

TRAFFIC ADVISORY BOARD  
CORAL GABLES YOUTH CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM  
TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2014 5:30 P.M.

**MEETING MINUTES**

<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>J</b> 13	<b>J</b> 13	<b>A</b> 13	<b>S</b> 13	<b>O</b> 13	<b>N</b> 13	<b>D</b> 13	<b>J</b> 14	<b>F</b> 14	<b>M</b> 14	<b>A</b> 14	<b>M</b> 14	<b>APPOINTED BY:</b>
Ignacio G. Borbolla	P	A	+	+	+	P	P	P	+	A	P	E	Jim Cason
Gordon Sokoloff	P	P	+	+	+	P	P	P	+	P	P	P	Patricia Keon
Deborah Swain	P	P	+	+	+	P	P	P	+	P	P	P	Vince Lago
Chris Morrison	A	(#)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Ralph De La Grana	A	P	+	+	+	P	E	A	+	A	E	(#)	Frank C. Quesada
Donna Kupper	P	P	+	+	+	P	P	P	+	P	P	P	Commission-as-a-Whole
VACANT	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	City Manager

**P - Present**  
**E - Excused Absence**  
**A - Absent**  
**\* - New Member**  
**+ - No Meeting**  
**(#) Resigned**

**STAFF:**

Ernesto Pino, Public Works Interim Director  
Yamilet Senespleda, Public Works City Engineer/Senior Traffic Engineer  
Jeannette Reyes, Public Works Clerical Assistant II  
Edward Hudak, Major, Coral Gables Police Department

**GUESTS:**

Tony Garcia, Street Plans Collaborative  
Javier Salman, Stantec  
Robert Ruano, Bike Walk Coral Gables  
John Swain, Bike Walk Coral Gables  
Alexander Adams, Bike Walk Coral Gables  
Rick Smitt, Bike Walk Coral Gables  
Sonia Succar, Public Works Environmental Specialist  
Jessica Keller, Sustainability Assistant Director

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mrs. Swain called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

**MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:**

**April 15, 2014 Meeting Minutes** – Mrs. Kupper made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Mr. Sokoloff second the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**ABSENCE:**

*Mr. Borbolla* - Mrs. Kupper made a motion to excuse Mr. Borbolla absence, Mr. Morrison second the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**MOTIONS:**

Mrs. Kupper made a motion on behalf of the Traffic Advisory Board to support the Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan as presented. Mr. Morrison seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Kupper made a motion to proceed with the Miller Road/Alhambra Circle project. Mr. Sokoloff seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN PRESENTATION:**

Javier Salman introduced Tony Garcia to recap on the Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan. Tony explained how they obtained their data through a handle bar survey, literature reviews, and review of the previous Bicycle Master Plan. They looked at Public Works projects as well as FDOT and local Coral Gables projects that can be dovetailed.

Also looked at was the high crash rate areas for both bicyclist and pedestrians, with concentrations along US1, around the University of Miami and on main state roads (Le Jeune, Coral Way and Ponce de Leon). For the handle bar survey, they rode around the City, took photos and went out with a speed gun to measure how people were driving.

Routes were identified by main destinations, the central business district (CBD) and UM. UM has the largest population on bicycles, as per the data documented. Freshmen are not allowed to have cars on campus, and since the university registers bikes, the numbers have been documented. Also Miracle Mile has a great concentration of transit riders, and transit data in the City was reviewed and compared against the number of people that live and work in Coral Gables on a daily basis. They found that 30% of the people are on foot, bike or taking transit which is a significant number. Projects that were lost opportunities were also looked at, for example Campo Sano and University where there are no sidewalks, no way for pedestrians to get around.

Tony displayed an overview of the master plan, broken down by route name. Mr. Morrison mentioned that long before the Ingraham Park improvements, there were issues with getting people from the west side of LeJeune to the park because there is no crosswalk. Mr. Morrison said there was a plan about 6-7 years ago to run crosswalks on the north side of the intersection

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of west Ingraham and LeJeune and then cross the island which was landscaped but was an open pad of asphalt where people could stop as they cross the street. There was a small crosswalk on the turning lane on Ingraham on to west Ingraham, a traffic engineer looked at it at the time and it would work with the light sequence but in today's requirements the need of post with count downs would be expensive, but needed.

Mrs. Kupper asked about the Old Cutler Trail: will it be something different other than what was done with the pavement and what the plans are. Mrs. Swain said funds have been allocated by the County and it's in the budget for improvements. Mrs. Kupper asked if staff knows what the improvements are and if a bike lane will be accommodated. Javier mentioned that their office did the southern portion of it, if they can use the bike lane they will, but there are some historic trees and property lines that they had to work around. Javier said that it has not been engineered yet but the goal is to maintain the alignment with a uniformed 8' width.

Mr. Sokoloff asked if the path on the golf course is for bikes. Major Hudak said it is a shared path for bikes, pedestrians and runners. Mr. Sokoloff asked it will be enforced. Major Hudak said there is City ordinance as a result of a fatality 15-18 years ago, but it is rarely enforced. Mr. Pino said they've started a master plan for the Granada Golf Course that will include a pathway. There are funds allocated for the project, about \$600,000 for that facility. This will include rain shelters for the golf course, golf cart path, pedestrian path and improvements to the turf.

Mr. Morrison asked staff if they can find, what he believes was a plan for the intersection of West Ingraham and LeJeune, Marlin Engineering prepared a rendering of what it might look like for point of discussion. Mr. Pino said he spoke to Jeff Cohen recently to start the conversation again. Mr. Morrison also mentioned the Riviera bike path, when it hits LeJeune there needs to be a way for the people to get across and hook up to the bridge. Mr. Pino said there will be a crosswalk there, the Cartagena Circle project is a County project and therefore the crosswalk will be part of that project.

Mr. Ruano mentioned that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board have been talking about the Granada Golf Course and its involvement in the master plan to path around it. He would like to propose to the Board and Major Hudak a possible solution to traffic, to make Greenway a one-way road and if they make it a one-way; there will be extra space for the riders and the runners. He believes that will help the traffic because then there will be more room, and they wouldn't be on the golf course since people are concerned about the golf balls. Mrs. Swain said there was a resident who came to the Board to present his suggestion for a one-way route around the golf course and that may be something the City could follow up on.

Mrs. Swain stated she is aware that this is called a Bicycle & Pedestrian Master plan but wants to know to what extent, it's a Pedestrian plan. Tony said that more sidewalks were included.

Mrs. Swain mentioned the reason there are so many people from Bike Walk Coral Gables is because it is the organization in Coral Gables whose mission is to encourage people to get on their bicycles, teach them to do it safely, and create facilities in the city that make biking and walking safer. Therefore they have a huge interest in this Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan

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going forward. Mrs. Swain thanked the city for embarking on this journey and getting it to this point and bringing on board experts such as Javier and Tony who can site them through the board's individual recommendations as well as other people's recommendations.

Mrs. Swain asked staff when this will be on the agenda for the commission. Jessica said they are working on the June 10<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

Mr. Pino reported on the below:

*Red Road and Lugo Traffic Circle* - At the last meeting the board requested the speed limit on the Coral Gables side to be reduced to 20 mph, Mr. Pino said David Plummer & Assoc. submitted to the county request for a traffic study.

*Segovia and Navarre Intersection* – median islands were not effective, went back to the neighbors and now installing brick pavers and crosswalks at the intersections with 4 way stops.

*Escobar and Anderson Traffic Circle* – One of the last remaining traffic circles, funds are now available to implement it.

*Paving project* – basically finished, currently working on the last road, Hardee Road from LeJeune to Riviera.

Top three projects will start next month.

*Hammock Lakes New Paving project* – Currently out to bid.

Mr. Swain suggested instead of striping Hardee along the edge, since it's a 25' wide road and rather than stripping all the way to the edge of the street, bring the stripe in a little to make the road appear narrow and it slows traffic down. Staff will look into it.

Mr. Morrison asked about the Valencia Toledo intersection project. Mr. Pino said the scope is being expanded and David Plummer and Assoc. currently doing a study for improvements.

Mrs. Swain asked about the, Alhambra Circle and Miller road realignment. Mr. Pino said it will be done as part of the Miller Road/Alhambra Circle project.

Mrs. Swain asked about the Riviera Plaza alley vacation. Yamilet said it is the Chase Bank bldg on Red Road and the old Riviera, they are requesting an alley vacate to improve the traffic circulation and the bank parking lot.

Mr. Sokoloff asked about the Publix project. Mr. Pino said it just came into the office this week therefore staff has not had the time to look at it. Mr. Pino said they will bring the plans to the next meeting when they are more familiar with it.

Mrs. Swain asked about the Agave project. Yamilet said they are still working on the approvals.

**POLICE UPDATE:**

As the department is being directed by the chief, they will be increasing their efforts. Police as well as the patrol officers have been out there more, Major Hudak will have the numbers for the board next time they meet. Major Hudak said they ran a report on accidents involving pedestrians and bicyclist per year.

*The pedestrian accident report:*

2011 - 32

2012 - 29

2013 - 40

*The bicyclist accident report:*

2011 - 35

2012 - 35

2013 - 29

In attending the opening of Ingraham Park, they put up some cones to create a crosswalk. Until the county works on the circle and decides what to do, police are on a stand still as far as what they can do.

Mr. Morrison said, as you go down Ingraham at the light as you turn around the corner, there was a stop bar. When the light was put in 25' further west, they didn't remove the first stop bar. Major Hudak said he will look at it.

Although the supportive of the master plan, the bigger issue will be education and enforcement. Major Hudak does suggest doing a better job about tolerance. Mrs. Swain said if you do pull over a bicyclist and ticket them, the word does get around.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Robert Ruano, one of the co-founders of Bike Walk Coral Gables and a 12 year resident, with a 9 year old son, presented two suggestions to the Board regarding dangerous concerns. One is the

Granada Golf Course, because of the number of people going around the golf course there is a point on Anderson & Coral Way that is impossible to get across walking in the afternoons because of the heavy traffic. He said an easy fix would be to put an on-demand crosswalk that flashes to get people easily back and forth. Yamilet mentioned that Miami-Dade County is actually doing a study now on that crosswalk. She said staff brought this to them back in March and on April 12, 2014 they sent an e-mail that they are doing the study and upon completion they will send the response to staff.

Mr. Ruano's next concern is on Red Road from Tamiami Trail to US1 where FDOT is working on a bike lane. He lives nearby and when the County was doing the study, they lowered the

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speed limit down to 30 mph. When the project was completed, they raised the speed limit back to 40 mph, it is a great bike lane but bicyclists are afraid due to cars speeding. Mr. Ruano is asking the Board through the commission to meet with FDOT and request that the speed limit be lowered to 30 mph. Mr. Ruano said the County and Commissioner Suarez, who he spoke to, are interested in having the speed limit lowered and that the City of West Miami and the City of South Miami can be convinced. Yamilet explained the procedure on lowering and raising speed limits. Mrs. Swain is all for having the speed limit lowered and asked Major Hudak if he saw any upcoming problems if FDOT lowered the speed limit. Major Hudak said the calculation FDOT comes up with is how it affects the backups on other ancillary roads and feeder roads as well as the change in cycles for 8<sup>th</sup> street and cross streets. Mr. Pino will discuss with FDOT and let the board know the outcome. Major Hudak will put up a trailer for 5-7 days to measure speed and discuss at the next meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Mr. Morrison updated and provided copies to the Board of the Coconut Grove Circulator discussed at the last meeting. The first circulator is on the west side, it's an actual bus service for .25 cents. The circulator, starts at the Coconut Grove metro rail station and ends at Douglas Road. The second one goes through the Riviera section of Coral Gables. A number of years ago they had the County, City of Coral Gables and the City of South Miami at a meeting and talked about a possible circulator for South Miami to include the hospitals and the commercial business district of South Miami. The University have their own routes. It was the county's opinion that they already had the redundant service. This went nowhere. He brought this to the Board since it was discussed at the last meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.