advised the board that she has been in communication with the City Clerks’ office and that the board is on the community calendar but not on the other calendar. The discrepancy is unclear, but she is working on resolving it.

Deborah Swain: Ms. Swain presented to the board a comprehensive summary of her concerns on the maintenance and construction of City-wide sidewalks. Ms. Swain expressed her concerns for handicap accessibility, sidewalks on collector streets, and bike rider safety. She elaborated on how unfriendly and

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hostile the City is towards pedestrians and bicycle riders. She stated that in the past every effort to expand and improve safety has been met with resistance and hostility by the City. Ms. Swain pointed out the multiple efforts to close bicycle networks through various entry points at the City. She also stated that no sidewalks have been constructed on neighborhood streets at the request of residents since the city policy changed to install sidewalks at its own expense nor since the implementation of Resolution 2018-268 which eliminated concurrency on collector streets. Ms. Swain provided handout materials which are included as an attachment to the minutes. Sue Kawalerski informed the board that the Miami-Dade County (MDC) Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) is conducting a feasibility study of the Old Cutler Trail to allow golf carts on the trail pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Town of Old Cutler. Kevin Mase brought up the use of e-bikes on the path. The board does not have an issue with e-bikes if they are on manual mode. Nicholas Barshel pointed out that battery operated golf carts should also be considered.

Peter Wood pointed out to the board that the City's strategic plan explicitly states that one of the goals is to construct more sidewalks and 5 miles of bike lanes.

Deborah Swain presented a motion of the TAB requesting for the City of Coral Gables Commission to oppose any proposal by any outside agency that would allow golf carts and /or other motorized vehicles on any shared use path that is designated for the use of pedestrians and cyclists. The motion was seconded by Sue Kawalerski, voted upon, and adopted unanimously by the board.

The chairman asked Jessica to provide an update on the City's plans for sidewalks. Jessica advised the board that the City has strategic goals, but the city is unfortunately not achieving them. The City has attempted to build more sidewalks and bike lanes but there has been a lot of opposition by residents. Steve Williamson proposed to separate sidewalks from bike lanes to obtain more community support. Jessica informed the board that hopefully the sidewalks on University and Blue Road will be built this Fiscal Year. Further, the City Commission allocated funds for the City to build what is in the strategic plan.

Public Comments:

Discontinuation of MDC route 37: Joshua Goodman spoke about MDC plan to discontinue route 37 as part of the better bus project. MDC evaluated all current bus routes and based on ridership alone, this route will end at Douglas station, and service to Coral Gables and South Miami will cease. Mr. Goodman believes they are looking at a very narrow set of criteria and are attempting to make a decision based on ridership alone. MDC plan is to increase service of large volume at the expense of retiring service where there is less ridership; and there is no option of adding service without removing others. Mr. Goodman pointed out that the socioeconomic profile of the ridership should be considered as they rely on this route for access to businesses in Coral Gables and South Miami. Mr. Goodman asked the board to pass a resolution explaining some of the negative impacts that it will have on the people that work and live in Coral Gables and to have the county reflect/reconsider on the consequences of the decision. Mr. Goodman believes it is a question of equity and what should be considered is who rides the bus rather than how many people ride the bus. City of Miami is also evaluating this decision. Jessica Keller explained that every time that service is ended a Title VI study is conducted.

Schneider St Preux from MDC transit operations reported that MDC is also looking into eliminating Route 42. Kevin Kinney reported that this information is new to him. He informed the board and Mr. St. Preux

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that the City does not have the ability to fill in the gap of Route 37 and 42 via the trolley service. He has not been notified of any meetings related to the elimination of services. Jessica advised the board that the elimination of services goes against the City's strategic goals. Joel Perez, the general superintendent of bus operations for DTPW informed the board that the County has heard the community's concerns and the plans have not been finalized and are still being reviewed by staff, elected officials, and members of the community for final recommendations and adjustments. Route 42 is being reviewed again based on the input of the community and the title 6 aspect is reviewed by the planning staff. He will reach out to the planning department so they can get in touch with the City and provide a presentation and/or discussion. Mr. Goodman commented that this does not affect residents but rather people who work in the City and that it is important, and the City Commission needs to be aware. The Chairman asked Mr. Perez if it would be possible to prepare a presentation for the next May 18 meeting. Mr. Perez will contact the planning department and try to coordinate. Debbie Swain asked that the update on this item is added in the agenda for next meeting.

Sidewalks Riviera Section: Mr. Kevin Moure presented to the board a comprehensive summary of his request for the construction of the missing sidewalk segments between Riviera Drive and Granada Boulevard south of Hardee Road. Mr. Moure provided photographs of the three (3) sections where the connections are needed and pointed out various safety risks. Peter Wood recommended that we use Mr. Moure's presentation as an example of what it means to increase active living and active transportation, pedestrian safety, and everything that the board is for and is part of the strategic plan.

Sue asked if the bridge is the City's responsibility. Jessica advised there might be some inter-agency coordination that might need to occur. Steve Williamson proposed to use this presentation as an example for staff to use and investigate other segments of the City where sidewalks need to be constructed to close gaps. Kevin Mase pointed out that this is a small and achievable project.

Debbie Swain presented a motion of the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) asking the City Commission to direct staff, based upon on Kevin Moure's compelling presentation regarding gaps and safety concerns in the riviera section, to assess and take necessary action to address the identified sidewalk gaps as well as others City-wide; and provide a report, in a timely manner, on how they will proceed to address these concerns. This Small project of narrow scope should be used as a demonstration project to highlight safety concerns citywide. The motion was seconded by Sue Kawalerski, voted upon and adopted by the board.

Kevin Kinney: Mr. Kinney provided an update on the City's public transportation. Pre- pandemic trolley numbers averaged about 1.2 million passengers in a year and expects the numbers to go up. The City recently was awarded funds from FDOT to establish Saturday service and the City is planning to start service in the fall. The Freebie's service has been partially (50%) funded by FDOT for the past 3 years and these funds are expected to run out December of this year and its future is presently uncertain. Agave contributed 2 million to the trolley fund and there might be additional funds from the gables station project.

Secretary's Report

1. Traffic Impact Studies: No new traffic impact studies
2. DRC Applications: April 30th- old public safety building is being turned into a Mercedes showroom.
3. Planning and Zoning Meeting: Scheduled for May 12, nothing big has been submitted.

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4. Commission Meeting: Debbie Swain will present Roberta Neway's resolution at the May 11 Commission Meeting. Staff will request a time certain item.

Traffic Projects Update

Citywide Traffic Calming: Melissa De Zayas provided an update to the board on the community/resident driven program for traffic calming.

Zone 1: Construction is expected to begin in the early fall.

Zone 2: Design is to be completed May 2021 and once submitted it will be reviewed internally.

Zone 3: Design is to be completed May 2021 and once submitted it will be reviewed internally.

Zone 4 : Community meeting took place

Zone 5: No date for community meeting has been established.

Debbie Swain advised the board how board's initial purpose was to determine which projects should be prioritized.

Police update: Police Lieutenant Barnet advised the board that traffic volumes are starting to increase. Shield devices have been placed. Volume on secondary streets has increased and the department has deployed traffic enforcement and motorized units to monitor and keep residents safe.

Dr. Sokoloff informed the board that his last meeting will on May 18 and proposed for the board to vote a new chair. Debbie Swain suggested that the vote for the new chair should take place after the election.

Steve Williamson asked staff for an update on the status of Blue Road. Jessica Keller advised the board that the City and County are resolving conflicting proposals related to roadway width and pavers in the right-of-way. Once the issues are resolved, MDC will restore the roadway.

Old Business:. none

Meeting Adjourned: 7:16 PM