

TRAFFIC ADVISORY BOARD
CORAL GABLES CITY HALL
CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA
SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

MEMBERS

	S O N D J F M A M J J A S
Ian Martinez	P E P * E P P E P P P P P
Larry D. Kries	E P P * P P E P P P P P P
Deborah Swain	P P P P
Frank Quesada	E P P * E P P A A P E P P
Chris Zoller	P P P P
Donna Kupper	P P P P
Al Smith	P P P P

APPOINTED BY:

Donald D. Slesnick, II
Maria Anderson
Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Wayne "Chip" Withers
Commission-as-a-Whole
City Manager

STAFF

R. Alberto Delgado, P.E., Public Works Director
Esther Zabalo, Civil Engineer
Mirtha Francomacaro
Lt. A. Diaz, Police Department

CONSULTANT

Ramon Soria, President, Marlin Engineer
Yamilet Senespleda, Marlin Engineering

FDOT 57TH AVENUE PROJECT

Ana Arvelo, Project Manager, FDOT
Cathy Owens, FDOT
Marta Rodriguez, FDOT
Elio Espino, APTC
Evelio Chavez (Consultech)

Ms. Swain called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Mr. Kries asked to be excused from attending the October meeting. Approved.

Mr. Martinez, for the record, wanted those present to know that he represents FDOT as an outside Council for District 6, but although there is no conflict of interest he wanted everyone to know it.

Presentation on the FDOT 57th Avenue Project:

Ms. Rodriguez explained that the first segment of the project is from Eighth Street to Coral Way. A Fact Sheet was distributed to the Board Members. The Ms. Rodriguez noted that they had complied with public outreach and had met with County Commissioner, Rebeca Sosa and with Mayor Slesnick. Also they had met with property owners to address their concerns and met at Public Works with some of the affected area residents. They plan to go before the City Commission to request an easement to be able to carry on the project.

Ms. Rodriguez further explained the proposed scope of the work, which includes:

- Milling and resurfacing of existing pavement.
- Installation of decorative lighting.
- Construction of sidewalk with ADA compliance (and associated drainage)

At present the project is in the design phase with 60% completion, by December 2009 the project will be at 90% completion and by the end of March 2010, the project will be 100% design complete.

FDOT has coordinated all the improvements with the residents, especially those around S. W. 8th Street, where an easement of around 4 feet is needed to provide this improvement. So far residents are happy and FDOT has not received any negative input from them.

At Coral Way they will increase storage for eastbound traffic increase the storage for right turn extending the lane 600', so vehicles can utilize both lanes. It will not be a right turn only. It will be a through and a right turn lane. They know how constrained 57th Avenue is and they are concentrating on the geometry of S. W. 57th Avenue. The geometry of the S.W. 16 Street intersection will not change.

Mr. Delgado indicated that since this project must go to the City Commission – it will require an easement - it has to be brought before City Boards to get their input. Comments and discussion from the Board Members followed.

Mr. Zoller moved: **“Based on the presentation I move that the project go forward”**, seconded by Mr. Kries; the motion carried with Mr. Martinez abstaining.

The FDOT and engineering consultant presenters thanked the Board Members and left the meeting.

Mr. Quesada requested, if possible, to get a copy of the before and after fact sheet with the Agenda of the meeting so they can have more information on any projects before they can make a decision.

Minutes of July 24, 2009 and August 18, 2009 minutes:

On motion made by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Mr. Kries, the minutes of July 24, 2009, which had been e-mailed to the members, were approved. On motion made by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Mr. Kries, the Minutes of August 18, 2009 were approved.

Public Works Director's Report:

Mr. Delgado distributed landscaping plans for the Segovia Median and the Biltmore Way and Segovia Street roundabout. The contract for the Biltmore Way and Segovia Street roundabout was awarded below the budgeted amount. Construction is expected to start in October.

Segovia Median: Mr. Delgado provided the landscape architects rendering for the proposed improvements. Ms. Swain asked Mr. Delgado to look into native plant material whenever possible.

Construction on these two calming devices is expected to start next year. Mr. Delgado noted that the Queen Palms that are in bad shape will be replaced with native Mahogany trees.

Speed tables installed on Madruga Avenue were discussed. When Mr. Delgado explained that the County does not allow the installation of speed tables. The street has to be 1,500 feet long, and for emergency response is not the only route that can be taken, which is why speed tables were not allowed on Edgewater Drive and Lugo. There are other requirements, but the County is making it very difficult to obtain approval.

Mr. Delgado informed the Board Members that a follow-up meeting is being scheduled with the North Gables residents for October (at the time of the Traffic Advisory Board meeting it was hoped to meet on October 15, but a meeting room was not available until October 21.)* see Note.

Blue Road @ San Amaro and Blue Road @ Alhambra Circle: Mr. Delgado noted that contract documents are being signed.

The County has also agreed to install the signalization at the crosswalk in front of the Youth Center, and they want the City to pay \$32,000.00 and they will pay the rest. The documents must be signed, and once they are approved and signed by the City Manager, the signalization will be installed with solar power.

Traffic projects Update:

Mr. Soria next summarized the discussion that had taken place at the September meeting regarding this request at Hardee and San Vicente. He explained that this intersection does qualify for an installation for cut-through traffic and volume. However, this is a collector and there must be an allowance for cut-through traffic, and it is a street that is supposed to take volume. The many other circles reduce the speeding, which is not an issue to that intersection. Additionally, we have had other issues with the Fire Department, who say we have too many circles. Mr. Martinez moved **to deny the installation of a traffic circle**, seconded by Ms. Kupper. Motion passed unanimously.

The consultants made their presentations and recommended a traffic circle as the best solution for the traffic at the intersection at Granada Boulevard and Pisano. They would move the pedestrian crossing and make it part of the circle, forcing the drivers to one lane. There is no problem with capacity or with volume, but it would be safer for vehicles and for pedestrians, and will not create back-ups. The circle would be operating at Service Level A.

The recommendation for Granada Boulevard and Ponce de Leon is a median. At one time the County was planning to develop that area, but they abandoned the project and left the City to do it. No changes are planned. Lt. Diaz will get a report on the accidents in this area to the Board. Concerns were raised about the backup caused by the confusion at the left turn lane from Granada to Ponce. Some additional striping that might be beneficial to prevent bottle necks. This is a problem with any one of our streets with US1 the same thing happens. Improving the signalization synchronization may also help. Discussion then followed regarding traffic studies of the Pisano – Granada intersection area and the traffic related to hospital staff and university staff and students. Mr. Martinez made a motion:

To table this issue until next meeting to have Fire and Police Departments provide their comments, seconded by Mr. Zoller. Further discussion included that the consultant to bring traffic counts and analysis to show the level of service at that intersection, and a representative from Doctors' Hospital should be invited because the hospital and the Emergency Room could be impacted. Mr. Martinez amended his motion to read: **To table this issue until next meeting to have Fire and Police Departments provide their comments, as well as to invite a representative from Doctors' Hospital and the University of Miami, since this issue will impact them both.** Mr. Zoller seconded. Additional discussion followed about plans for bicycle lanes striping. Granada is perhaps Phase III of the striping plan, but that will be taken into account. Mr. Soria clarified that what was presented were concepts and solutions, but not a design, which will take the bicycle lanes into account.

Ms. Swain called the question, the motion passed.

Board Related Commission Items:

Mr. Delgado, we need to start working with the projects that are going to be worked on next year. Besides the Street Improvement funds it looks like we are going to get additional \$300,000.00 for traffic calming. We need to start setting the priorities. We try to finish all constructions that we are working on by December. If any projects assigned to this year needs to be carried over, we need to consider it. By next meeting we will provide a list with all proposed projects. The list will show what stages the projects are at.

Old Business:

Mr. Kries asked to re-address the study of the business side of Valencia, and asked that it include the entire corridor including the west (residential) section.

Ms. Kupper recommended Bella Vista be added to the list for bicycle lane striping. She asked about meeting with the County about the stamped asphalt. Mr. Delgado informed the Board Members that the product looks very promising and a sample patch will be done at the Public Works yard. Ms. Kupper asked if the Board needs to give an opinion about the Miracle Mile Streetscape, because she is concerned about losing a lot of parking spaces. Mr. Delgado noted that they are still going through the other Boards.

Ms. Kupper suggested that the meeting with residents about the Lugo Roundabout should be changed it to October. Traffic results for that area are ready. Mr. Delgado explained that the County is completely in favor and the residents are the ones to give the final approval. If they agree, we will invite the residents from Pine Crest.

Ms. Swain asked about the circle at Alhambra Circle and Trionfo, which looks newly curbed. Mr. Delgado explained that when the circle was installed the Riviera Neighborhood Association residents complained about the circle because it did not control westbound traffic, so the curb was extended to tighten the circle.

New Business:

Ms. Swain, noted that the intersection on the west side of the Monza Publix should be studied. Mr. Delgado explained David Plummer & Associates, Inc. previously prepared a proposed plan, and that it would be brought for the Board's review.

The Riviera Playground was discussed.

Gulliver Academy is considering redoing their Master Plan, which will not increase the population.

There being no further business to come before the board Ms. Swain adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Note:

Letters will be mailed out to all the North Gables residents. Mr. Delgado will announce the meeting will be held in the Commission Chambers, at City Hall, on Wednesday, October 21, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.