

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD
 CORAL GABLES POLICE DEPT.
 (4TH FLOOR CONFERENCE RM)
 2801 SALZEDO STREET
 CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA 33134
 TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2016 @ 5:30 PM

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	APPOINTED BY:
	<small>17</small>	<small>17</small>	<small>17</small>	<small>17</small>	<small>17</small>	<small>17</small>	<small>17</small>	<small>17</small>	<small>17</small>	<small>17</small>	<small>17</small>	<small>17</small>	
Ignacio G. Borbolla	P	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	E	P	P	+ -	Jim Cason
Gordon Sokoloff	E	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	E	P	+ -	Jeannette Slesnick
Albert Corrada	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	+ -	Frank C. Quesada
Chris Morrison	E	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	+ -	Commission-as-a-Whole
Al Smith	E	P	P	P	-	E	P	P	E	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

GUEST:

Jack Schnettler, Transportation Consultant

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Thompson called the meeting to order at 5:50 pm.

Mr. Thompson stated Dr. Sokoloff and Mr. Morrison have both asked to be excused and we are missing Mr. Smith.

Mrs. Swain made a motion to excuse the absences of Dr. Sokoloff and Mr. Morrison. Mr. Corrada seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Thompson stated that he received a letter from the City Attorney, Craig Leen that he wants to be adopted into these minutes to be presented to the City Commission.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

***November 15, 2016 meeting minutes* – Mrs. Swain made a motion to approve the minutes in draft form with the letter from the City Attorney attached. Mr. Corrada seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

SECRETARY’S REPORT:

Jessica stated that there is an emergency replacement of the entire bridge at Cocoplum Circle and LeJeune Road, the bridge was found to be structurally deficient. Mr. Thompson stated that this project will wreak havoc on the traffic. She commented that the bridge will be a design build project with the projected time of completion being one year. She stated that the bridge will be built wide enough to accommodate pedestrians, bicycles and vehicles. Mr. Corrada asked if the bridge will be taller as well. Jessica stated that recently on a trip through the waterways the Mayor asked about the bridge being adapted for sea level rise. She then stated that they will be closing the roads for a year to complete the project. Mrs. Swain stated that she would like to see the design criteria package to build this project. Mr. Corrada stated that there needs to be a traffic flow plan.

Yamilet stated the traffic impact studies are being worked on and she passed out a package for the Board to review.

Jessica stated that there are updates on 2017 Bicycle Infrastructure plans, the consultant is on board and we will be moving forward in presenting various alternatives some of the major bicycle infrastructure. She then asked the Board if they would like a presentation before it goes out to the community. Mr. Borbolla stated that he would like to see the presentation. Jessica then proposed to the Board if they would like a presentation of the Bicycle Infrastructure plans in advance of the community meetings. Mr. Thompson replied yes, absolutely.

Jessica stated that the City of Coral Gables is becoming a sustainable entity and suggested an alternative for the use of paper. She then stated that we could try sending the agenda and the meeting minutes electronically and the each Board member would bring their electronic device of choice to the meeting. Mr. Borbolla commented that he would prefer it and suggested a program called Boardpac to store the agenda, meeting minutes and attachments. Mr. Thompson stated that before going digital that we establish the format. Jessica stated that the next meeting packaging will be sent electronically in PDF format.

Mrs. Swain made a motion to try a test package in the next meeting from paper to digital. Mr. Borbolla seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Jessica stated that the there are updates on the Transportation Strategic Action Plan and passed out copies of the plan to the Board members for review.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Thompson stated that he spoke with Kevin Kinney and he stated that he doesn't attend the meetings routinely without an invite. Mr. Thompson stated that we should invite him on a quarterly basis. Jessica stated that there are updates of the City of Coral Gables providing trolley service on holidays and the next step will be the implementation of weekend service. Mr. Thompson commented that with the trolley service expansion that he has been receiving favorable comments from residents of being able to get around during the holidays and with Miracle Mile being closed the trolley service has been a good thing.

Jessica stated she has regrouped with the department director and the Assistant City Manager to discuss traffic calming strategies and improving the livability of the residential areas in the City of Coral Gables. She commented that the next step will be to meet with the City Manger to enter into an interlocal agreement with Miami-Dade County and ask for assistance in implementing roadway features (e.g. Bicycle Boulevard with speed humps).

Jessica stated that the updates on the Comprehensive Transportation Plan will be linked to the discussion with the City Manager about the approach of the livability element of it.

Mrs. Swain stated her request for traffic report update. Jessica stated that she will continue to provide the traffic report udpates.

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Jessica stated that the 25mph speed limit is going for first reading at the next City Commission meeting set for January 24th. She then distributed to the Board a sample of a magnet advertising the 25mph speed limit to get the message out to the residents.

Mrs. Swain stated that she had a meeting with the Public Works Director, Eduardo Santamaria along with Jessica Keller discussing traffic impact studies that are being done by the City of Coral Gables. During this discussion several questions were asked and notes were taken by the PW Director who has said that he will follow up with me by the end of the year 2016. She then stated that she will reach out to him in request of a status update.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Thompson stated addressed the Miami Herald news article "Workplace Flexibility" that was passed out to the Board members. He presented this option as an alternative means to alleviate some traffic problems. He stated that this item should go before the City Commission and asks staff to provide them with a copy of the article. He then stated that we need to be smart about getting people on/off the roads. Jessica stated that she would happy to be the pilot division for the City of Coral Gables, to offer a flexible workplace whether it is 4 days/10hrs or different hours of the day. Mrs. Swain stated that we interact with the Public Works department the most and it would be great if the department could find some pilot opportunities. Mr. Schnettler stated that we have a flexible work schedule policy at our firm which helps to flatten out the peak hours and also with employee retention, it works. Mr. Thompson stated that they did it with a company in Los Angeles some years ago and it really worked then. Mr. Borbolla inquired as to how they went about engage the companies to adapt considering the factors such as expense. Mr. Thompson stated that as business owners they absorbed those expenses back then but in today's work world everyone has smart phones, tablets or laptops and the reality is people really do a lot of work from home anyway be it as it may homework or extracurricular . Mr. Thompson stated that the workplace flexibility took off as we presented this alternative in a series of meetings and the Mayor and the Governor spoke during that time Los Angeles was in the spotlight because of the Olympics. Mr. Thompson commented that Los Angeles became the front runner for flexible hours and telecommuting which is an older term now. Mr. Thompson then stated that he feels that we could get a lot of businesses behind this however there is some cost but it is recoupable. Mr. Corrada stated that there may be federal funding available that the City of Coral Gables can credit business owners such as Green money and the City Commission can take a look at this as an alternative. Mr. Thompson stated that in order to effectively propose this we need to gather as much data concerning it. Mr. Schnettler stated that an example is the University of Miami has a program where they sell parking permits in hour slots to allow the schedule of the students parking in different colored lots at different times of the day which works through the schedule. He then stated that he will work with staff on this and we need to present to the City Commission a document that would give business owners credits.

POLICE UPDATE:

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Chief Hudak stated that it's back to school and we need to reeducate everybody. He stated that there are the usual hotspots areas and we addressing some of the volume and quality of life issues in those neighborhoods. He also stated that the speed limit being at 25mph that someone on a bicycle or a pedestrian impacted at that speed has greater chance of survivability. HE commented that the 25mph speed limit will be enforced and also signage will assist.

ADJOURNED:

6:33 pm