

TRAFFIC ADVISORY BOARD  
CORAL GABLES YOUTH CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2013 5:30 P.M.

- MINUTES MEETING -

<b>MEMBERS</b>	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	<b>APPOINTED BY:</b>
	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	13	13	
VACANT	P	E	+	E	E	+	P	E	+	P	(#)	-	Jim Cason
Larry D. Kries	P	P	+	E	P	+	P	E	+	P	P	P	Maria Anderson
Deborah Swain	P	P	+	P	P	+	P	P	+	P	P	P	Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Alex Menendez	-	P	+	P	P	+	P	P	+	P	P	P	William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Jorge L. Arrizurieta	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	P	P	E	Frank C. Quesada
Donna Kupper	P	P	+	E	P	+	P	P	+	E	P	P	Commission-as-a-Whole
Elvira Escribano	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	P	A	A	City Manager

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

**STAFF:**

Carlos Hernandez, Public Works Director  
 Alejandro Escobar, C.G. Police Sergeant  
 Ludwik Janiga, Public Works Civil Engineer  
 Lorena Garrido, Public Works Central Division Supervisor

**GUESTS:**

Tony Garcia, Urban Planner  
 Tim Plummer, Tim Plummer & Associates  
 Eddie Lamas, Architect, Stantec  
 Alisa Weiner, Mendavia Avenue, C.G. Resident  
 Maria Cruz, 1447 Miller Road, C.G. Resident  
 Ted Rickel, 1530 Baracoa Avenue, C.G. Resident

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:**

• **January 15, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

Mrs. Kupper made a motion to approve the minutes, as presented, Mr. Kries seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**MEETING ABSENCE:**

Ms. Escribano was absent.

Mr. Menendez made a motion to excuse Mr. Arrizurieta and Mrs. Kupper seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

• ***Cartagena Circle Presentation***

On February 21, 2012, the Cartagena Plaza Cocoplum Circle project was presented to the TAB. The project was put on hold while the County finalizes the trail path prior to completing the pedestrian bridge. As per the County, the bridge will be completed by March 1, 2013. Copies of the drawings and design were provided to the board and guests.

Tim Plummer was brought into the project by the former Public Works Director when the County was getting ready to start the project. Mr. Plummer stated the purpose of this project is to improve the operations and safety of the Cartagena Circle. One of the issues with the Cartagena Circle is the parking adjacent to the travel lanes. He said the County originally presented the project making some improvements, strictly pavement markings. After reviewing this with the former Public Works Director, it was suggested to take some of those pavement marked areas and create landscape islands in order to enhance the improvements from an operation and safety stand point. These suggested changes were agreed to by the County. The County is expected to start working after March 1, 2013 in the center ring, fix the broken sections, fix the sidewalk, fix the pavement, and then come back and work on the pavement around the circle and islands.

Mrs. Kupper asked if there's anything like this project, which drivers have experienced. Mr. Plummer commented that the overall operation of the Cartagena Circle is not changing much. The one issue is the parking adjacent to the circle in which you are able to back out of the parking space almost into the travel lane. Raised islands will be placed in order to segregate the people parking / backing-up from the actual movements within the Cartagena Circle. He said that from an operational and safety stand point, this is a big improvement.

Sergeant Escobar asked if there will be any reflectors or extra lighting since he is concerned about the night time and he asked if there is landscaping on the islands. Mr. Plummer and Mr. Hernandez will check to make sure there are RPM's around the islands. Mr. Plummer said there is landscaping on the island which are at the County's standard height (no higher than 2 feet).

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Mrs. Swain asked what the City's role in this project is. Mr. Hernandez said the City has reviewed the design and agrees with it. He added that the geometry is called out by the County's Public Works Department and the City is involved with the aesthetic part of it.

Mr. Menendez mentioned there are no crosswalks in the design, for the Old Cutler side. He said there are bus stops there and no crosswalk for the frequently traveled area of maids and workers going into Cocoplum. Mr. Plummer said he sees the same with Sunset Drive and that he and Mr. Hernandez will discuss with the County.

Mrs. Kupper again asked if this has been experience somewhere else in the County where drivers have parking with circles and lanes. Mr. Plummer said not that he is aware of. He added he has designed many roundabouts in Coral Gables (Ponce, Miller, Village of Merrick Park, Biltmore, Segovia and Coral Way) in which none include parking adjacent to it, as parking should not be included. The County is trying to make the County more bike-friendly so they are not removing the parking because the majority who park there are bicycle riders. Mrs. Kupper mentioned that parking was lost between Old Cutler Road and Cocoplum. Mr. Plumber said yes, there are few spaces in the proposed plan. Mrs. Kupper said she foresees people starting to park along Old Cutler Road, under the trees in front of people homes. She asked if residents been alerted of this project. Mr. Hernandez said yes, that there was a meeting with the residents.

Mr. Rickel asked if there is a requirement for a mail-out to be sent out to those residents. Mr. Hernandez said no since this is an existing circle, not a new traffic circle.

Mrs. Cruz asked if this is a traffic circle or a round-about. Mr. Plummer answered a traffic circle.

Mr. Plummer explained the general conditions of a round-about versus a traffic circle:

**ROUND-ABOUT** – *All the approaches are yield to control. If you are in the round about, you have the right of way. In a round-about you do not allow pedestrians access to the central island. Parking adjacent to a round-about is not allowed. In a round-about you are never allowed to make a left; you have to circulate around the round-about.*

**TRAFFIC CIRCLES** – *Are stop and go and pedestrians are allowed access the traffic circle, DeSoto Fountain is an example. Parking adjacent to the circle is allowed. In some traffic circles as you approach them, if there is no traffic, you can turn left in front of the circle.*

Mrs. Swain asked to explain what the signage is going to be like and who's yielding to them. Mr. Plummer stated that this design is close to a round-about, therefore it is yield to control on all approaches which means you cannot enter into the traffic circle until there's a gap. If you are in the traffic circle, you have the right of way and you cannot stop.

Mrs. Kupper asked how long will the project take. Mr. Hernandez said he requested a time line from the County. The schedule will be provided to the board once it's received. Mrs. Swain asked if the County have held public meetings or a formal process to get public input. Mr.

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Hernandez said he can't speak for the County, but the City has shown the project to residents and received positive feedback.

Once Mr. Plummer finalized the Cartagena Circle project, Mrs. Swain said ok and Mrs. Kupper said very good.

Mrs. Cruz wants to know purpose wise what's the difference between a round about and a traffic circle. Mr. Plummer explained a round-about generally can improve the capacity of an intersection and the traffic circle is used generally as a traffic calming device. Traffic circles are used more in residential neighborhoods and roundabouts are used more like on Ponce/Segovia & Coral Way, where you are trying to move traffic.

- ***Bicycle Master Plan Update***

Tony Garcia, Urban Planner, based in Coral Gables and Coral Gables resident made a presentation on the City's Bicycle Master Plan.

Mr. Garcia said this project is being approached by dividing the type of cyclist into groups: 1 – there are the 1% of cyclist that are the spandex crowd which ride in the middle of the road on the traffic lane because they feel it is their legal right; 2 - the 6% of people that use bike lanes but bike lanes don't connect always so there are gaps in the network; 3- the 60% of the people that have had an experience and have been riding bikes since they were kids, have not transitioned into applying that into their daily lives. This data comes from Roger Gehller, a city coordinator planner, who did a 10 year survey of cyclists in order to attain this information. He said 60% of people will ride if they are protected from traffic and 30% of the people are not interested.

Mr. Garcia said when designing bicycle facilities you have to know your market. With the NRP there is an opportunity to think of the right of way as a shared space. The way to know what facilities are right for a route is by doing a survey, the data collected consists of the volume of traffic, the speed, the swale and what does it feel like riding on that road, is it comfortable with traffic, is there a sidewalk are there crosswalks. This is what determines the next phase, which is what facility works on what street. He said the biggest challenge he sees for bicycle safety in the city is crossing the avenues, for example crossing Bird Road and Granada Boulevard is challenging.

This project was audited based on the general lane use, characteristics, the down town corridor, the residential and Country Club district, the University area and south of US1. They rode 40% of the miles of the City, which is a couple of Sundays in a row, taking pictures and documenting the City. He explained the green lines on the plans provided, are existing bike lanes that impact Cocoplum, Segovia and Alhambra and the orange dots are City of Miami connections. The idea is to draft-up the existing conditions of the street and then do variations of that same street with different facilities. They will do that based on the survey and by getting feedback from bicycle groups. They will get into the analysis and bring it back to the Board to discuss.

Mrs. Swain asked Tony, how are pedestrians contemplated in this master plan. Tony said he has an idea of where sidewalks/crosswalks can be suggested for possible pedestrian improvements.

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He added that County Club Prado was being mentioned about not having benches in that park and that those are easy pedestrian improvements.

Sergeant Escobar said he will like to be notified before the routes are finalized in order to point out things that may be helpful.

**TRAFFIC PROJECT UPDATE:**

Mr. Hernandez provided information regarding the traffic circle on Miller and San Amaro. He said this project goes back to 2008: on August 25, 2008 there was a meeting with neighbors to discuss the traffic improvement for the traffic circle on Miller and San Amaro, and another meeting followed on November 18, 2008 bringing the item to the Traffic Advisory Board, at that time the TAB requested a special community meeting that was scheduled for December 9, 2008 subsequent to that the City notified neighbors about the circle on April 16, 2009, the neighbors were 1411 and 1425 Miller Road. The project proceeded to the City for DRC review in which the Development Review Committee looked at it and in December 2009 it went to the Board of Architect for approval which it was approved. On August 17, 2010 it went for preliminary review and approval to the Miami-Dade County Public Works on the same date August 17, 2010 it was approved by DERM, it came back March 20, 2012 to the TAB and then there was a meeting on April 17, 2012 between UM and St. Augustine Church and they said they had no objection to the circle, subsequent to that Miami-Dade Public Works gave its final approval on June 18, 2012.

Mrs. Cruz stated she has requested the certified letters that were sent to neighbors. She mentioned that the meeting notice from UM neighbors received only pertained to the music building and not the traffic circle on Miller. She said that during last month's meeting, Mr. Pino provided the Miami-Dade County process for traffic circles and according to that process two thirds of the responding neighbors had to agree.

Mr. Hernandez clarified that since then, staff has met with the County and what they require for traffic circles is to have 100% of all the abutting neighbors. The two thirds are for other types of projects, not traffic circles. This would apply for City projects, built by the City. Mrs. Cruz asked if the information Mr. Pino provided at the last meeting is inaccurate. Mr. Hernandez stated that after further research he came across The 2009 Traffic Flow Modification Streets Closure Procedures from the County, which states that they require the minimum abutting properties 100% of those votes to be yes. In other words, if the City has a project that they are building themselves, the abutting residents and the two thirds have to vote, but when the County has a project they are building in the City, they only require the abutting residents to vote.

Mr. Cruz reiterated: 1- all the documents that have been provided never mentioned a round about, it was always a circle which is different, since a circle calms traffic and a round-about makes the traffic flow constantly; 2- they were told from the beginning that neighbors had to be contacted and they never were.

Mr. Hernandez mentioned that the University followed the County's minimum standards who are the final decision makers. He said this project goes back to 2008 and it was difficult to find all records, however staff will continue to research. He added the City is trying to move forward,

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look at the improvements that are required, and discuss the second half, which is the status of the Miller/Alhambra Circle.

Mrs. Cruz said she has been in contact with Vishnu, Miami-Dade County to assist with getting the letters that were sent out.

*Intersection of Alhambra and Miller* – needs to be paved, project will continue and then go back and finish paving from Alhambra to Red Road. Once complete, the “right turn only” will be blacked out on Alhambra. The permit has not been closed-out; they have until the end of the month. Staff will then thoroughly review what’s been done and items not meeting standards will be provided for corrections to be made. Mrs. Cruz mentioned that in December a meeting was requested with the neighbors to discuss the traffic study, she is concerned that the traffic study will be done when the school semester is over and no students are on campus which will defeat the purpose. Mr. Hernandez said the study will be done not only from the traffic circles point of view, but the cut through traffic as well and the time frame given was for October. Mr. Menendez asked if there was anyway that signs can be put up advising commuters that tickets will be doubled for speeding. Mrs. Swain asked if the temporary four-way stop signs could be brought back. Mr. Hernandez explained that the ideal situation is to be able to measure the real traffic to get an accurate study, if the pattern is changed to calm traffic now, it may not meet the County’s requirement/threshold. Mrs. Swain asked if the study is done in October, how long will the study take and how long of a period to stabilize before the study is read. Mr. Hernandez said each study takes about 72 hours of measurements and minimum of (120) days before you do the study. Mrs. Cruz suggested getting accident data and how many citations have been issued in the area. Sergeant Escobar stated he handles 80% of all the accidents and he can get data as requested. Mrs. Cruz asked for data going back to the day the stops signs were removed. Sergeant Escobar said he will provide the data for Alhambra & Miller and San Amaro & Miller by the end of the week.

Mrs. Cruz said the Miller and Alhambra intersection was discussed, but wants to know about the Miller & San Amaro intersection and neighbors have requested a meeting to discuss this intersection. Mr. Hernandez said he can meet with the County. Mrs. Swain said it is an existing circle and it is a County law, in which Mrs. Cruz interrupted and said, according to Mr. Pino and Vishnu from the County, it was not because they are waiting for the certified letters showing neighbors approval. Mrs. Swain requested a letter from Vishnu that indicates that his signing, after review, met the minimum requirements or didn’t meet the minimum requirements. Mrs. Swain requested for staff to notify the TAB whenever community meetings are held with residents regarding traffic for Board representation. Mrs. Swain will also like copies of any written communication regarding this project for her files. Mr. Hernandez read the November 25, 2012 letter that was sent out to the residents. Mrs. Swain will like staff to provide copies of the list showing the name and address of the residents who received the letter. Mrs. Cruz and Mr. Rickel asked for copies as well.

*LeJeune Rd. Median Project* – should be completed by April 2013.

*Phase II Resurfacing Project* – is on the way, should be done south of US1 in a couple of months.

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*Intersection Improvement Project* – expected to finish in April 2013.

Mrs. Swain asked about schedule for the Phase II part pertaining to downtown. Mr. Hernandez said it would be sometime after March. They are currently working on that now, most of the work should be at night in order to minimize disturbance.

Mrs. Kupper asked if Phase III paving project will include Red Road where the traffic circle in Gables by the Sea was just approved which will not be until next years fiscal year, she will like to know what will happen with that then. Ludwik said this will happen next year at the same time there for the timing will be ok.

Mrs. Kupper asked for status on the tree survey, her interest is only because of the traffic calming and losing trees. The City is not keeping up with the white fly infestation. Mr. Hernandez said that Public Service, Dan Keys, has done pretty much all of the surveys of the existing conditions, now they are looking at identifying areas of common trees whether to replace it with the same species or different species of tree. Mr. Hernandez said he will have an update at the next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm