

TRAFFIC ADVISORY BOARD
CORAL GABLES YOUTH CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2014 5:30 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

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

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

STAFF:

Jessica Keller, Assistant Public Works Director
Yamilet Senespleda, Public Works City Engineer/Senior Traffic Engineer
Ludwik Janiga, Public Works, Civil Engineer
Jeannette Reyes, Public Works, Clerical Assistant II
Jesus Garcia, Sergeant, C.G. Police Department

GUESTS:

John Swain, Bike Walk Coral Gables
Chris Rupp, C. G. Museum Director
Roseanne Healy, Giralda Ave. C. G. Resident
William Healy, Giralda Ave. C.G. Resident

CALL TO ORDER:

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

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

August 19, 2014 Meeting Minutes – Mr. Corrada made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Morrison second the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

ABSENCE:

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

MOTION:

Mrs. Kupper made a motion to consider as part of the plans to incorporate bicycle mobility on Miracle Mile. Mr. Morrison seconds the motion, preferably buffered bicycle lanes. The motion was unanimously approved.

Coral Gables Museum Presentation:

Chris Rupp, director of the Coral Gables Museum and board member of Bike Walk Coral Gables (BWCG), is joined by John Swain the President of Bike Walk Coral Gables. Ms. Rupp said the museum does monthly bike rides and works to build safety for bikers and pedestrians in the city. Concepts from the Coral Gables Bicycle Masterplan were provided to the board and staff in regards to The Streetscape Plan on Miracle Mile. Ms. Rupp said the main parties of BWCG believe that it is imperative; they put a bike lane on Miracle Mile. Ms. Rupp stated that with so much traffic on Miracle Mile, how wonderful it would be to provide an alternative method of transportation to the shops and restaurants in downtown Coral Gables. Ms. Rupp and Mr. Swain are present today to persuade the board; this would be a great recommendation to the city. One of the sheets on the plans provided is the existing conditions on Miracle Mile and two of the sheets show methods of implementing safe bike paths/lanes on Miracle Mile. Other progressive cities across the country, across the world get that bikes should be an integral part of the community; everywhere, progressive cities are implementing bike lanes in their urban centers. Ms. Rupp said they want to make sure that the streetscape is not passed without a bike plan and then 5 years later, the city realizes they should have added bike lanes and go back and re-invent.

The Board of Bike Walk Coral Gables supports the City's Bicycle Master Plan and believes that a bike facility on Miracle Mile is integral to the financial health of downtown and getting more people on their bikes.

John Swain said that the diagrams are samples of what can be implemented and are not necessarily what has to be done. There are several other options that were not included but the main thing is that the Board has the concept of having bike facilities of some sort on Miracle Mile. Mrs. Swain asked how this compares to the streetscape plan. Does it affect the width of the sidewalk, does it affect the parking? Ms. Rupp said there will be no negative impacts on the streetscape plan. Mrs. Swain asked where the extra space is coming from. Mr. Swain said the road width.

Jessica reported that during Thursday's Commission meeting, there was a quick presentation regarding the public input process.

The PowerPoint presentation will be e-mailed to the Chair person for review.

Giralda Avenue - resident request

Roseanne Healy is reiterating on the continuation of Segovia Circle, she mentioned a meeting was held in which plans were changed. She is present to discuss the traffic issue at Aragon Avenue, Giralda, Segovia Street and Segovia Circle. Mrs. Healy stated that all the neighborhoods surrounding them (south end - Biltmore to the Youth Center, north end - Alhambra to the north end of Coral Gables, Segovia Street by the Youth Center and LeJeune) received beautification. The neighborhood to the north of them, received traffic circles, some streets received raised areas to calm the traffic, Segovia Street by the Youth Center received beautification. She stated their area was ignored by the City and is requesting for the City and the Board to take a look at the area as a whole.

Mr. Morrison asked Mrs. Healy what she thought the solution would be. Mrs. Healy is requesting what the other neighborhoods received. They should receive beautification on LeJeune to calm the traffic, some sort of beautification on Segovia, traffic circles and analyze reducing the most dangerous intersection which is on Alhambra and Segovia Street (in a few yrs. had 29 accidents), they should limit turns during rush hour and evening, but if they do that they have to look at the area all together

Mrs. Swain asked if a traffic study was done for this area. Yamilet said yes, she said after the meeting an evaluation of traffic volumes was done on Giralda and Aragon to see if there is a need for traffic calming and the numbers are meeting the criteria for the traffic calming but the geometry is a problem. Miami-Dade County asked for 50' of right of way on both streets to fit the size of the circle.

Ludwik said there is a template that represents the minimum size. What he does is draws the R.O.W. with dimensions and puts it on top of the template to see if it fits, but because the corners are square and the template has 25' radius turns, to squeeze it in they would have to take part of the corners which are private properties and that cannot be done. He does not know how the traffic circles will fit in those intersections (Hernando & Aragon or Hernando & Giralda). Sergeant Garcia stated that the main issue on that corridor is traffic. Mrs. Healy said, maybe blocking it off would be an idea. Mrs. Swain said she doesn't think a circle at Hernando & Aragon or Giralda would solve the problem. Mrs. Healy said curbing would be another suggestion to slow down the people. Mrs. Healy also suggested one median that has no break. If the median is taken from the circle on Coral Way & Segovia Street and brought out straight to Alhambra, no one will be able to cut through. The only set back to the residents is that they will lose one way of getting out, but will gladly give that up to solve the problem. Ludwik said if this is done, the level of service will be lost. The County would request proof that the level of service will remain the same if this concept is used.

Ludwik said that FDOT has a plan to change the intersection of Alhambra and LeJeune. This is on schedule for 2016 in which they will be widening the east bound on Alhambra, there will be additional left turn lanes and additional signalization which will ease the traffic on the side streets. Mrs. Swain asked staff if they can look at alternatives and present to the Board at the next meeting. Yamilet said some suggestions from the Board and staffs are: garden isle, bump out, signage, diverters, raised median at the intersection and the no turning during business hours. Mr. Morrison asked if it would be possible to get some of the signage now, while waiting for an ultimate solution. Yamilet said staff requested on Alhambra and Segovia Circle a right turn prevision for two hours in the morning from 7 am to 9 am and another of Segovia Street, north bound to prohibit the left turn on Segovia Circle from 4pm to 6 pm and the County did not approve the signs.

Jessica asked Mrs. Healy which problem do they want resolved, the volume, the speed or both and which one would she choose. Mrs. Healy said that each street has different issues; therefore it has to be looked at all together. Speaking for her street, she would choose speed but it wouldn't be fair to the other streets. Mrs. Swain asked about the timing on the traffic lights, in order to make it difficult to get out so that people won't want to choose that route. Yamilet said that Miami-Dade County is tough when it comes to the timing of the signal lights because it's a progression that has to be coordinated not only with one signal but the entire corridor. Mrs. Swain said it will not affect LeJeune, if anything it will improve it. Jessica asked staff, as far as the time line, what are they looking at. Yamilet said Glenn is planning on sending a letter to the residents with all the suggestions and findings and then staff will be able to have a better time line.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Anderson & University – a traffic safety study was performed at the University Drive corridor, Bird Rd. & Segovia. As a result of the study, a roundabout was proposed at Anderson Rd. & University Dr. Mrs. Swain asked what the issue is. Yamilet stated that the resident at the NE corner has complained about numerous accidents in this area and according to the study he was right. Most of the accidents are angle accidents, due to visibility. Mrs. Swain asked how the roundabout helps with visibility. Yamilet said that vehicles on the roundabout have the right of way therefore the vehicle turning on to the roundabout will be able to see the vehicle close up. Mrs. Swain mentioned the wide area on University is on the Bicycle Master plan. Jessica said bicycle lanes will be considered. Mrs. Swain asked what the next step will be. Yamilet said, before taking it to the County, staff will take certain projects that have no funding source, defined them, then after discussion with the City Manager the Board will be informed. Mrs. Swain mentioned prioritizing projects and Jessica said staff will be meeting to discuss this and bring it to the board for feedback.

Mrs. Kupper wants to know, where staff is at, with the request for speed limit reduction in the City and how is this project affected. Yamilet said the Citywide Traffic Study was a research done by the consultant to analyze and evaluate the advantages and disadvantages. Jessica said the study will be taken to the City Manager for review.

Granada Pedestrian Bridge - phase 1, water related work is completed. The Bridge will be completed for installation in early November.

Granada Golf Course Master Plan – the consultant is working on the plans showing a pedestrian path. This is still in the design phase.

Lugo & Red Landscaping – in a couple of days they will be getting the water meters. In the next two weeks they will be getting the thermo plastic striping.

LeJeune & Ingraham Pedestrian Crossing – Last week the County accepted small changes and it was sent back for approval. Now the issue is the budget because LeJeune and Ingraham are Miami-Dade County jurisdiction, staff is trying to work with them to maybe do part of the work and they can do the other part like striping and signage. Mrs. Kupper asked where the crosswalk will go. Ludwik said on the north side, then to the northeast corner, through the triangular island. Mr. Morrison said he met with Commissioner Frank Quesada and Jeff Cohen, the ultimate solution would be a couple of roundabouts but Jeff was clear that the County had no budget for it. Mr. Morrison said the real issue is cars stacking up 8 to 10 on Alhambra at LeJeune on the other side of traffic you're talking about 40 to 50 cars stacking up into the City of Miami coming down in the afternoon and in the morning going the opposite direction, it stacks up all the way to the City limits of Coral Gables from Douglas to Ingraham Hwy. This area needs to be addressed. Mr. Morrison is glad that they are getting the crosswalks; at least the people from the west can get flow in and park. Mr. Morrison has sent two e-mails and a message to Mr. Kephart on how to initiate this process.

POLICE UPDATE:

School issues – Sergeant Garcia said they are trying to see if they can get NO PARKING signs on Grand to alleviate the congestion of the afternoon pick up at Carver. He spoke to Mike Grant, who said can make it happen. Sgt. Garcia wants to talk to all the residents and make sure they are ok with it.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Morrison mentioned again the unsightly conditions at West Ingraham and Ingraham Hwy in regards to the stakes that have not been replaced in months and the redundant sign that the County says is a real deterrent because of the curve that traffic will slow down and that there are two stop bars and two signs and that it is effective. Mr. Morrison provided the Board and staff with pictures of the area. The picture clearly shows that the sign is not visible if you're coming from the south and it's bent over for about five months. The condition of the stakes for the City of Coral Gables is an eye sore an embarrassment and he would like to see them changed out. Yamilet said staff has sent this request to the County four times. The first time, as mentioned at the last meeting, they replied that the double stop bars was a safety contra measure because of the curb that they have. After the last meeting Yamilet has sent 3 more requests for updates, for suggestions and solutions and they have not answered.

Yamilet reminded the Board that this falls under the County's jurisdiction. Jessica said that staff can take care of the sign. Mr. Morrison said the sign is located at 198 W. Ingraham Hwy.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jessica updated/discussed the below:

- a. Agendas and minutes – will be working a schedule to have the minutes and agenda to the Board a week in advance. Jessica asked that the Board try to get any presentation or items they would like on the agenda in a timely matter in order to schedule the right amount of time for a particular meeting and then decide to take things on or off that staff may have put on there in order to manage time.
- b. Scope of the Board - to be discussed at the next meeting
- c. GovQa – On line reporting for issues and concerns. City officials will be receiving these requests as well. There is an app that you can download to your phone to be able to take pictures and submit them as well.
- e. Walk to School Day - October 8th is Walk to School Day, it's an international event. The City will be partnering with Bike Walk Coral Gables and Coral Gables H.S. to support the event at their High School to bring awareness.
- f. (Park)ing Day – Friday 9-20-2014 is (Park)ing Day, parking spaces will be merged on Miracle Mile to a little park, also partnering with Bike Walk of Coral Gables. It will be set up from 8 am to 2 pm you are encouraged to go see it.

Miracle Mile Plan – Mrs. Swain will like to know how far the Board is willing to go and encourage the City to incorporate consideration of bicycle facilities on Miracle Mile. Mrs. Kupper made a motion and Mr. Morrison seconds it.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.