

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES**  
**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD**  
 HYBRID MEETING AT CITY HALL/ZOOM  
 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MARCH 16, 2021

	M	A	M	J	J	A <sup>v</sup>	S <sup>v</sup>	O <sup>v</sup>	N	D <sup>H</sup>	J <sup>H</sup>	F <sup>H</sup>	M <sup>H</sup>	
	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	21	21	21	
Kevin Mase	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	-	*	P	(+ -)	P	P	P	E	<i>R. Valdes Fauli</i>
Gordon Sokoloff (Chair)	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	P	P	E	(+ -)	P		E	P	<i>P. Keon</i>
Steven Williamson	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	P	P	P	(+ -)	A	A	P-V	P-V	<i>V. Lago</i>
Debbie Swain	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	P	P	P	(+ -)	P-V	E	P	P	<i>M. Mena</i>
Sue Kawalerski (VC)	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	P	P	P	(+ -)	P	P	P	P	<i>J. Fors</i>
Nicholas Barshel	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	E	P	P	(+ -)	P	P	E	P	<i>Commission</i>
Peter Wood	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	P	P	P	(+ -)	A	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. Multimodal Transportation Engineer  
 Jeanne Espinal, Assistant to the Public Works Director  
 Douglas Cobb, Sr. Traffic Engineer  
 Jessica Keller, Assistant Public Works Director

**Guest:** Roberta Neway  
 Michelle Dunaj

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by the Chairman at 5:31 PM and roll call was done. Sue Kawalerski, Debbie Swain, Mase and Peter Wood attended the meeting in person, Steve Williamson attended virtually. *Debbie motioned to approve Kevin Mase’s excused absence. The motion was seconded by Sue Kawalerski, voted upon and adopted unanimously by the board.* In-person quorum was met.

**Meeting Minutes Approval:** *Sue Kawalerski motioned to approve the February meeting minutes with the requested changes. The motion was seconded by Peter Wood, voted upon, and adopted unanimously by the board.*

**Chairmans Report**

Chairman requested for City staff to look into the City’s website to make sure that the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) meetings are showing in the community calendar and people can access it. Peter Wood stated that a couple weeks ago he looked in the website and was not able to find the meeting information.

1. Steve Williamson: Mr. Williamson presented some items for the board to consider. Mr. Williamson is aware of the Zoning changes that have been previously discussed and how they impact transportation, however, we would like to also discuss the City’s plan to build and maintain the City’s multimodal transportation such as bike lanes, sidewalks, signage and how trees interfere with streetlights. Jessica Keller shared with the board a matrix that depicts how the City Commission distributes funds and how the different modes have changed. Peter Wood asked Jessica Keller

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where public transit is addressed. Ms. Keller clarified that the Citizens Independent Transport Trust (CITT) funding provides all necessary funding to the trolley and the rest is appropriated to the other modes of transportation. She offered to invite Mr. Kevin Kinney, Director of Parking to the next meeting so he can speak in more depth on public transit. She also informed the board that the City has limited jurisdiction over signage, however, the City has conducted a study on existing signage to determine what signs are unnecessary. City staff is working with a consultant and the recommendations will be taken to the County for consideration. If the County approves, the City will start removing unnecessary signage.

Sue Kawalerski inquired about the maintenance of roads and bike lanes and if the budget applies to only new or existing infrastructure. Ms. Keller clarified that funds are allocated for both; traffic calming is considered new and resurfacing is considered maintenance. Ms. Keller provided the example of the Alhambra Circle bike lane, which is an area that needs to be refreshed but the question that the City is faced with is; do we repaint or do we resurface Alhambra Circle, narrow the travel lane to reduce speed and/or create a wider separate bike lane. The City must determine what is the best approach and some residents have expressed that they want the resurfacing and widening of bike lanes however, the funds are limited.

Jessica Keller provided information on the recent citywide pavement assessment of City roads. The City is using the PASER rating system to rate the condition of roads throughout the City. Resurfacing the road is contingent on its rating.

2. **Public Comments:**

Roberta Neway: The chairman introduced Ms. Roberta Neway to speak who spoke about the South Alhambra Circle bike lane project. She informed the board that City staff met with the owners of 29 homes in her neighborhood and only 3 opposed the idea. The project would provide a direct path to the Metrorail, University of Miami and the Underline. She stated that there are people that have agreed that the idea should go to the Commission so they can direct staff to present a plan to the residents. The Chairman reminded that board that bike lanes are a sticky issue and it is not the concept but rather the process which fails to keep those affected residents in the loop. Sue Kawalerski asked City staff for the existing process for the approval of traffic circle and Melissa De Zayas informed her that it requires 50% approval. Roberta stated that she does not see how residents would be left out of the process if the City's intent was to see if the neighbors were interested and if so then staff would meet with them and propose ideas. As per Roberta, the intent is to try and in case people change their mind City staff would be available to answer any questions. Roberta feels that the City does not care about cyclists and pedestrians. Peter Wood agreed with Roberta and stated that the type of process that Roberta is proposing is the kind that the board endorses, one that is inclusive of all neighbors. Mr. Wood believes it would be a shame to focus on the process and not allow this type of initiative to not go to the next step. The chairman agreed that the discussion is fine but it has left a bad taste from residents not being informed in the past. Sue Kawalerski stated that grassroot approach is the best and top down approaches create bad feelings. Further, she stated that the City will not see bike lanes unless it's a grassroot initiative and expressed that 20 out of 29 homes is a significant number of approvals. The chairman reminded the board that when residents are left out of the loop it creates issues and suggested that the use

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of certified mail as a means to inform residents when bike-lanes are being proposed for their affected streets would insure that residents are truly informed. In response to the chairman's remarks, Debbie Swain clarified that Roberta is asking for the next step to be taken which is a meeting with the residents to discuss a plan. Due to previous project history, staff is not in a position to do it because it could potentially be a waste of time, therefore they require a directive from the Commission to communicate with homeowners.

*Debbie Swain motioned for a resolution of the Transportation Advisory Boards (TAB) asking the City Commission to direct staff, based on the overwhelming support of the residents along S Alhambra Circle, to conduct a neighborhood meeting with the residents on the proposed bike way plan and follow up on how the plan can move forward. The motion was seconded by Peter Wood, voted upon, and adopted unanimously by the board.*

Michelle Dunaj: Ms. Dunaj spoke to the board on issues of transparency, community input and process. Ms. Dunaj expressed her concerns on the traffic calming process and proposals for Zone 1 and asked that for future meeting she be placed on the agenda so that the board can take a closer look at several concerning issues. Ms. Dunaj stated that the residents of zone 1 were not relayed accurate information on the voting process where only returned ballots would be counted, the websites contained inaccurate and conflicting information, and the traffic data used to qualify her street was incorrect. As per Ms. Dunaj, the City did not follow National Association Transportation Guidelines (NACTO ) to achieve speed reduction and safety, therefore, the proposals for zone 1 don't make the streets safer. Further, residents requested a follow up meeting with the City to discuss certain items but the meeting never occurred and ballots were mailed out. Ms. Dunaj met with the City to discuss what she believes are mistakes and the opportunity she felt that she was granting the City to correct them. Ms. Keller confirmed that not changes have been made to the process. Ms. Dunaj hopes to shed some light for future zones as they go through the process. Ms. Dunaj asked Mr. Cobb if staff could meet with her on site to discuss several items. Ms. Keller spoke to the board and Ms. Dunaj and confirmed that information has been provided to her and should be shared with the rest of the board. Further, she stated that the traffic calming has received an overwhelming amount of positive feedback.

3. Debbie Swain: Due to the time limitation, Ms. Swain deffered her items to the next meeting.

### Secretary's Report

1. Traffic Impact Studies: No new traffic impact studies
2. DRC Applications: No new applications for Development Services . Melissa De Zayas will follow up with Jennifer.

### Traffic Projects Update

Citywide Traffic Calming: Melissa De Zayas provided an update to the board on the community/resident driven program for traffic calming.

- Zone 1: Construction is expected to start in the summer.

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- Zone 2: Notice to Proceed (NTP) issued last week. They are currently updating the schedule and will move forward with the field review.
- Zone 3: Notice to Proceed (NTP) issued last week. They are currently updating the schedule and will move forward with the field review.
- Zone 4: Community meeting took place and there is no anticipated design date yet.
- Zone 5: No date for community meeting has been established.

**Police update:** The Chairman introduced Police Lieutenant Barnet who has been with the City for 26 years. Mr. Barnet will be attending the board meetings going forward.

**Old Business:** none

**Meeting Adjourned:** 6:52 PM