

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item J-1
April 24, 2018
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Frank Quesada
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Vince Lago
Commissioner Michael Mena

City Staff

City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
Assistant City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Assistant Public Works Director, Jessica Keller

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item J-1 [0:00:00 p.m.]
Update Regarding County Review for Traffic Calming Criteria.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Update regarding County review of traffic calming criteria.

Commissioner Lago: We did, okay.

Commissioner Mena: What's the item?

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Agenda Item J-1 - Update Regarding County Review for Traffic Calming Criteria.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Is...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: J-1.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Peter, is Jessica here to present that item?

(COMMENTS MADE OFF THE RECORD)

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: This is a follow-up to the three streets where they previously had diverters, and we made a request to the County on a traffic methodology. And so, Jessica is going to give us an update on where we are with that.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright, so where are we? We -- Jessica.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Good afternoon. Jessica Keller, Assistant Public Works Director. So, we were going to give actually, a very quick update on the status of the traffic calming criteria. We submitted to the County on March 7, as we had committed to at our last status update last week. We were provided official feedback from the County based on our submission. They've asked us to make some adjustments to the criteria that we submitted to them. Specifically, those items are related to -- so, if you had -- have you had the opportunity to review the criteria that we submitted? Generally, do you understand that we are assigning points to streets based on characteristics of those streets. So, for example, a street -- aside from the volume in speed, which is the primary way we determine what streets will get traffic calming, now we've added additional criteria. An example of some of those things are whether or not a street has sidewalks, whether or not there -- you know, with the crash history -- and actually, the crash history now already applies. I'm sorry. Give me one moment, please.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright. Where do we stand with what we submitted to the County?

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: I'm sorry?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We submitted...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Yes. So, they gave us feedback, and they'd like us to make some changes. They would like us to decrease the value that we give to streets that do not have pedestrian facilities, for example. They would like for us to revisit giving points to streets that are in the bicycle master plan. And they would like for us to define the types of crashes on a street. So, for example, just because there are -- I'm making up a number -- 20 crashes on a street, we have to make sure that those 20 crashes are related to a specific issue. So, for example, if there are side swipes on the street, that doesn't count if what we're trying to solve is an intersection crash. So, we're going to take a look at that. And actually, we've already analyzed it, what happened. So, when we initially provided the criteria to the County, we did an analysis of all the streets that we collected data from during the data collection period of the multimodal plan, and we saw how many streets would qualify. When we ran the numbers again with the adjusted criteria that the County had recommended, the streets that dropped off were collector streets. And we're comfortable with that. It hasn't impacted other -- the residential streets at all from getting traffic calming criteria. We will revise the report. I expect the report to be back from the consultants tomorrow, and then we will resubmit the criteria to the County for their approval.

Commissioner Mena: When did -- you submitted originally March 7?

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Yes.

Commissioner Mena: And you heard back from the County when?

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Last week, one week ago.

Commissioner Mena: Okay. And we are...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: And we're still in our...

Commissioner Mena: No, go ahead.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: We had anticipated an eight-week -- we, you know, guesstimated an eight-week review period. We're still within that timeframe. We have a week and a half.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay.

Commissioner Mena: Is there -- they gave you a set of revisions they wanted you to make. Are you making all of those revisions?

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Yes. Because those revisions did not negatively impact...

Commissioner Mena: No, I'm...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Streets that weren't...

Commissioner Mena: Right.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Residential.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright.

Commissioner Mena: So, is the expectation that given that you're making the adjustments that they're asking you to make, that we should get an approval...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: That we should get an approval.

Commissioner Mena: In relative short order?

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: That would be my expectation, yes.

Commissioner Lago: Okay, so if we get this approval and we're able to push through, what are we looking at in regards to the implementation of these traffic calming devices?

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: So, we have to enter into the interlocal agreement. Right now, they're reviewing the criteria. And...

Commissioner Lago: How long have they been reviewing this criteria? Just remind me. I'm sorry. I'm a little hazy.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: We're at about six and a...

Commissioner Lago: I'm a little...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Half weeks.

Commissioner Lago: Hazy right now. I'm a little hazy right now.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: It's about six and a half weeks.

Commissioner Lago: But I thought -- okay. I thought it was even more than that for some reason.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: This particular submittal. I mean, over...

Commissioner Lago: This...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: A course of time, we have submitted other proposals, but we're...

Commissioner Mena: I think he means more broadly, the interlocal agreement because I've been hearing about it since the day I walked in...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Right.

Commissioner Mena: The door.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Right.

Commissioner Lago: I think we've been at this for like about a year and change.

Commissioner Mena: And I'm sure it's been longer than that, yeah.

Commissioner Lago: Yeah.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Yes. But we're close now.

Commissioner Mena: Okay.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: And I will get a new submittal from -- a new proposal from our consultant this week, and then we will resubmit. After that -- after we get the interlocal agreement signed, we will move forward with our multimodal consulting firm, that they will develop a traffic calming plan for all of the streets that have been identified through the community input process of wanting traffic calming on their street. So, we'll develop a plan. We'll take that to the community, and the community will provide feedback on what that plan is. Ultimately, we are targeted for November still. We're still on schedule, based on the memo that we provided to you previously, to be able to deliver an overall plan for the entire city for all modes of transportation in November.

Commissioner Lago: Okay, but that doesn't include, obviously, there's not -- there isn't budgets in place...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: That plan will have -- will make the recommendation of having programming.

Commissioner Lago: No. There isn't...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Yes.

Commissioner Lago: There isn't a budget in place to obviously deliver.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Correct.

Commissioner Lago: So, that sounds great. I'm super excited about that. Now, let's talk about the three streets off of 57th Avenue, Algardi, Cantoria and...

Commissioner Mena: Yeah.

Commissioner Lago: Excuse me, the other one, whichever one it may be. I have to -- I got to play favorites, so I want to have that delivered now. I don't want to have to program it and wait. Once we have our agreements with the County, I mean, I'll -- I'm not speaking for the entire Commission here. We have two people that are not here right now. But I think that if we tell them right now that after the diverters were removed, that they're going to have to wait until November for programming to be put in place, then next year's budget season...

Commissioner Mena: But I thought we already had that budgeted.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: No, that...

Commissioner Lago: No, no, no. I'm just making sure. I want to get everything because I know that the questions are going to start coming and the emails are going to start coming. I don't want to lump them in with the rest of the City.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Right.

Commissioner Lago: Because they -- I think they've been through a lot already.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: And funding's in place for that.

Commissioner Lago: Okay.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: A big issue I would like to dis -- or, you know, through in, is concurrency.

Commissioner Mena: Yeah.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: And that's a huge issue. We would like to address that simultaneously with this. If we do get -- if the County does allow us to provide, let's say, a circular intersection, we can't build it because you don't have 100 percent concurrency, then that doesn't do us any good. So, we would like to look at concurrency, address it. We would like to address it with each one of you individually, and then bring it to the -- to...

Commissioner Mena: Are we...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: To the Commission.

Commissioner Mena: Are we comfortable that that is 100 percent our decision at this point?

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: The County has allowed us to determine concurrency.

Commissioner Mena: Great.

Commissioner Lago: So...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: So...

Commissioner Lago: When you talk about multimodal transportation and we get away from that and we now move to these three streets, what are we looking at in regards to lead time...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: Well...

Commissioner Lago: For actually delivering...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: For instance...

Commissioner Lago: On these...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: For instance, Commissioner...

Commissioner Lago: Speed tables and those kind of...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: Well, the speed tables -- for instance, speed table...

Commissioner Lago: How long -- what's the delivery time?

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: And an ideal place for a speed table is between the lots.

Commissioner Lago: I got it.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: You're dealing with four different property owners. So, concurrency is a huge issue, alright, and...

Commissioner Lago: I understand.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: We have to address it. And do it...

Commissioner Mena: But we could deal...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: In a way that allows us to get things done. Right now, as you know, near the park, near Dorado Street, really needs a circular intersection, and that was 75 percent concurrency and that could not be done. So, we need to address the concurrency issue...

Commissioner Mena: But can we go ahead and do that? Do we need to wait on...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: No, no. We are going to do it...

Commissioner Mena: The rest of this?

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: Concurrently. We are going to do it concurrently.

Commissioner Lago: And also, can we take advantage of this time right now, since we kind of know the type of speed tables we need to buy or have installed or build, depending on the different...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: Well...

Commissioner Lago: Location that we're talking about. Can we kind of move forward in the procurement process so that we can deliver on this?

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: I think we have worked out a few things with the County that I'm not privy to say right now. And -- however, we are looking at the speed table issue on a -- let's just say, on a more permanent basis. But that's all I would like to say. But we need to look at all these things simultaneously because if it's going to be affected, we need to be able to get County concurrence, but we also will be able -- need to be able to do it.

Commissioner Lago: But you understand what I'm saying about -- I want to make sure that we work, you know, hand in hand on the procurement side, not only with what we're waiting from the County because there's extensive lead times, procurement procedures that need to be put in place. You need to bring a contractor. You need to vet that contractor. You may need to go to RFP, RFQ...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: For...

Commissioner Lago: For the speed tables.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: This particular area, we have a contractor in place.

Commissioner Lago: Okay, good.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: Yeah. We're...

Commissioner Lago: I'm happy to hear all this.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: We have our contingency services contracts that we can also use...

Commissioner Lago: Good. So, you can activate them.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: Very quickly.

Commissioner Lago: They've already been vetted.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: Yes, Commissioner.

Commissioner Lago: Okay, perfect. Good.

Commissioner Mena: But again, with respect to the three streets that we had the diverters on, you know, what's the estimate of when we can deliver because I'm still not clear on that. And is that being discussed specifically with the County or not?

Commissioner Lago: I think it balances on the fact of concurrency because we need that ability on our side to say, hey, you know, we've got to install this in front of your yard.

Commissioner Mena: Right.

Commissioner Lago: You know, there's no other choice. It's a public safety issue.

Commissioner Mena: Right.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: And we will certainly work it out to be the least obtrusive, of course, but there comes a point when you have to decide to do it or not.

Commissioner Lago: It's got to be installed.

Commissioner Mena: But to deal with concurrency, what we need done is what? The -- an approval of this revised plan or the agreement in November?

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: This is the engineering. Concurrency is can we do it. So, we're going to try to deal with both...

Commissioner Mena: When can we take a vote and tell you what we think the concurrency...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: We are...

Commissioner Mena: Requirements can be.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: We're working out the concurrency issues now to discuss with you independently, and then bring it to the City Commission concurrently with that plan so it doesn't get delayed.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: So, they've drafted an internal memo on circles and how -- what type of percentage in the -- of the properties around the circle would need to agree, physically touching, and they've done it for tables. They've done it for...

Commissioner Mena: Yeah.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Different pieces, and so they want to come meet with you individually to review that process and then formally present it to the Commission.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: That is correct.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: But I've seen the first draft of that.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: That is correct, Madam Manager.

Commissioner Lago: So, why don't we work on that now...

Commissioner Mena: Yeah, let's...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: We are, we are.

Commissioner Mena: Do it...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: We are. We're...

Commissioner Lago: What's what I'm talking about, lead times, and let's work on...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: We want to work on it concurrently.

Commissioner Lago: Let's work on it as much as we can because I know that, for example -- I'm not going to say the street, but there's one individual who doesn't even live in Coral Gables who rents out his house and is holding an entire street hostage...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

Commissioner Lago: Because you can't install a circle in the front of their property. The other three residents that live on the other corners are in favor. And it would be an incredibly effective tool to slow people down. So, we have to move forward on this issue. If you want to meet with us before the next Commission meeting, I'm ready to go.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: I just had one resident tell me that -- when can we do the circular intersection, and he was the one that voted against it because he couldn't get his boat out, and now he wants to go ahead and expedite it. So...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: But there will always be that.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: So, what we want to do is go through the County -- as we go through the County and go through our consultants, we do the concurrency simultaneously and...

Commissioner Lago: People...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: Get that...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Before the next meeting, meet with each one of us...

Commissioner Lago: Yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: To discuss this and we'll put it on the agenda.

Commissioner Mena: Yeah. Let's put it on the next agenda.

Commissioner Lago: Yeah.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: We -- I will -- I don't -- I may not be here at the next agenda. I would like to put it one...

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: He's...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: One after.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: One after that.

Commissioner Lago: Alright. We're going to -- I'm going to make a motion, as per Commissioner Mena's recommendation, not in this...

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: It'll be in May.

Commissioner Lago: Not in the Commission meeting on May 8, but the following Commission meeting.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Right.

Commissioner Lago: After you, obviously, met with all of us. And will you second my motion?

Commissioner Mena: Yeah. Let's vote on it. Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright. All those in favor?

The Commission (Collectively): Aye.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Opposed?

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: Thank you.

Commissioner Mena: But I also want a more specific estimate of when we can tell the residents on the streets that had the diverters that they can reasonably expect action, assuming we're going to vote on concurrency and going through the process on each individual traffic impediment.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright.

Commissioner Lago: Because this is going to be a tough discussion with some neighbors that are going to be unhappy.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: Yes, it will.

Commissioner Lago: But again, I'm fully -- I'm looking forward to having that discussion with those neighbors.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: So am I.

Commissioner Lago: Because I'm of the belief that there is no more important project right now at the City of Coral Gables. Now that we've gotten away from the Mile, now that we've got the public safety building...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Traffic calming.

Commissioner Lago: And almost --

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

Commissioner Lago: Traffic calming is going to be the biggest...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

Commissioner Lago: Discussion and most important discussion, and I'm ready to increase budgets. You know, if we have to cut from other areas and allocate it towards budgets, I want to make sure that we deliver on traffic calming because...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright.

Commissioner Lago: This is, in my opinion, probably the most important project that we could undertake in the next two or three years.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay, thank you.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: Thank you.