

TRAFFIC ADVISORY BOARD
CORAL GABLES YOUTH CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2010, 5:30 P.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS	D 09	J 10	F 10	M 10	A 10	M 10	J 10	J 10	A 10	S 10	O 10	N 10	APPOINTED BY:
Emilio Vazquez											P	P	Donald D. Slesnick, II
Larry D. Kries		P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Maria Anderson
Deborah Swain		P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
VACANT		P	P	P	#	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Chris Zoller		P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	Wayne "Chip" Withers
Donna Kupper		P	E	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	P	P	Commission-as-a-Whole
Al Smith		P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	City Manager

P - Present

E - Excused Absence

A - Absent

*** - New Member**

+ - No Meeting

(#) Resigned Staff:

Staff:

Glenn Kephart, Public Works Director
Ernesto Pino, Public Works Assistant Director
James Kay, Engineering Division Supervisor
Ludwik Janiga, Civil Engineer
Jeannette Reyes, Clerical Assistant II
Sergeant Garcia, Police Department

Mrs. Swain called meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Mrs. Swain advised she has no announcements.

Members excused:

Mrs. Swain asked for a motion to excuse Mr. Zoller. Mr. Kries made the motion and Ms. Kupper seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes of September 21, 2010 and October 19, 2010:

Mrs. Swain asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Kries made a motion, Ms. Kupper seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Secretary's Report:

Mr. Kay mentioned that during the last meeting, a schedule for the Ponce de Leon Boulevard project was requested and stated the project is to be completed at the end of March 2011.

He reported that the contractor is moving along on both sides of the street with the sidewalk. Next month, the contractor will be moving on to the next phase of the project (the median), which involves planting trees, landscaping and then the asphalt paving and striping. He also mentioned that the Santa Maria speed tables needed follow up on.

Mr. Kay indicated that the city is working with the county to resolve issues associated with bike path striping at Country Club Prado to consider re-striping bicycle paths.

Mr. Kay reported that the stop sign at the Ponce Middle School is still pending the County's response.

Mr. Kephart indicated that the Segovia median project bids are being evaluated.

Old Business:

Mr. Kay provided the Board with maps showing the entire City's existing roundabouts and traffic circles. The map includes roundabouts and circles constructed within the last 10-12 years.

Also during the last meeting, there was a question if the City would be sending notifications to business owners affected by the Ponce de Leon Boulevard project and a sample of the notification was provided to the Board.

Mr. Kephart presented the Board with a report of all the traffic calming project requests which include recommended projects, projects under evaluation and not recommended projects. He explained the traffic calming request process to be as follows: (1) a request is made; (2), an evaluation is done to determine the need and if there's an actual traffic problem; (3) staff makes a recommendation by either agreeing there's an issue or need for safety device; (4) proceed with a concept design; (5) get estimate; (6) get community approval; (7) get County approval. Mr. Kephart mentioned that public safety reviews all designs prior to finalization. He stated that due to funding, the only project scheduled for this year is the Palermo Ave and Desoto Boulevard.

Ms. Kupper questioned about the funding and Mr. Kephart said that the funding available right now also includes the street pavement and it's not enough to cover all recommended projects. Ms. Kupper asked about the available City funding sources including the gas tax, impact fees and City funds. Mr. Pino mentioned that the paving projects and traffic calming projects are funded with either the gas tax or impact fees and that impact fees are mostly used for larger projects such as the Segovia Median. He stated the gas tax funds are mostly used for paving and smaller traffic calming projects like the one at Palermo Avenue and Desoto Boulevard. Mrs. Swain mentioned that last year projects were presented to the Board for approval and then placed on a schedule. She said there were several older projects that the Board said not to bother with and asked if the other approved projects were on this list. Mr. Pino answered yes and that the list included those that were prioritized such as Red Road and Lugo Avenue.

Mrs. Swain said that during the last meeting someone asked why not use medians rather than speed tables at Santa Maria. Initially residents requested traffic circles and speed bumps were

recommended. She added that the problems with speed tables are the bumps, signage and noise. She asked why a median is not an alternative. Mr. Pino responded that he is not sure there's enough width but will look into it. Mr. Kephart stated if this is done, it would cause a significant delay since new concept plans would be needed and process will need to be restarted.

Mrs. Swain requested an update on the Department of Transportation Bird Road project. Mr. Kay said they are working on the signals and believes they finished the sidewalks on the North side. They are still working on pedestrian bridge and the sidewalk that leads up to the landing gear on the bridge on the east side of the canal. Mr. Pino mentioned that the sidewalks are completed on both sides of the pedestrian bridge and all the sidewalks are completed on the north side. He also said that pending is sod in some areas and the work on the signals on Alhambra & Bird Road.

New Business:

Ms. Kupper mentioned that she and Mr. Kay have been communicating with a resident from Gables by the Sea, Mr. Dick Arnold. Mr. Arnold would like to see a change made, due to the gravity of the situation, where there are three streets in Gables by the Sea that form a continuous "U" shape, (Bernal Street, Cartagena Avenue and Virtudes Street) and where the pavement is very narrow for two-way vehicular traffic. There are State protected lands (mangroves) on two sides of the "U-shape" and on the third side there is Gulliver Academy. The homeowners who live there know how traffic maneuvers on these streets, when one car passes another in two-way traffic, the other car moves over to allow the right of passage since the pavement is only wide enough for one driving lane. Mr. Arnold's concern is that when bicycling on these streets, someone may get hurt. Ms. Kupper stated there are not a lot of choices in that area and she suggested that he not ride his bike on those three streets. Additionally, the people who bought homes there like the streets the way they are and they are not looking to change anything. Mr. Kay mentioned that it looks like the homeowners live on what appears to be a half-street. The edge of the existing pavement is at or near the right-of-way lines where stands of mangroves are presently located so that widening the street pavement to the east or north is not an option. Widening the pavement in the other directions (west and south sides) would be taking over essentially the front yards of the homeowners, so there really isn't an option there. Ms. Kupper suggested to Mr. Arnold to speak to each of the residents and see if they would vote in favor of turning these three streets into a one-way route.

Ms. Kupper agreed that it's a concern but there are not a lot of options. Mr. Kay suggested the only option then is a one-way street system and that he could contact the County, but Ms. Kupper asked to not approach the County if the residents don't have a concern, Mr. Arnold does not live on those streets, but he likes to ride his bicycle on them. Mr. Kephart indicated that the City would not be pursuing changes without the associations support.

Mrs. Swain informed there will be no meeting in December and the next meeting will be in January. She mentioned she wanted to be advised of the Santa Maria meeting because she would like to attend.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.