

**TRAFFIC ADVISORY BOARD
CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA
DECEMBER 15, 2009**

MEMBERS:	E	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Ian Martinez	E	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	
Larry D. Kries	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	P	
Deborah Swain					P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Frank Quesada	P	E	P	A	A	P	E	P	P	A	P	P
Chris Zoller						P	P	P	P	P	P	E
Donna Kupper						P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Al Smith						P	P	P	P	E	P	P

APPOINTED BY:
Donald D. Slesnick, II
Maria Anderson
Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr
William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Wayne "Chip" Withers
Commission-as-a-Whole
City Manager

A - Absent
E - Excused
P - Present

Staff

R. Alberto Delgado, P.E., Public Works Director
 James Kay, Engineering Division Supervisor
 Esther Zabalo, Civil Engineer
 Mirtha Francamacaro, Central
 Lt. A. Diaz, Police Department

Mrs. Swain called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Mrs. Swain opened the meeting congratulating Mr. Delgado on his retirement and as residents and Board Members she was saddened by his decision to retire but wished him the best of luck. All the Board Members joined in wishing Mr. Delgado well.

Mrs. Swain called for corrections and/or revisions to the Minutes of the November 17th meeting. Mr. Kries inquired as to whether there had been any discussion on the Valencia Corridor issue since he did not attend the November meeting. No, the Board did not discuss. Mrs. Swain noted that it had been on the Agenda, but it was not discussed.

Mrs. Kupper moved to accept the November minutes as presented; Dr. Smith seconded. The motion carried.

ABSENCES: Mrs. Swain noted that Mr. Zoller had asked to be excused. He had a meeting scheduled that he could not change it. Dr. Smith moved to accept; Mrs. Kupper seconded. The motion carried.

Mr. Frank Quesada addressed Mr. Delgado and the Board Members. He noted that Mr. Delgado is retiring for the right reasons, but he wanted to personally thank him for his valuable support and guidance when he first came to work at the City as Commissioner's Kerdyk intern. Alberto was always willing to assist and lend his support. He thanked Mr. Delgado for his valuable

assistance all those years ago. He also mentioned that he made it very easy for him when he first joined this Board.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Before sharing his comments, Mr. Delgado introduced James Kay, Engineering Division Supervisor who will be the Secretary to the Board upon Mr. Delgado's retirement. He also explained that this position of Secretary to the Board was always held by the Engineering Supervisor; but that once he became Public Works Director he continued serving as Secretary.

Mr. Delgado discussed the Traffic Projects Master List and the Summary list of all the projects that are right now in the pipe line, those projects that have received residents' approval and are ready to start. There are eight traffic circles, four intersection improvements and four traffic islands. He further explained that there are the following projects:

Zone 1 has a couple of projects; Zone 2 has one project; Zone 3 has two projects; Zones 4, 6, and 7. Mr. Delgado further explained there was no capital fund allocated this year, but if there is any surplus from the Street Improvement fund we will use it for traffic calming projects. Mr. Delgado noted that the County now may allow us to use Impact Fees (gasoline tax) for the traffic calming projects, as well as developers' contributions.

He further noted that intersection realignments are not as expensive as traffic circles. The first three projects on the list have all gone through the process and have the residents' approval, but we still need to go through the voting process, then to the County for approval. Those projects date back to 1999.

Mrs. Swain asked that of the three projects was there anyone that would not approve?

Mr. Martinez brought up the subject of the proposed Publix on 37th Avenue and Flagler. Since they are doing a lot of improvements, maybe the developer(s) would come to our meeting to make a presentation. We may be able to get their contributions for the crosswalks.

Mr. Delgado informed the Board Members that the developer of the San Remo and Nervia Waterway Project had offered to make a contribution, but this project is now on hold.

Dr. Smith asked Mr. Delgado to expand on the process of how traffic circle installations are approved: The County originally, in order to allow the installation of a circle, required approval from 2/3's of the affected area residents, which is one block to the north, one block to the south, one block to the east and one block to the west. Then they changed to 50% +1, 2/3's of the affected area residents. Now they require the residents on the four corners to approve the installation; however, we continue to notify the residents one block to the north, one block to the south, one block to the east and one block to the west.

Once the project is conceptually designed we send a letter to the residents. With these three projects we will send a letter to the residents. Once we get the residents approval, we go to the County with the final design for their approval, which takes some time and then we are ready for construction.

Mrs. Swain asked Mr. Delgado what he thought would be the actual amount of money to be spent on the three projects. Mr. Delgado explained that we may have a \$100,000/\$200,000 from the Street Improvement Fund, because we will also have the Storm water Utility. He said within the \$200,000 range.

Mr. Martinez briefly discussed how the Board Members prioritize the projects and according to need the assign dates for installation. It takes about an hour and the Members trade which projects they want or do not want. He recommended that since there was no funding available, to table the prioritization of the projects. Mr. Delgado suggested reviewing the list and waiting until we have the money.

Mrs. Swain asked the Board Members if they were to go through the exercise was there anyone who would not accept that those top three projects should be the top priority? Because using your discretion on Budget...

Mrs. Kupper asked for Alberto's opinion. Mr. Delgado agreed that since those three jobs are all ready to go. It is hoped that in a couple of months we will have funding for those three.

Since Mr. Delgado had mentioned developers' contributions Mrs. Kupper asked if he could identify any of those projects in particular that may have developers funding. Mr. Delgado confirmed that he thought the Maynada project might be one. There is another one on the other list – Maggiore. To Mrs. Kupper question of how does that work, Mr. Delgado informed her that when a developer wants to start a project and PW confirms that there will be need for some traffic mitigation. They are requested to do it and pay for it. That project in particular is involved.

Mrs. Kupper inquired as to whether we go to them with the idea that this would be necessary for their project. Mr. Delgado explained that when the developer brings a traffic study, we sit down with them and that is when we negotiate. In the Menendez/Amalfi/Maggiore project we identified it would be a good candidate for them to do it. They agreed, but the project is on a financial hold.

Mr. Martinez asked about the Publix being proposed for 37th Avenue and Flagler Street. Mr. Delgado explained that in that particular one the only thing we are getting from them is some kind of a median on Ponce de Leon. At that particular location 2/3 is Coral Gables and 1/3 is Miami. Mr. Martinez mentioned that we may be able to get the County to give us Impact Fees. Discussion ensued as to who will be responsible for answering emergency calls (the Fire Department). Miami – Coral Gables? Alberto explained that they will all answer emergency calls.

Mr. Delgado brought the Members up-to-date on the projects that will be started next year:

On January 4, the two Blue Road Circles. The documents have been signed and the contractor has been given the go ahead.

The median at Biltmore and Segovia, the documents have been signed and the contractor has been given the go ahead. The project will take about three months.

The Segovia Median is in the process of being bid. Mr. Delgado explained that once the Segovia and Biltmore median is completed, we can follow with the Segovia Median and it will take about four months.

The traffic light at Sevilla and Le Jeune Road in front of the Bacardi building is going to start this month. The County is installing that light and they are working with the Flagler Group (Codina). David Plummer & Associates made a presentation to this Board a while ago. The light will be synchronized with the Fire Department. The diverters will be installed on the west side.

Mr. Kries asked Mr. Delgado, since he is retiring, that after this installation is in place, they will come again and study the traffic and if there are needs for any changes, the contractor will be responsible for those changes or correct any traffic intrusion in the area. Mr. Delgado explained that this is part of the development agreement so it is on the record.

Mr. Delgado noted that everything was falling into place. If we follow this schedule and once the building (Bacardi) is finished, before the City releases the CO, all should be in place.

The Phase II of Ponce de Leon Boulevard Project, from Alcazar to Salamanca, can start in March, 2010. This is another project that hopefully can be awarded sometime in January and start sometime in March. This is a six months project.

Mr. Delgado explained that on the Blue Road Circles the City saved \$90,000 (Impact Fees) that could be used for the traffic calming installations. The Board Members discussed the projects and funding available.

Mr. Kries inquired about the Red Road Project, even though it is not ours (it is DOT's). Mr. Delgado informed him that they have received approval from all the Boards (Historic) and now they need to come before the Commission because they need to obtain an easement, but project is scheduled for 2011.

The project that is going on now is the resurfacing of Bird Road, between Red Road and the High School, and installing sidewalks on the north side. Mr. Kay informed the Members that they are looking to start in February 2010. This is also a DOT project.

Mr. Delgado detailed the various funding sources: The GOB bonds (Government Obligations), Stimulus, Sanitary Sewer Fund, Impact Fees, Storm water Utility Fund (pays for dredging).

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Kries he said that even though he said that he was not going to address it at this time, we should address the Valencia corridor, both sides of Le Jeune. All were in agreement.

For the record Mr. Martinez moved that the Board will give priority to the first three projects and address the others later when funding becomes available. Seconded by Mr. Kries. Motion carried.

Mrs. Swain informed the Board Members that she went and checked the stamped asphalt (at Segovia Circle and Alhambra Circle).

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Delgado spoke about the El Rodo Street Project and how beautiful is coming along. Trees have been planted; sidewalks have been installed, as well as drainage. It is a very nice project and the residents are very happy with the outcome. He also explained that this concept could be used on other narrow streets such as Tangiers.

Dr. Smith asked if we are involved in the red light camera recording. Mr. Delgado noted that it was the Police Department's item. Lt. Diaz informed the Board Members that we have one operational on Alhambra Circle and they are probably getting 50 to 60 violations every couple of days. Some municipalities claim that they are an invasion of privacy and are suing. Mrs. Swain explained that they are treating them as Code violations and not as traffic violations.

Lt. Diaz further explained that they have two police officers who review the reports and they do go to court, when needed. Mrs. Swain inquired as to what percentage goes to the firm and what goes to the City, but Lt. Diaz did not have that information.

Mr. Delgado informed the Board Members that the City is getting rid of two hybrid trolleys but are keeping one. In the future they will only be using diesel. It is planned to buy the additional trolley to extend the route to Flagler.

Mrs. Kupper asked if we charge fare for the trolley. Mr. Delgado said no, but they are conducting a study as to how feasible it will be to charge a fare. As a point of information Mr. Delgado informed the Board that the trolley operation has been transferred to the Parking Department. The Automotive Department is conducting the maintenance.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

