

**TRAFFIC ADVISORY BOARD
CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA
JANUARY 19, 2010**

MEMBERS:	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	APPOINTED BY:
Ian Martinez	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	E		Donald D. Slesnick, II
Larry D. Kries	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	P	P		Maria Anderson
Deborah Swain							P	P	P	P	P	P	Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr
Frank Quesada	E	P	A	A	P	E	P	P	A	P	P	P	William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Chris Zoller							P	P	P	P	P	E	Wayne "Chip" Withers
Donna Kupper							P	P	P	P	P	P	Commission-as-a-Whole
Al Smith							P	P	P	P	E	P	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 December 19, 2009:

Mrs. Swain called for corrections and/or revisions to the Minutes of the December 19, 2009. Mrs. Donna Kupper moved to accept the minutes as presented; Mr. Kries seconded. The motion carried.

Mrs. Swain noted that the residents who wanted to appear before the Board were not in attendance, so she asked Mr. Kay to proceed with the Public Works report.

Secretary's Report:

Segovia and Biltmore Way roundabout is well under construction now. He commented on the detour plan.

Mr. Kay noted that the Bird Road project is actually a Florida Department of Transportation project. They are concentrating right now on installing new sidewalks up to the existing sidewalk on the east side and crossing the pedestrian bridge. There will be a dedicated area for pedestrians which is much needed. He noted that most of our bridges are sub-standard in that regard. The last thing they will do repaving on Granada and the other one is on Ponce de Leon. The project will take approximately 280 days. They are just getting started. Work is being conducted on one side of the road.

Mrs. Swain questioned what the traffic plan is when they are adding the pedestrian walkway to the bridge. Mr. Kay informed her that it should not really interfere with the dredging work taking place.

Mr. Kay made mention of the Blue Road roundabouts project, which are underway.

Phase II of the Ponce de Leon Project, from Alcazar to Salamanca, with a brand new landscaped median will be starting. Parking will be changed from angle parking to parallel parking all the way. Mr. Kay explained that four lanes of traffic go through there and to be able to have parking on both sides of the street and a media, the parking lane had to be smaller due to the median. When asked about the cost of the project Mr. Kay noted that it came in about a million dollars less than what was assessed. He also reminded the Members that these are Impact Fees and can only be used for capacity improvement projects. When asked if we would have money for traffic projects, Mr. Kay said that it depended on where the Administration wanted to allocate the funds.

The members commented that a couple of months ago reverse angle parking had been discussed and how much more pedestrian and automobile friendly it is.

Mr. Kay reported on the San Amaro and Miller Road UM project, which involves changing the entrance to the University campus. The work will be done on University property. Mr. Kay noted that he had spoken with Mrs. Gavarrete and is a go, and that to his knowledge, the residents had approved it.

Mrs. Kupper inquired about the Obispo Avenue and Pizarro Street; the Milan Avenue and Cordova Street; and the Valencia Avenue and Indian Mound Trail projects. Mrs. Zabalo noted that although those projects were close to being constructed, there was no funding. Mr. Kay said that we will make every effort to find those funds. We could look at the gas tax for funding. Is not a matter of fund, is a matter of eligible funds.

Dr. Smith noted that a resident asked him why we could not install a stop sign at the intersection of Maynada and US1 off of Bird Rd. Members discussed this busy intersection which gets most traffic during school drop-off and pick-up. This resident lives in Mr. Zoller's district. so he will contact him and find out why he feels the stop sign will work.

PW to research the Minutes of May/June when Marlin Engineering made its presentation and recommendation for this busy intersection. Following is an excerpt of the June minutes on the intersection of US1, Augusto and Maynada.

“Marlin Engineering developed three alternatives for this intersection.

- Alternative 1 – will require some median installation and striping.***
- Alternative 2 – will require the traffic circle which is expensive.***
- Alternative 3 – the most simple will involve removal of asphalt and some striping.***

Mr. Delgado noted that this is a very critical intersection and for many years residents have been complaining about the traffic. The City investigated and asked the consultant to develop a plan taking into consideration the fact that we do not want to stop the flow of traffic coming from US1.”

Alternative 3 is the re-alignment of this intersection.

Mrs. Zabalo noted that in order to implement delineators, at least we have to have the striping implemented. Ms. Swain suggested that first we should wait for Mr. Zoller to talk with the resident (Mr. Katson) and maybe put this item back on the Agenda for next month.

Projects List:

Mrs. Zabalo said that Mr. Kay's presentation was the update. We want to complete the two locations we have from last year. Also, Brighton Place at Ridgewood, and Erwin Road and Tibidabo which were stopped due to lack of funds.

Mrs. Swain asked about the status of the striping projects submitted to the County. Mrs. Zabalo said that PW had sent a letter to the County. Of the two bicycle path striping projects submitted – bicycle paths on University Dr. and Bella Vista, only Bella Vista has been completed.

The Members discussed that striping has disappeared or is non-existent on many roads. The City does stripe as part of a traffic and/drainage installation, but that is all. Mr. Quesada asked if PW had a list showing where striping was needed. Mrs. Zabalo noted that if PW knows of an area that needs striping, it is reported to the County. Mr. Quesada related the incident of one cyclist killed the previous week-end on Key Biscayne, but did not know if it was because there was no striping. Lt. Diaz to investigate and report back on how many accidents of this type have taken place. Mr. Quesada suggested to the Members that each keep a record of their zones where striping is needed, so that it can be reported to the County so we can improve the safety of our streets.

Dr. Smith asked if the Police Department provides information to PW on accidents. Lt. Diaz offered to provide list of accidents. Dr. Smith also asked if the street routes that neither Police nor Fire want modified because of emergency vehicles are marked on a map someplace. Lt. Diaz said that there are certain routes they do not want modified, Ponce de Leon, Granada Boulevard, Le Jeune Road, to mention a few.

Old Business:

The members inquired how projects get evaluated by the traffic engineer and what kind of funding do we need to worry about.

Mrs. Swain spoke about the street situation on Valencia Avenue in front of the Post Office, where people are stacked-up and where three lanes try to merge in a very narrow lane. Mr. Kries noted that this corridor is a major cut through. Lt. Diaz is to bring accidents reported on the Valencia corridor. The Members discussed among themselves probable solutions.

The new red light camera Le Jeune and Alhambra West was discussed. First the company, American Traffic Solutions, will send a notice. Then you either pay or you can go before a special hearing officer and argue the validity of the ticket. These meetings are held once a month and the infractions will be treated as Code Enforcement violations and not infractions. Lt. Diaz said that the plan is to install two more red lights, one at Ponce de Leon and Miracle Mile.

The Members wanted to know how much revenue has the City received from this installation, but Lt. Diaz informed them that that information is handled through another department.

Excused absence:

It was noted that Ian Martinez requested to be excused. Upon motion made by Mr. Zoller, seconded by Dr. Smith, Mr. Ian Martinez's is excused.

New Business:

None.

No residents attended the meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.