

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-4
March 14, 2023
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Michael Mena

Commissioner Rhonda Anderson

Commissioner James Cason

Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Senior Transportation Engineer, Melissa DeZayas

Public Works Director, Hermes Diaz

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item G-4 [3:40 p.m.]

Discussion regarding Biltmore Way, Andalusia Avenue, and Valencia Avenue Bike Lanes.
(Sponsored Commissioner Anderson)

Mayor Lago: Item G-4.

Commissioner Anderson: That's Biltmore Way. You don't get to sit down, this is your day.

[Laughter]

Commissioner Anderson: I wanted to kind of make sure that we're still remaining on track for a number of reasons. We're talking about, again, getting the streetscape done on Biltmore Way, Andalusia, Valencia and determining where bike lanes go. I know that there were preliminary drawings that came in on Publix and they didn't have any bike lanes in there, so again, I don't want to have a missed opportunity here. So, remind me, Dover Kohl is studying Valencia, Biltmore Way and Andalusia?

City Commission Meeting

Ms. DeZayas: Let me get a little map just to show you what was included in the scope that we currently have in place with Dover Kohl and what we have reached out to them to get a proposal for.

Commissioner Menendez: And we passed legislation, I think in 2022 expanding the scope of Dover Kohl, didn't we?

Public Works Director Diaz: Ponce/LeJeune.

Commissioner Anderson: I know we discussed it.

Ms. DeZayas: So originally, the limits were Biltmore Way from Anderson Road, basically to LeJeune, and then we expanded the scope to include all the way to Ponce. Now what we're looking into is adding Valencia from Anderson to Hernando as part of this, as you can see. So the change order, we asked for Dover Kohl for a change order to see how much adding Valencia to the scope that we have right now. Its about \$31,540, which would basically bring this up to like \$180,000.

Commissioner Anderson: So, we've already moved forward on that, so they're looking at this area.

Ms. DeZayas: We're moving forward with it, yes.

Public Works Director Diaz: We had the original public meeting on January 19th for the western portion of the roadway. Before we move forward, the east side, I think we need to hit the Valencia area because that transition is really very critical. So until we figure it out what the public is willing to, what we're willing to do in this area, its going to be hard for us to say what's going to happen for the next one over. So, I think the next spot will be, take a look at Valencia and at the same time take a look at Biltmore Way and the area that is west of the circle to see if that's feasible.

Ms. DeZayas: The original idea was to have these meetings where we were going to be looking at it in these isolated sections and then have an overall plan once we developed, further developed what we were going to do. So, like Hermes said, we need to iron out.

Public Works Director Diaz: And the direction I think that we have right now for Biltmore Way all the way through Hernando will basically be we're going to maintain the angle parking and no bike lanes, that's the way that.

Commissioner Anderson: My thought is we need information such as a traffic study, because people can make better decisions with information. Its pretty clear no one wants to lose any parking spaces on Biltmore Way at all. We have lack of ADA parking on Biltmore Way in the 600 Block and 700 Block that we need to address. There's parking on Valencia that's underused. When I've traversed it and keeping in mind, I'm within walking distance of two to three blocks from there. Every car that's on the north side of Valencia there's a vacancy on the south side of Valencia. So

City Commission Meeting

again, with data better decisions can be made, so that might be a better street to put the bike lane on from Valencia between Anderson and Segovia, utilize the existing bike lanes that are on Segovia and determine whether or not we can take bike lanes in the 400 and 500 Block on Biltmore Way and Andalusia at that point.

Public Works Director Diaz: Correct – through Hernando.

Commissioner Anderson: Not necessarily through Hernando.

Public Works Director Diaz: Through Segovia, after Segovia.

Commissioner Anderson: Segovia. They have bike lanes on there already, they already connect into that circle area. Its how to feasibly do it. It's the least complicated route. That's what I put with the most corridor space. So, the reason I mention the need for a traffic study is, heading west, coming from LeJeune and entering into the circle, we already narrow it down by one lane, two lanes down to one and then you reopen it up again to two lanes. We need to look at the need for two lanes, whether or not we can slow down the traffic, whether we need to have a median there. Again, information is important for people to make informed decisions.

Public Works Director Diaz: You want us to check whether we can reduce one lane of traffic on Biltmore Way, east of Segovia.

Commissioner Anderson: We need a traffic study to look at volume. Do we need two lanes there, is it better just to...still leave the same asphalt and have it for a back out lane, but not have it as a travel lane. So those are some thoughts. In the future I want to address funding mechanisms for these projects. So, I'll bring that at a future point in time. Any thoughts from my colleagues?

Mayor Lago: Thank you for doing a lot of the legwork, I appreciate it, very interesting.

Commissioner Menendez: I support the effort and I too would like to know the data and the possibilities. I encourage city staff and Dover Kohl to show us what's possible, so we can make an informed decision.

Mayor Lago: I think it would be great. We can come to some sort of consensus. I think it would be great.

Commissioner Anderson: I think its pretty clear in the 600 and 700 Blocks, no parallel parking and no bike lanes on Biltmore Way.

City Attorney Suarez: I think, Mayor, there should be, if the Commission is in favor of expanding the scope an amount there should be a motion to authorize the Manager to execute a change order or approve a change order.

City Commission Meeting

Commissioner Anderson: I make that motion.

Commissioner Menendez: I'll second.

City Clerk Urquia: All in favor.

All: Aye.

City Clerk Urquia: Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Going onto G-5. Thank you.