

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-6
June 28, 2022
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Michael Mena

Commissioner Rhonda Anderson

Commissioner Jorge Fors, Jr.

Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

City Attorney, Miriam Ramos

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Deputy City Attorney, Cristina Suarez

Senior Transportation Engineer, Melissa DeZayas

Public Works Director, Hermes Diaz

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item G-6 [Start: 5:20 p.m.]

Discussion regarding bike lanes, specifically in the areas of Salzedo Street in the residential infill district (North Ponce) and from the Mobility Hub to Cardena Street. (Sponsored by Commissioner Anderson)

Commissioner Anderson: We know you never do. Mayor, if you're ready, I want to do a similar thing with the bike lanes, G-6.

Mayor Lago: Okay. Perfect.

Commissioner Anderson: There are only particular slides, Ms. DeZayas, that I think we need to just pop up for the concepts.

Mayor Lago: How are you doing? How are you guys?

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Ms. DeZayas: Good, thanks.

Mayor Lago: Thank you for being here. I know it's a late one.

Commissioner Anderson: I think we only need slides 2, 3, and 5. That's another story. That was supposed to up...Just for planning purposes, I wanted to warn you all. I told my husband to get himself an electric bike so he can ride with me. I should have known better. We celebrated our 35th wedding anniversary this past year. This is a man that used to have a Harley, so this is what I got. But for planning purposes when you are doing bicycle parking, these electric bikes kind of get big if you have someone that wants one of these beach cruisers, like my husband dreaming like he was riding a motorcycle again. So, you need a little more space. It might need a car parking spot for that thing.

City Manager Iglesias: Those are off-road bikes.

Commissioner Anderson: Yes.

Mayor Lago: With the battery.

Commissioner Anderson: With the battery, yes, and it can go 28 miles per hour and get about 60 miles or range. Anyway, that was not the picture, we were going to go through your slides.

Ms. DeZayas: When you were referencing the numbers of the slide, were you referencing the original presentation or the revised based on your comment?

Commissioner Anderson: I didn't see the revised ones.

Public Works Director Diaz: The aerial views.

Commissioner Anderson: The aerial views.

Public Works Director Diaz: That's the one you want to...

Ms. DeZayas: I revised it based on your comments.

Commissioner Anderson: Its just the blue and orange lines. If we can go to slide 2. When we were discussing the mobility hub, we talked about having a bike lane to it; and since we are dealing with Dove Kohl, the Biltmore Way streetscape.

Ms. DeZayas: That would be this one.

Commissioner Anderson: Okay. And because Villa Valencia has in its development agreement the requirement for either a bike lane or a median, now is the time for us to have this discussion, because if we're going to put a bike lane on Biltmore Way or on Valencia in that area, I think it

would be helpful if we had Dover Kohl help us with the conversation with the residents in the area, so that we can determine how we can start bringing people in from these highly dense areas where you have lots of traffic into the mobility hub. Now, I've only run this example from Cardena to the mobility hub, because this is where the traffic gets more difficult for bicyclists to navigate on a residential street. You don't have parallel parked cars, opening up their doors, presenting that type of a hazard and the volume and the speed of the traffic and the density and the traffic that you deal with in those three blocks. So, I focused on that. Again, looking for the Commission's appetite to move forward with discussions with residents in these sectors, so that we can plan for the future.

Mayor Lago: I wholeheartedly support you on this matter and I think its something that you also need to consider, I've had these conversations with the Manager. Hopefully when Publix is redeveloped, they have been in discussions for some time, I think its time to take advantage of their engagement, make sure that they design accordingly and that they also provide a lot of these improvements to the street, I think it's going to be a benefit to their project and the community as-a-whole. So, let's keep that in mind; and I've already had multiple meetings with Publix in regard to design issues that they're having, and the Manager and I had a meeting probably, what about three weeks ago.

City Manager Iglesias: Yes Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Had a meeting with them three weeks ago, and they are working through multiple different iterations. They should be coming back in the next two months. So now is the time, and I made it very clear that we want activation at the first floor, we want bike lanes, we want to understand exactly what they are going to be proffering. So, let's keep that in mind with the Mobility Hub, Publix, I'm all in. I support you 110 percent.

Commissioner Anderson: So, my question to the City Attorney was, do we need to do a motion or is this already within the scope of work that Dover Kohl can do?

Commissioner Menendez: Well, before we go further, I just want to add my two cents, three cents, its inflation, so its probably four. This, like the metal roofs, this is something that's been kicked around, bounced around, discussed in the community for a long time. I too think we need to move forward as far as we can, so we can so we can make an educated decision at the end of the day, but we can't get there unless we take the necessary steps. So, I'm totally in support. Let's see what we can come up with. Let's see what designs and plans would work and that gives us the opportunity to make a definitive decision one way or the other. But I'm excited that we are able to tackle some of these issues finally, once and for all as a Commission, because the community really, really wants us to. So, you have my support.

City Manager Iglesias: Commissioner, this is outside the scope of the current work, so we would have to include the scope.

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Commissioner Anderson: So, we'll bring it back for another Commission meeting, when would it be appropriate.

Deputy City Attorney Suarez: As soon as, I guess, staff has the scope of work set forth and they can bring it back as a resolution. It would be a resolution.

City Manager Iglesias: Yes. What we can do is add the scope of work to the Biltmore contract, because this is all continuous and we can bring this back to the Commission. Should be, I think we can probably do it in the July meeting because it's been changed to the 25th.

Ms. DeZayas: Scope for...?

City Manager Iglesias: The scope to include this new work by Dover Kohl. So, take the work from the Biltmore all the way to the Mobility Hub and include...

Ms. DeZayas: Extending the limits from LeJeune to...

Public Works Director Diaz: There is a little bit of an overlap. The area on Biltmore Way, it is within their scope, so that would have to be part of the discussion when we go through the Biltmore Way...

Commissioner Anderson: The reason why I think we may need a resolution is because its either going to be, residents don't want it on Biltmore Way and want to use Valencia, then you may need an expansion of the scope of work. Either way we are going to talking parking adjustments, angling of the parking, all that I think that they are well equipped to handle.

City Manager Iglesias: Commissioner, not only are we adding Valencia, but we are extending the scope to the mobility hub, really to Ponce de Leon, so this is a change in scope.

Commissioner Anderson: Right, you're correct. The second set of slides that we need to look at is Salzedo north of Coral Way. It would be slide 5.

Ms. DeZayas: [Inaudible]...at Zamora, so that's north of Alhambra.

Commissioner Anderson: Okay. Conceptually.

Ms. DeZayas: Conceptually.

Commissioner Anderson: Conceptually what I'm talking about here is future planning. If you drive up and down Salzedo from 8th Street to Coral Way, there is a section where we have the residential infill district, and as future buildings come in, if the parking spaces in the highly dense residential infill district are incorporated into the buildings we can build a bike lane north and south between 8th Street and roughly north of Bacore somewhere, whether we stop that on Madeira or Zamora is something that can be opened for discussion. But before we have more and more projects coming

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forward for future vision, I think we need to do the visioning now so that we can design for the future when those buildings come to us looking for that. We're just basically talking about two parking spaces per building on the end that would enable us to slowly build out a bike lane in this dense area. Also, folks have come to me that love to avoid bringing their car out for such a short trip down to City Hall or a short trip to Miracle Mile, the Miracle Theater or any other amenity here, because its less hassle just to jump on the bicycle and come in and ultimately be able to get to the mobility hub. I don't know if its wise to continue the bike lanes further down to the mobility hub because it's such a highly dense district and maybe it just makes more sense to have the bicycles take the lane, because there is just not enough space. Throwing it out to you all to see if we should start working this into future plans for new buildings that are coming in, in the North Gables.

Mayor Lago: I'm always interested in learning a little bit more what possibilities we have and how we can incorporate different modes of transportation, especially safe modes of transportation. But my question is, are you talking about limiting some of the parking on the right-of-way?

Commissioner Anderson: It's eliminated on the right-of-way and incorporated in the buildings that are next to Salzedo, okay, then we can slowly build out bike lanes there.

Mayor Lago: Are you talking about a dedicated bike lane?

Commissioner Anderson: Dedicated bike lane. Take a ride on it.

Mayor Lago: Listen, I don't have an issue with it. I don't. I don't have an issue, especially in this area because of how wide Biltmore Way is. The issue is the cost. This is a major, major...

City Manager Iglesias: This is Salzedo.

Mayor Lago: Sorry, Salzedo. I apologize, I don't want to say Biltmore Way. I apologize.

Commissioner Anderson: No. I'm not talking cost. I'm talking about the next building that – Let's say we have another Madeira project come in. Add two parking spaces to your place. Those two parking spaces are now available for a bike lane in the future. And as we start to connect it...

City Manager Iglesias: That area has all bump-outs on both sides, a lot of it, and parallel parking. So, we would have to remove the small, landscaped area, but I think we have to look at that right-of-way. I believe its 60 feet, is it not?

Public Works Director Diaz: I believe so.

City Manager Iglesias: Its about 60 feet. So, are we saying we want a study done, contract a study done in this Salzedo area? Is that what the Commission is asking to do?

Mayor Lago: I'm willing to support you on that.

Commissioner Anderson: Yes. Yes. Before we have another building plan come in for another building along Salzedo, I think we need to incorporate the future of building out some bike lanes for north-south corridor here, as far as its feasible. It may not be feasible for the whole thing. In other words, one block off of 8th Street might be the appropriate place to start, because you don't want to take the parking away from or have bicyclists rolling up right next to the 7/11 there, because it gets too dangerous with the driveway. So, we can study it, staff can make some recommendations of where we should begin it, and where we should end it, so that when these future developments come in, like you have around the corner there on Salzedo there is an empty piece of property right now. When they come in to build, they can incorporate those two parking spaces into their building and then that's freed up for a bike lane in the future. Its going to take time and I understand that. But if we don't think about it now, it will never happen.

City Manager Iglesias: I think if we want to do that, we have to master plan it and take a look at Salzedo, get a consultant, and take a look at how we want to handle Salzedo. Right now, because I'm familiar with that area, it's got bump-outs, it's got parallel parking, the grass area where the shade is, where the trees are, and then facing the sidewalk. So that's what we're working with.

Commissioner Anderson: Its not a lot of bump-outs there. You'll be surprised, some of those bridal vales are kind of shoved into a very tight area and they are busting up, a few of them are busting up the sidewalk, one is even raising the asphalt.

City Manager Iglesias:...It could be at the corner and then you've got continuous parking through there.

Commissioner Anderson: Yes. So as part of the improvements to the area that the development does, they can help take care of those issues and put in trees that are better suited for that space.

Mayor Lago: I'm fully on board and I'd like to see a study produced showing us, so when we do have new developments coming online that we can tell him, listen, before you consider designing your project, let's see if we can really implement some bike lanes.

City Manager Iglesias: Does the Commission wish us to master plan the area for that?

Mayor Lago: I think that that would be great. I think we can get into some detail, but into something – I don't want it to cost too much, but let's see what we can do.

City Manager Iglesias: We can get some numbers and come back to the Commission in July or August. Maybe July might be a little close, but we can get consultants to give us some numbers on some of the cost involved and come back in August.

Commissioner Anderson: Nothing is going to be coming in front of us.
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Mayor Lago: You want to put that on the agenda in August?

Commissioner Anderson: In August.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk, we'll put that item on the Commission, please.

City Manager Iglesias: Our Transportation Manager can get a price for the consultants for that area, the area that we just looked at.

Mayor Lago: Thank you.

Ms. DeZayas: Salzedo.

Mayor Lago: Thank you very much. Commissioner, you have anything else on that item or you want me to move onto G-8?