

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD
 HYBRID MEETING AT CITY HALL/ZOOM
 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON JULY 20, 2021

	J	J	A ^v	S ^v	O ^v	N	D ^H	J ^H	F ^H	M ^H	A	J	J	
	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	21	21	21	21	21	21	
Kevin Mase	(+ -)	(+ -)	-	*	P	(+ -)	P	P	P	E	P	E	P	Menendez
Silvia Pinera-Vazquez	(+ -)	(+ -)	/	/	/	(+ -)	/	/	/	/	/	*	P	Fors
Steven Williamson	(+ -)	(+ -)	P	P	P	(+ -)	A	A	P-V	P-V	P	E	P	Mayor
Debbie Swain	(+ -)	(+ -)	P	P	P	(+ -)	P-V	E	P	P	P	P	P	VM Mena
Sue Kawalerski	(+ -)	(+ -)	P	P	P	(+ -)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Anderson
Roberta Neway	(+ -)	(+ -)	/	/	/	(+ -)	/	/	/	/	/	/	P	Commission
Peter Wood	(+ -)	(+ -)	P	P	P	(+ -)	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	City Manager

P: Present in person P: Present virtually (zoom) ^v Virtual Meeting
 E- Excused Absence A- Absent ^H Hybrid
 *-New Member (+ -) No Meeting

Staff: Melissa de Zayas, Sr. Multimodal Transportation Engineer
 Jeanne Espinal, Assistant to the Public Works Director

Guest: Gordon Sokoloff

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Sue Kawalerski at 5:35 PM. All members were present, and quorum was met.

Meeting Minutes Approval: *Debbie Swain motioned to approve the June 15, 2021, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Kevin Mase, voted upon, and adopted unanimously by the board.* Ms. Pinera-Vazquez later requested to correct the record to reflect her correct spelling of her last name. *Debbie Swain motioned to approve the June 15 meeting minutes with the requested edits. The motion was seconded by Kevin Mase, voted upon and adopted unanimously by the board.*

New Member: Ms. Roberta Neway was selected to represent the Commission as a whole. Ms. Neway is a longtime Coral Gables resident and retiree. Her goal as a board member is to promote cycling and walking, not just for recreation but other reasons such as public health, civic engagement, and the climate.

Chair and Vice-Chair Election: Sue Kawalerski opened discussion on the election of a chair and vice chair now that there is a full board. Ms. Kawalerski, as the current vice-chair has been acting chair and leading the last board meetings. She advised the form that she will be formally running for Chairman and invited all members that are interested in running for chair of vice chair to provide Melissa their resumes as well as an explanation on why they would like to be considered/nominated for the role before the next meeting. Chair Sue Kawalerski advised the board that she would be running for the Chair position.

Public Comments: Dr. Sokoloff, the board’s former chairman, attended the meeting and thanked the board for their work during his time as a chair and thanked the City for the opportunity to serve and represent the residents. He informed the board that he is now the vice chair for the parking advisory board and reminded the board that these boards can accomplish many things and noted the success the TAB had against over-development which causes traffic and transportation problems. Dr. Sokoloff would

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like to continue the idea of creating a council of board representatives from all the city boards to create effective communication and share ideas on common goals. Dr. Sokoloff asked the board to consider his proposal of trading current member benefits for receiving free parking throughout the City instead.

Alexan Crafts: Alexan Crafts— Melissa advised the board that the development triggered the traffic impact study (TIS) by surpassing the 50-trip threshold. A meeting is scheduled for this week to develop methodology and once approved the City will issue the Notice to Proceed (NTP). Melissa elaborated on how the TIS process works. Debbie Swain advised the board that it was the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) that came up with the 50-trip threshold traffic impact study process. The city selects a traffic consultant and the developer pays for the study. Melissa advised the board that the consultant gets selected from an existing contract the City has with various qualified firms and she will start with the first on the list and verify if there is any conflict of interest. If a conflict exists, they move on to the next consultant. Sue Kawalerski asked when the study would start, and Melissa advised her that the schedule is discussed at the methodology meeting and the studies are conducted in the fall when traffic levels are back to normal.

Secretary's Report

1. Traffic Impact Studies: Alexan Crafts
2. DRC Applications: No new applications have been submitted. Sue Kawalerski inquired about the Ponce Park Towers. Melissa advised that it has not gone up for DRC. Sue Kawalerski informed the board that the developer wants to take away a public street. Melissa will be providing the board with the schedule.
3. Planning and Zoning Meeting: Melissa will provide the date.

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 begin in the early fall. Two roundabouts need to be modified due to site conditions. New traffic calming devices will be proposed at these locations.

Zone 2: Pre-conceptual designs are to be completed August 2021 and will be reviewed internally once submitted.

Zone 3: Pre-conceptual designs are to be completed August 2021 and will be reviewed internally once submitted.

Zone 4: Community meeting took place March, 2, 2021.

Zone 5: No date for community meeting has been established.

Ms. Silvia Pinera Vazquez inquired about a “traffic circle” that was recently built at the intersection of Sevilla and Galiano, by the Plaza. She explained that she has almost driven through it as the “roundabout” is the same color and texture as the street and Debbie Swain stated that it is difficult to differentiate if you are in a bicycle. Melissa advised them that the City is aware and there are a couple of ideas that have been suggested to create a contrast as the height and curb are not the issue. She stated that one of the options is to paint the curb but there are different things they are looking at. Ms. Pinera-Vazquez asked if it is the

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developer will pay for the improvements and Melissa advised her that she will find out, but she believes it was the developer who built it.

Police update: Major Jenni Hoff attended the meeting and provided the board with the requested crash data and advised them that cumulatively, since 2011, there have been 3217 incidents. There was an uptick between 2013-2015, and the year with the lowest numbers was 2020 due to Covid. These crashes do not include bicycle to bicycle or bicycle to pedestrian incidents which are reported but are not categorized as crashes. Kevin Mase inquired on incidents that involve golf carts and their use on the streets. Major Hoff clarified that the golf carts used in the streets are “street ready” and need to meet a certain criterion for circulating unlike regular golf carts. Sue Kawalerski asked if she has seen an uptick in golf cart use and Major Hoff advised her that she has not seen an increase in use. Peter Wood requested data on any accidents that resulted in fatalities and Major Hoff will be providing for the next meeting. Further, Melissa will be distributing via email the numbers that Major Hoff shared at the meeting for their review. Sue Kawalerski asked Major Hoff if she knows which are the most dangerous intersections in the City. Major Hoff advised her that Le Jeune and US-1 are roads where you see the most accidents, but she can provide that information. Sue Kawalerski requested a City map that depicts the intersections with the most accidents. Major Hoff said it would be difficult to produce a map but could provide a list of those intersections. Acting-Chair Kawalerski said that would be okay.

Old Business: Ms. Debbie Swain attended the last Commission meeting, along with Acting-Chair Kawalerski, and where she presented the three (3) board resolutions and provided the following update:

1. **Bikeway on South Alhambra:** The resolution for the bikeway project that was spearheaded by Roberta Neway on behalf of the area’s residents was approved and the commission agreed to direct staff to move to the next step which is conducting a community meeting. Sue Kawalerski asked if there would be a conflict of interest now that Roberta is part of the board. Melissa advised them she would be inquiring with the City attorney’s office. Further, Melissa will check with the clerk’s office when the next ethics training for new members will be taking place.
2. **Sidewalk Gaps:** The Commission approved the prioritization of the identified sidewalk gaps. Sue Kawalerski reminded the board that the point made by Steve Williamson early on about the importance of closing these gaps is a critical matter as more people walk rather than use their bicycles. Acting-Chair Kawalerski would like to see the TAB pursue this endeavor aggressively and said this would be a top priority for her this year on the board. Steve Williamson asked if the City of Coral Gables has applied for any safe-route-to-school funds (SRTS). Melissa will be looking into this matter and will provide the board with more information.

Roberta Neway opened discussion on the high visibility delineators that are placed in the middle of the street that effectively reduce speed and would like to see more of these. Peter Wood stated that there is a lot of conversation around the construction of traffic circles when it comes to traffic calming, but the high visibility delineator is a lot less expensive and are effective at reducing speed. Further, he stated that in the spirit of the activities of the board, it would be helpful to get an inventory of what is the current state of the high visibility delineators and if there is an opportunity to expand their use. Melissa stated that it is something that the city considered it a couple years back. Sue Kawalerski inquired if these are considered traffic calming devices, and Melissa advised

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her that she needs to review the agreement with the county. Sue Kawalerski requested for staff to provide answers to the following:

1. Number of High visibility delineators
2. Cost for the High visibility delineators
3. Whether they are considered traffic calming devices
4. Who would be bearing the cost.

Debbie Swain advised the board that the Public Works Department (PWD) requested 1.2 million dollars for new sidewalks and the budget was cut down to 400K, which is one of the challenges that the PWD has in developing the sidewalk plan and how it is this going to be prioritized. She further stated that the Public Works director requested from the commissioners to identify the areas of high priority and the addition of sidewalks near schools and once identified the PWD will develop something. The board asked Melissa to further elaborate on the budget shortcoming and she advised them that they had 1.2 million since it was estimated that about 1 million would be allocated towards sidewalk repairs from existing complaints. However, only 400K was allocated for sidewalk construction and repairs. She also advised them that a map was developed a couple years ago where areas of sidewalks are split into tiers based on priority, but this must be updated. Melissa advised the board that major projects such as University Drive are sent to consultants, but sidewalk extensions are done in house.

Acting-Chair Kawalerski stated that it is incumbent on and the purview of the TAB to argue that the original \$1.2 million be restored on the basis of public safety needs and the board take immediate action to appeal to the commission in the form of a resolution before the 2021-2022 budget is finalized.

Steve Williamson expressed that the amount allocated is ridiculous and would like to know if there is any way that the City can look into obtaining funds from the American Rescue Plan. Melissa advised them that she does not believe that the City is getting much but will obtain more information. Sue Kawalerski asked for the board members to lobby their commissioners to increase the funding for the next budget and would like for the board's focus to be increasing the budget for sidewalks. Steve Williamson stated that sidewalk safety is a priority. Ms. Pinera-Vazquez requested information on how much money the City has received from the American Rescue Fund and where she can obtain the information.

At the request of Acting-Chair Sue Kawalerski, Debbie Swain made a motion of the transportation advisory board to present a resolution requesting that the City Commission reconsider the original sidewalk funding request made by the Public Works Department for the upcoming fiscal year and restore it to the 1.2 million dollars that were requested. The motion was seconded by Peter Wood, voted upon and unanimously adopted by the board. Acting Chair Sue Kawalerski will be presenting the resolution at the next commission meeting on August 24th with board member Roberta Neway in attendance. Sue Kawalerski asked for an 11:00 AM time certain slot.

Ms. Swain also inquired about the sidewalk that will be built as part of the Doctors Hospital parking lot expansion. Melissa will be providing her with more information.

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3. Golf carts—The resolution did not pass and got postponed due to numerous questions from commissioners—They requested a survey from staff of the various cities involved in this issue and their positions. The TAB asked staff to confer with Miami-Dade County. Sue Kawalerski would like to obtain a copy of the current policy for use of golf carts

Meeting Adjourned: 6:50 PM

DRAFT