

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES**  
**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD**  
 HYBRID MEETING AT CITY HALL/ZOOM  
 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup> 2022

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	A	M	J	J	A	S <sup>v</sup>	O <sup>H</sup>	N <sup>H</sup>	D <sup>H</sup>	J <sup>H</sup>	F <sup>H</sup>	M <sup>H</sup>	
	19	19	21	21	21	20	19	18	21	18	22	15	
Silvia Pinera-Vazquez	A	/	*	P	P	/	p	P	+ -	p	/	P	<i>Fors</i>
Oscar Sosa	P	/	/	/	/	/	P	P	+ -	A	P	P	<i>Mayor</i>
Debbie Swain	P	/	P	P	P	P	P	P	+ -	P	/	P	<i>VM Mena</i>
Sue Kawalerski	P	/	P	P	P	P	P	P	+ -	P	P	P	<i>Anderson</i>
David Fournier*	P	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	A	P	P	<i>Menendez</i>
Roberta Neway	P	/	/	P	P	/	p	P	+ -	P	P	P	<i>Commission</i>
Peter Wood	P	/	P	P	E	P	P	P	+ -	P	/	P	<i>City Manager</i>

P: Present in person      P: Present virtually (zoom)      <sup>v</sup>Virtual Meeting  
 E- Excused Absence      A- Absent      <sup>H</sup>Hybrid  
 \*-New Member      (+ -) No Meeting

**Staff:**

Melissa de Zayas, Sr. Transportation Engineer  
 Cherie Rodriguez, Transportation Engineer  
 Jessie Acebo, Assistant to the Public Works Director  
 Anthonique Jay, PT Clerical Aide

**Guest:**

Lt. Barnet

**Via ZOOM:**

**Call to Order:**

Meeting called to order by Sue Kawalerski at 5:30 PM. Sue Kawalerski, Roberta Neway, Debbie Swain, David Fournier, Oscar Sosa, and Peter Wood were in attendance. Silvia Pinera-Vazquez was absent. Quorum was met.

**Meeting Minutes Approval:**

Sue requested minor amendments on the march 15<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. The Board agreed with the amendments suggested by Sue. Debbie moved to have the Minutes approval moved to the next Board meeting, seconded by Oscar, all in favor. Debbie moved to approve the February meeting minutes, seconded by Sue, all in favor.

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**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Sue requested for items under "Old Business" be addressed under chairman's report.

Roberta provided a brief description of what took place during the Mobility Hub presentation at the City Commission meeting. Roberta informed the Board that the Commission would not budge as to the purpose of the first floor of the Mobility Hub, however the Commission will keep in mind the suggestions of the Board. The Commission is committed to the bicycle lanes on Valencia Ave. Sue stated that the Commission accepted the resolution.

Sue requested to address the poles that attach to traffic signs. In the previous meeting staff advised the Board that the speed shields can only attach to U-Channel poles. Lt. Barnet advised that the Speed Shields do not need to be attached specifically to MPH Signs. Sue asked staff if it is too late to order U-Chanel poles instead of the FDOT standard poles. Staff advised the Board that the City will be using the standard pole utilized by FDOT. Sue wanted to know why the City would not use a more utilitarian pole. Staff explained that the standard pole being used at state and municipal level is the standard round pole. The direction received from City Manager is to follow FDOT standards. Lt. Barnet advised the Board that the speed shields can attach to other traffic signs, not just the MPH Signs. Debbie asked staff what the difference in price for the poles were. Staff advised that we have a contract in place, if the city moves from that contract, it might be more expensive.

Sue asked staff about the sunshine meeting for the Biltmore Streetscape. Melissa advised that the initial meeting date was a place holder on the calendar, not the official date. Once that meeting date was agreed on it was posted on the City website for the public. Sue requested to know what standard procedure is used to notify residents when a sunshine meeting is scheduled. Debbie clarified that during the February TAB meeting staff did not have an actual date for the sunshine meeting, in the March TAB meeting Melissa advised the Board that the sunshine meeting was to be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March. Sue expressed the importance of the Board being involved due to the Biltmore Streetscape potentially changing the traffic pattern. Melissa advised the Board that resident input was heard at the sunshine meeting, concerns and requested will be on the agenda in the next Commission meeting. The City will be scheduling a series of meeting to get input from the residents. Melissa advised the Board that those meetings have yet to be scheduled. Melissa advised the Board that the department received a proposal and said proposal will be presented at the upcoming Commission meeting, once approved the City will move forward with scheduling meetings. Sue asked if the proposal was available for the Boards review. Melissa advised the proposal will be available at the Commission meeting. Melissa advised the Board that this proposal is not for the design, it is a proposal to start scheduling the meetings.

Sue requested an update on the South Alhambra Bike Lanes. Cherie provided an update, stating that we have received the final design draft from the consultant, and it is currently in review. The consultant should have completed plans by the end of May. The City is looking at scheduling a public meeting in the beginning of June. The meeting will be held in the neighborhood. Details will be disclosed once a venue is agreed upon.

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Sue asked staff about bike lanes, specifically Valencia bike lanes. Sue stated this topic was discussed during Commission. Sue stated that even though she did not watch the Commission she heard that the members of the Commission are in favor of bike lanes on Valencia and started listing street names. Sue motioned to have a resolution titled "Residents' Outreach for Bikeways". The resolution reads *"The TAB strongly recommends that the commission direct staff to reach out to residents who could be directly affected by any proposal to install bike lanes or shared use paths before any action to move on the proposals be taken, including work by staff on the proposal at the request of Commission or City administration. The outreach to residents requires methods such as certified letters in addition to emails to ensure that the majority of residents on any street are reached and informed. The purpose of the outreach to residents' resolution is to inform the residents of potential changes to the streets, sidewalks, and swales in front of their properties, and to allow them effective input on the proposals, including their acceptance or rejection of the proposal, to gauge residents support for these kinds of projects. The TAB suggest that the City compose a clear statement of the purpose and benefit for these projects and distribute a survey to all residents. In addition, the TAB requests to be informed of any proposal at the earliest possible meeting of the Board after the proposals are initiated by the Commission and or City administration. The intent is to make sure residents are informed before action is taken to prevent unpleasant situations"*. Debbie disagreed, stating that she doesn't believe that the roadways only belong to the neighbors and residents. Discussions should not just be up to the residents to determine the only use of a streets. Roberta agreed with Debbie. Roberta does agree that residents should be informed and heard, however the streets and swales belong to everyone. Oscar disagreed with Roberta's statement. Oscar argued that on his street kids are always playing, why would they welcome the bicycle traffic? Oscar is against adding a bike lane to his street. Debbie clarified the purpose of having bike lanes, stating they are not for road cyclist but for children and grandparents. Debbie stated she lives on a collector street, the fact that the street where she resides is a collector street the City cannot reduce the speed limit to 25 MPH like the rest of the City. For this reason, the City passed a resolution that does not require resident input to add a sidewalk. Peter asked the Board to what extent is this resolution a departure from current state of affairs. The City does inform residents about proposed changes. Melissa responded yes; the City does advise residents. Sue stated that during the Alhambra Bike Lane project the residents were notified after a grant was applied for and received. What Sue is proposing is that residents be advised immediately. Peter states that the sequence maybe in question, but clearly the residents were informed before any changes were made on the street. David stated that the phrase "bike lanes" have a bad reputation, residents tend to react when they see or hear the term bike lanes. Debbie stated that Blue Road is 18 ft wide as well as Alhambra stating that this is not legal. Roberta stated that Coral Gables does have narrow streets, but some streets can benefit from a bicycle lane. Roberta shared her experience with a public meeting in regard to adding a bike lane stating that staff wasn't even awarded the opportunity to discuss the plan or options. Debbie stated that she did some research and found that some bike lanes were done without resident input and there was no public outcry. Sue continued to explain the reason for her motion stating that this motion is to ensure clear communication.

### **Police Report**

Lt. Barnett provide the results for the traffic rush report on Coral Way, South Greenway, and Anderson. The report shows a total of 24 crashes in the past 3 years, 21 of those crashes were due to failure to yield. The length of Coral Way from Lejeune Road to Red Road, there was about 284 accidents in a three-year period.

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Speed shields were installed to capture the data on volume and speed, there were about 88,000 cars that traversed Coral Way in a one-week period. Oscar asked what the average speed on Coral Way was, Lt. Barnett stated the average speed was 26.5 MPH going west bound, east bound 28 MPH. Sue stated that Mr. Miquilarena who was a guest in the previous TAB meeting did a public record request and found that there was a reported 44 accidents in that intersection from March 9<sup>th</sup> 2019 to March 9<sup>th</sup> 2022. Sue asked Melissa if MDC was addressing the issue and if they had a time frame. Melissa stated that MDC expects design completion by June and the start of construction by the end of next year. Sue asked if Mr. Miquilarena was advised. Melissa states yes, he has been advised.

Peter excused himself at 6:33 PM

### Traffic project updates

- **City Wide Traffic Calming**
  - Melissa updated the Board on the progress of traffic calming. Milan has been completed; the crew will be mobilizing to Castile next. The estimated completion for Castile is next week Friday. A total of 4 speed cushions have been completed up to date.
- **Speed limit signs on Biltmore Way**
  - Melissa stated there is a requisition in place. It is currently in the internal process. Over 70 signs will be replaced. An additional 20 to 25 signs will be added as part of phase I of the project. The time frame for the project is an estimate 1-2 months.
- **Last Mile Transit**
  - Cherie informed the Board that this project is on schedule as planned. 60% of the plans are due June 1<sup>st</sup>. Sue requested clarification about the project. Cherie advised that the project consist of ADA improvements to trolley stops and identifying locations that would be feasible to adding shelters and or benches.
- **Ponce Phase III**
  - Cherie updated the Board; Ponce Phase III is on schedule as planned. 100% plans have been submitted. It is being reviewed internally.

### Members Items

#### **Regency Residence project (Codina)**

Melissa advised the site plan is being revised. The original plan had bulbouts on the north, west, and south side of the project. A loading site is also being moved from the northside into an internal area. Bulbouts are still incorporated because the developer wanted to incorporate additional landscaping. A methodology meeting was held with the developer and the consultant. The revised site plan has been sent to planning and zoning. Public Works has not received the official site plans. David stated he has a problem with the way the study is being conducted, stating that information from years past should not be considered. Roberta stated that this might make the street and intersection safer, if this is the case, she's all for it. Debbie clarified that the traffic impact study is only looking at the impact that the project has on its locations not the entire City.

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Sue proposed a motion. The motion states, that the City will not allow a developer by its own action to plan, alter, or remove public Right of Way upon its own action for the benefit of a developer. The motion was moved by Debbie, seconded by Oscar, all in favor.

Sue requested that staff find information about the park bonds.

**TAB Purpose resolution**

The Board agrees to insert “Development review. Any and all projects scheduled to go before the Development Review Committee (DRC) will be reviewed by the Transportation Advisory Board at its meeting preceding the DRC meeting. After its review, the TAB will submit questions and comments in writing about the projects impact on public of Right of way and public transportation to be raised at DRC meeting for discussion” in section 2, as 3A. of the TAB resolution. Debbie moved this motion it was seconded by Oscar; all were in favor.

**Meeting Adjourned: 7:19 PM.**