

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item F-11
January 27, 2026
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

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

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez
City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Public Works Director, Hermes Diaz
Assistant Public Works Director, Melissa DeZayas

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item F-11 [Start: 3:07 p.m.]

Discussion regarding sidewalk expansion on Orduna Drive between Paradiso and Blue Road
(Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

Mayor Lago: F-11. It's simple. It's a discussion regarding sidewalk expansion on Orduna Drive between Paradiso and Blue Road. And Madam Director, how are you? We've had, we've had, this is something that I've sponsored. Again, we have residents who would love nothing more than to have their homes have sidewalks, especially after all the hard work that your office did in regard to Blue Road. And now with the David Lawrence Park, we'd love to have a little bit of connectivity to get there. How do you see it?

Assistant Director Public Works: Melissa DeZayas, Assistant Director for Public Works Transportation. So, we put together a presentation, you know, just with some pictures and everything to give everybody an idea of what, you know, this project would include. It's basically 0.12 miles of sidewalk on the west side of the road. It's going to be three intersections. So, this

City Commission Meeting

map shows all the existing sidewalks in the area with a dash line. You can see that by Paramount and Paradiso, there's no sidewalk. So, we're looking to fill it in with the green line. Some of the issues that we might have with this project would be decorative driveway approaches that we're going to have to cut through, tree impacts, and other landscaping encroachments. So basically, what we're going to have to do is get an arborist report, get a survey, and then come back to Commission and let you know what the next steps will be.

Mayor Lago: I think it's a great idea. I'd love to see, again, like we had to do in Alhambra, we're talking about 7,500-year-old trees in certain areas. Let's try to obviously deliver on the sidewalks while minimizing the impact of the canopy. You know, we do what we can. We do what we can. I'm very familiar with this area, very familiar. Now what happens is after the hard work that your office did, now you gave people sidewalks and now people are like, hold on a minute, I want sidewalks.

Public Works Director Diaz: And that's the last gap that's missing.

Mayor Lago: And that's the last little gap. So, people are kind of perplexed by it.

Public Works Director Diaz: Right.

Mayor Lago: So now with the park, completely renovated park, both of the bridges are connected now. You're talking about you're going down Granada, you did University. Now we're about to start Doctors Hospital. Everybody now wants sidewalks, and they want the connectivity.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, Mayor, I think it's a great idea. I've been in that area and seen how the traffic moves very swiftly to and from the University. It's a dangerous place for people to walk on the street. And so, for public safety reasons, I think it's a very worthwhile project that we need to look at.

Public Works Director Diaz: That intersection is interesting because we actually spent probably half an hour, 45 minutes observing that intersection during rush hour. And when the light on Granada is red, it backs up all the way to the bridge. When the light is green, it all clears up. So, you have that constant, heavy traffic clears up, heavy traffic clears up. So, it's very complicated. At some point, getting across, we'll probably have to get the county involved. So, our goal is to bring options, be able to bring options to you to decide, obviously with some funding and timelines sometime in April.

Mayor Lago: Can I ask you a question?

Public Works Director Diaz: Sure.

Mayor Lago: Again, you guys are the experts, but when you talk about the level of traffic in Granada that's caused by the light, why not remove that light and put a traffic circle?

Assistant Public Works Director: So Blue Road is a county road. We actually reached out to them and asked them, you know, if they could potentially replace the traffic signal with a roundabout, but they weren't in favor of moving forward with that. But ultimately, it would be their decision because it is a county road.

Mayor Lago: Okay.

Commissioner Lara: Through the Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Yes, sir.

Commissioner Lara: So, since you brought that issue up and you spoke to the county, can you tell me at a very high level, what do they typically say is the pushback when we would want a roundabout? They say when they say no, what are they saying?

Assistant Public Works Director: They just don't recommend it. That's basically what they say. They'll say, you know, like based on the volumes and everything, you know, they just wouldn't recommend it at that particular intersection. Sometimes it has to do with like the geometry. You might not have, you know, sufficient space for the type of roundabout you might need due to the volume. It's different reasons.

Mayor Lago: Okay.

Public Works Director Diaz: In that particular area, you actually have some turning lanes. So, you may end up with a situation where you may narrow the traffic and then, you know, you have two lanes into one and, you know, it can get complicated. I'm not saying it will be impossible, but the county tends not to be too fond of those circles that are not standard.

Mayor Lago: Do you, what do we need to do to move forward? Obviously to the Manager's office.

Public Works Director Diaz: We need to get a survey, an arborist report and then we'll put together analysis similar to what we did in Alhambra, and we'll bring it back to the Commission within probably in April with some estimates and some timeline for what the following steps will be.

Mayor Lago: Could I have a motion?

Commissioner Lara: I'll move it.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Second.

City Commission Meeting

Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk.

City Clerk Urquia: All in favor.

All: Aye.

City Clerk Urquia: Thank you.

Mayor Lago: So, you said April, let's say May.

Public Works Director Diaz: Thank you.

Mayor Lago: A lot of work.

Public Works Director Diaz: It is.

Mayor Lago: Tree survey.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I know you said smile on your face.

Mayor Lago: And you got to design.

Public Works Director Diaz: We'll take it.

Mayor Lago: It's okay. I mean, listen, it's been a hundred years. You haven't had sidewalks. They can wait four months, right? They're just going to be happy to know that it's moving forward. That's all that matters. And we're going to send them this video. So, okay. Thank you.

Public Works Director Diaz: Thank you.

Mayor Lago: I appreciate you. Thank you for your hard work. Both of you and your team.

Public Works Director Diaz: Thank you. Appreciate it.