

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item F-6
February 24, 2026
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago
Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson
Commissioner Melissa Castro
Commissioner Ariel Fernandez
Commissioner Richard D. Lara

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez
City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Parking Director, Monica Beltran
Assistant Director for Mobility, Matt Anderson

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Items F-6 [Start: 2:37 p.m.]

Discussion regarding a bicycle rental program.
(Sponsored by Vice Mayor Anderson)

Mayor Lago: All right, let's get started, item F-6. Yes, ma'am.

Vice Mayor Anderson: F-6. I've been speaking to staff for some time about a bicycle rental program, and there is a need for it. We've been mostly talking about a docked-type program, and I wanted staff to not only hear my comments, but be able to hear your comments, not necessarily now, but also in the future. So, I'm going to share with you some of the discussions that we had. And I wanted this all to go before the Transportation Advisory Board for additional comment as to where we need to have rentals. It became patently obvious to me that we constantly have people that need to borrow bikes to go on Bike Walk Coral Gables Rides. So, one location I thought of is across from the museum. We have a city facility there with a parking garage. We could probably, and I'm just saying probably because it's up to staff to try to make recommendations, have a bicycle rental program there. There are other locations throughout our city where rental bikes could be

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helpful, perhaps at the Country Club, perhaps at the Venetian Pool, maybe over at the Plaza. I think we need to have a robust discussion as to where there's some need, maybe Kerdyk Park. These are a lot of maybes in my mind, but I want staff's recommendation, I want the Transportation Advisory Board's recommendations, and I also want the recommendations of my colleagues. Where do you see a need? Where do you see a need? And we want them docked because, my personal opinion is we want them docked because we don't want them laying all over the sidewalks and blocking people. This is a useful thing for our city. I think people would enjoy our city more and you don't necessarily have to own a bicycle and store a bicycle if you can rent a bicycle. So that's the long and short of that one. I think I took three minutes.

Commissioner Fernandez: To the mayor.

Mayor Lago: Yes.

Commissioner Fernandez: So, I think this is a phenomenal idea. So, your concept is not like the scooters that people just pick up and leave. This would be a pickup at a location and return to that location. I think that's great. The other location that I would suggest is maybe at the Kerdyk Tennis Center for folks who come to the Biltmore. You see them walking a lot and trying to find a way to get to downtown, even to get to the church sometimes. I've given ladies a ride back from the church to the Biltmore after mass because it's been hot and they've preferred just to get a ride. But maybe if there was a bicycle, that would be an option.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, there are bicycles there, but I asked staff to talk to the Biltmore. Perhaps we can have a cohesive program. And we have our experts in front of us. Do you want to add something maybe to help give us some guidance in the meantime?

Assistant Director for Mobility Matt Anderson: Sure, I'll actually let Monica start and then I'll chime in where Monica.

Mayor Lago: Good afternoon.

Parking Director Beltran: Good afternoon, Mayor, Vice Mayor, Commissioners, my boss. So, we've done a little digging into this. My previous life, we had a contract with DecoBike, and the sponsor was Citibank. So reached out to them because actually between Miami Beach and Miami, they've had 22 million bike rides. And I thought, you know, if any of those rides came here, it would be so good for the city, right? And actually, they confirmed that there are people that ride even from Miami Beach and definitely from Miami. So, the ideal would be to have a docked system. You have to have a beginning, and you have to have an end. And what would be even better would be to get a sponsor. So, there's no cost to the city and we could negotiate a beneficial annual program or something for residents. So I've heard from residents that they don't keep bikes because they don't want to have them in their living room or because they've been stolen or because they just want to have access when they want to have access or because we have wonderful events

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in the city that maybe they want to ride there, go to the Farmer's Market, right? Take a stroll, whatever, and then ride back home. So, I reached out to DecoBike and I said, what would it take for us to get a sponsorship with the city? We've discussed this with my boss. And he said, "Let me reach out to them so, he did. And they said, if we could put together a proposal with proposed locations and docking stations and number of bikes that we would like, they would evaluate it for a sponsorship. And that would be ideal. So, what I did was, again, at the direction of the City Manager and DCM, reached out to different departments, Economic Development, so that we could link it to business, Parks and Recreation, so that we could link it to events, right? Development Services, Planning, departments that could assist us in determining what are the locations so the city will buy into our program. So, I did speak to Belkys, and we thought maybe at the large complexes, apartments or condominiums that they would have use. And again, you can tailor this to however many bikes you think you're going to need. So that's where we're at. By speaking to DecoBike, by the way, they're Miami-based business. They work in about five cities in South Miami or in South Florida. And they said they have logged more than 23 million rides, traveled more than 60 million miles, burned more than 2.1 billion calories and resulted in a carbon emission reduction of 54 million pounds. So, it would be something good to be here, but the success is going to depend on how we design this. I also asked them if there would be no electric bikes, but there would be pedal, regular pedal. And we could also ask for some pedal assisted, which is a lower velocity, but you could still enjoy that if you wanted a combination. And so, yeah, it looks good. We're working on it.

Assistant Director for Mobility: I'll also add, Vice Mayor, that I've also reached out to the University of Miami to see if they'd be interested in exploring this as well.

Vice Mayor Anderson: No, and I appreciate your hallmark on it. And I know you know, and some other people know that I do a little bit of biking. So, you know, I've been up on Miami Beach. I've seen how well used they were. I've also been in South Dade. You know, a 20-mile ride is kind of like my minimum. So, I think there's an opportunity there. And the reason why I mentioned 20-mile ride, it's not unforeseen that people will take a bike from here and go to the beach.

Parking Director Beltran: Correct.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Or go to South Miami.

Parking Director Beltran: Or Coconut Grove.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Or Pinecrest. Or Palmetto Bay. Or Cutler Bay. Because I've been all the way up and down. And it's enjoyable.

Parking Director Beltran: The good thing about a city program sponsorship is the interoperability, right? So that you could start a ride here and dock in Miami, Miami Beach, Surfside, or wherever you're going. And so that interoperability would be fantastic for us. I must say that the Underline

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does have a program, also through DECO, but a different sponsor. And it's a Brazilian bank, and it would be much more limited. So, I think that if we combine this also as a first mile, last mile, so that it would follow with the trolley and at the many locations, that we could have a very successful program here. Not only as a bike program, but also as a service to residents and visitors.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I do have a question. Can we also work with the county to provide docking over at some of the rail stations? Because the trolley's great, and it carries a million passengers, I understand. But it doesn't go everywhere. So perhaps people can go from the Country Club or the Biltmore to Douglas Station or to University Station, leave the bike there and then go elsewhere.

Parking Director Beltran: And we could put it in the proximity, because that's all our area as well. So, we could put it in the proximity to where you can walk within half a block or something, and you're at the Metro Rail Station.

Assistant Director for Mobility: And I'll add, we do have a lot of folks that use the trolley that use their bike and then use the bike racks in the front of the trolley. So, this will just provide an additional venue for them to be able to get to the trolley stop and really act as that first and last mile of our main transit system. So, I think it'd be very beneficial and complementary of our existing transportation systems within the city.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, colleagues, this is something else we can collaborate on. We don't have to make all our comments today. You can reach out to staff and provide additional ideas and let us know when you can bring it back, sooner or better than later, it would be wonderful.

Parking Director Beltran: If we get ideas as to the locations so that we could put together a proposal for city, that hopefully they'll buy. If that doesn't happen, I've spoken as well to DECO about alternatives so that we can get some type of sponsorship or something so that it's not expensive to us and it's affordable, especially for residents that would like a program, a long-term program for their use.

Assistant Director for Mobility: And I'll be presenting at the, sorry, Commissioner. I'll be presenting at the Transportation Advisory Board next month, giving an overall update on our transportation services. So, I will bring that up as part of the discussion to get feedback from the Transportation Advisory Board.

Mayor Lago: Commissioner.

Parking Director Beltran: We did present it, sorry, to the Parking Advisory Board, and they were most interested.

Mayor Lago: Okay, Commissioner.

Commissioner Lara: So, I think it's a great idea, and I'm glad that we're going to be able to talk a little more about it. But while we're here, does anybody on the dais have an idea about further south, like say down on Old Cutler, if there's a place that would be a good place for it to be originating? Any city property or other idea? Matheson, I don't know.

Mayor Lago: Maybe Fairchild?

Commissioner Lara: Right? Because it just seems to me that that's a...

Vice Mayor Anderson: Matheson.

Commissioner Lara: Matheson, right, because that is such a well-traveled area for bikes in particular. And we can get them maybe to say, our residents that live down there, I'll take the bike into downtown, you know, with that docking system, anyway, south.

Mayor Lago: Madam Vice-Mayor, you're happy? Are we everything fine with this?

Vice Mayor Anderson: No, I'm happy with it. And we can, you know, make sure that the Bicycle Master Plan is updated at the same time, providing the best routes.

Assistant Director for Mobility: On that note, we can provide an update on that. We are working collaboratively with Melissa and the Public Works team and updating, working with the consultant to update both the Parking Master Plan, Trolley Master Plan, and the Bike and Ped Master Plan in unison, since they all collaborate with one another. So, we are working on that and have been having meetings with the consultant that we have on board.

Mayor Lago: Okay. Thank you very much.

City Manager Iglesias: Through the Mayor?

Mayor Lago: Yes, sir.

City Manager Iglesias: Thank you, Mayor. The reason we're talking to DECO is because DECO is in Miami Beach in Miami and in Coral Gables. So, there's a lot of synergies there where a bike can be left off at different docking stations. I think what we can do is reach out to DECO and look to see what kind of plan they see as effective for Coral Gables. And we can get back to the Commission on that and see how effective that is. But I think it's important to have, so we have Miami Beach, Miami, and Coral Gables, and we have other cities further south, Commissioner Lara, it would be fantastic with having that same provider because we could have that first start and end to the bicycle route from multiple cities.

Mayor Lago: All right. Thank you very much.