

**TRAFFIC ADVISORY BOARD
CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA
FEBRUARY 16, 2010**

MEMBERS:	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	APPOINTED BY:
Ian Martinez	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	E	E	Donald D. Slesnick, II
Larry D. Kries	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	Maria Anderson
Deborah Swain					P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr
Frank Quesada	P	E	E	E	E	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Chris Zoller				P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	Wayne "Chip" Withers
Donna Kupper				P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	Commission-as-a-Whole
Al Smith				P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	A	City Manager

**A - Absent
E - Excused
P - Present**

Staff
James Kay, Engineering Division Supervisor
Esther Zabalo, Civil Engineer
Mirtha Francomacaro, Central
Lt. A. Diaz, Police Department

Mrs. Swain called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Mrs. Swain opened the meeting welcoming Mr. Kay as the new Secretary to the Board upon Mr. Delgado's retirement. Mr. Kay thanked the Members.

Minutes of January 19, 2009:

Mrs. Swain explained that she reviews the draft of the Minutes and told the Members that they were welcome to look at the "rough" draft before she approves the Minutes. Mrs. Swain called for corrections to the Minutes. On motion by Mr. Kries, seconded by Mr. Zoller, the January 19th Minutes were approved. The motion carried.

Secretary's Report:

Mr. Kay informed the members that PW will meet with the residents of Santa Maria Street to present the proposal for installation of speed tables. He discussed the traffic calming installation at the intersection of Valencia and Indian Mound Trail which has been addressed in the past. These are two projects that look good for implementation. PW is still trying to locate funding, keeping in mind that we need a certain amount of money set aside for emergencies between now and the end of the fiscal year. The emergency fund is around \$100,000, but he is not sure whether we will have those funds.

Discussion followed about the reduced cost of traffic circles, with the roundabouts for Blue Road as an example. Mr. Kay advised to keep in mind that the Valencia/Indian Mound trail is comprised of two devices: one roundabout and one triangular shaped island. We will also

improve the intersection and Madrid and Valencia which will require a lot of asphalt. He noted that the price for both will probably be in the vicinity of \$80,000.

Mrs. Zabalo noted that the members had prioritized Obispo Avenue and Pizarro Street, Milan Avenue and Cordova Street, and Valencia Avenue and Indian Mound Trail, and Santa Maria's two speed tables. There were two proposals; traffic circles on Maynada and Alegriano then the speed tables. The speed tables on Santa Maria Street between Pinta Court and Mendavia Avenue were approved by the County. We already have the consensus from the residents for Indian Mound Trail, and we expect construction will start in the summer, while school is out.

Mrs. Zabalo explained that when the consultants who conducted the traffic study found speeding on Santa Maria from Alegriano Avenue all the way to Pinta Court. The first recommendation was a traffic circle, but that was not really addressing the speeding issue on Mendavia Avenue and on Pinta Court. Mr. Soria, Marlin Engineering, noted that since the County had approved the speed tables, it was a better recommendation if we went ahead with the speed tables. Mrs. Zabalo mentioned that if we use stamped concrete instead of pavers it would be cheaper still.

Mrs. Swain noted that she saw the work on El Rado Street and that we used some bricks for the sidewalk areas. She asked if the City had any plans to improve those other streets, and if there would be any application for the stamped concrete. Mr. Kay explained that the bricks adhere better to the concrete rather than to the asphalt. He also noted that PW is now dealing with the residents as to the parking issue.

Mr. Kay reported that the Blue Road roundabouts are moving along - the yield signs are not up yet, and they are putting the curbing now.

Mr. Zoller noted that he recently used Ridgewood Road, a little road that runs between Le Jeune and Main Highway. He continued by saying that he uses the road often and he thinks is a great circle and a good place to have it. It went up and finished pretty quickly.

In response to a question, Mr. Kay said that the City is paying for the circle on Erwin Road, which is between Miami-Dade County and Coral Gables. Mr. Kay noted that in Pinecrest they want to put in sidewalks on both sides of the street and Coral Gables has a little section.

Mr. Kay reported that the Segovia Circle will be finished in 90 days, sometime end of March beginning of April. In response to further questions, Mr. Kay explained that the current contractor is Metro Express. His contract expires this fiscal year and we are getting ready to bid out the projects with a contract and start the process. Mr. Kay explained that the contract with Metro Express stipulates that it will not exceed \$1.2 million, which is a very good price. He further explained that we use different contractors according to their qualifications.

It was noted that the DOT project had started on Bird Road, and that DOT had realigned the lanes on the bridge.

The Ponce de Leon Median Project has not started yet. The contract needs to be signed before we issue the Notice to Proceed.

City Update:

None.

New Business:

Mrs. Swain stated she understands from the Fire Department that in some of the circles the curbs are too high, some are deteriorating because vehicles are going over them, and asked if there is a formal process where Fire and Police are part of the final inspection before final payments to the contractor. Mr. Kay explained that PW checks with the Fire and Police Departments whenever a calming device is proposed for any location. They are set designs where the curbs are standard. However, we continue hearing from the Fire Department where the device is too high on one side, and we have also heard complaints from the Fire Representative.

Mrs. Swain suggested that before the final payment Fire and Police should inspect the construction. Discussion among the members followed, indicating agreement. Lt. Diaz commented that the Police have no need to inspect after construction and are satisfied reviewing the plans prior to construction.

Mrs. Swain said that we should be very sensitive to the cost of the consultant, and how we get things to proceed if it is deemed important to the Board. Mr. Kay said that circles, and even roundabouts, can be designed in-house. The traffic consultant performs the evaluation for the conceptual design stage. For example, we know there is an issue on Maynada and US1, and he had already done the evaluation, but if something like that comes up, how do we get that to the consultant for evaluation.

Mr. Kay and Mrs. Zabalo explained that the consultant is engaged when we get requests from the residents, but right now we are not paying any consultant fees. In the case of Santa Maria, Marlin did the traffic study. The Members discussed the issue of the consultant and the fees we pay. Every traffic study costs approximately \$3,000. They now understand the process and know that even though a project may have been approved previously, they can revisit and reconsider.

Accidents on Valencia: Augusto and US1 - 12 accidents in a year, and Maynada and US1- 0. Mr. Quesada asked if 12 is a lot of accidents. Maynada has a stop sign and Augusto does not. Citywide bicycle accidents – 32. Lt. Diaz did not know how serious they were. He read from a report on crashes at five intersections. Number one intersection was Le Jeune and US1, 23. Le Jeune and Alhambra, 22. Number three was Andalusia and Salzedo, 19. Bird and Le Jeune and US1 and Granada were also 19. The Police address the intersections with most accidents.

The next two red light cameras are going on Jefferson and US1 and Riviera and US1, Lt. Diaz said. To the question whether these cameras will catch drivers who block the intersection, and –

no, they will not. Two or three years ago the Police had enough staff, they put officers out there who were ticketing drivers, who whether intentionally or stupidly, either way, were blocking the cross traffic. Lt. Diaz said that those cases were addressed on overtime.

Striping: Mr. Kries brought a list of 38 intersections. He noted that some the stripes were either non-existent, but were never there. He gave the list to Mrs. Swain.

Old Business:

None.

Excused absence:

Mr. Zoller informed the Members that he had received an e-mail from Mr. Martinez, which was sent to all the members asking to be excused from attending this meeting. Upon motion made by Mr. Zoller, seconded by Mr. Quesada, Mr. Martinez is excused. Motion carried.

At the last meeting Mrs. Kupper said she would not be attending this meeting. On motion made by Mr. Kries, seconded by Mr. Zoller, Mrs. Kupper is excused. Motion carried.

Mrs. Swain read the e-mail from the City Clerk requesting a list of absences. This Board has not unexcused members and will be sent to the City Clerk.

Mr. Quesada said that he had been on a trial last April and May and that those absences had been excused, as per Mr. Morrison, the previous Chairman. Staff to confirm. Staff confirmed and those were excused absences.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mrs. Swain adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.