

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD
CORAL GABLES YOUTH CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM
405 UNIVERSITY DRIVE
CORAL GABLES, FL 33134
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2015 @ 5:30 PM

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	APPOINTED BY:
		15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	
Ignacio Borbolla	G.	P	E	P	E	P	P	+	P	P	E	P	P	Jim Cason
Gordon Sokoloff		P	P	P	P	P	P	+	P	P	P	P	P	Patricia Keon
Deborah Swain		P	P	P	P	P	P	+	P	P	P	P	P	Vince Lago
Courtney Thompson		-		-	-	-	-	+	P	P	P	P	P	Jeannette Slesnick
Albert Corrada		P	P	P	P	P	P	+	P	A	P	P	P	Frank C. Quesada
Chris Morrison		P	P	P	P	P	P	+	P	P	P	P	P	Commission-as-a-Whole
Al Smith		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	City Manager

P - Present
E - Excused Absence
A - Absent
*** - New Member**
+ - No Meeting
(#) Resigned

STAFF:

Jessica Keller, Public Works Assistant Director
Yamilet Senespleda, Public Works City Engineer/Senior Traffic Engineer
Jeannette Reyes, Public Works Clerical Assistant II
Ed Hudak, Coral Gables Chief of Police
Alvaro Escalona, Coral Gables Police Officer

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Thompson called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

GUEST:

Tim Plummer - David Plummer & Associates, President
Laura Russo – Coral Gables, Attorney
Jeffery Bass – Paseo de la Riviera Developer, Attorney

MOTIONS:

Dr. Sokoloff made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. Borbolla seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Borbolla made a motion to visit the Traffic Control Center requested by Chief Hudak, Mr. Morrison seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Morrison made a motion to submit Mrs. Swains outline to staff for comments and refinement and have the revision presented to the board at the February meeting, Mr. Borbolla seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approve.

Mr. Thompson stated that the motions made by the board in reference to the moratorium were not viewed as a motion at the city commission meeting of December 8, 2015, but as a topic of discussion. All they stated was that perhaps it would be considered for future projects but not for the Paseo of the Riviera.

TRAFFIC PROJECTS UPDATE:

Aragon Avenue & Giralda Avenue - at the last meeting staff mentioned that the residents on Aragon & Giralda voted on traffic calming measures. Aragon got support, Giralda did not. Staff is working with Giralda to get them the traffic calming measures they are requesting. The issue with the votes was that ballots were not returned, when ballots are not returned it's an automatic no.

Area Study from Bird Road to Blue Road - there's a meeting scheduled for tomorrow December 17, 2015. Staff will be presenting recommendations for the area study. This is one of the few areas that had work done ahead of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan, therefore this is a follow up meeting. Initially it was suggested that the 3 streets on the north end would get traffic calming measures but the streets south of that were upset stating they cannot support this as it will only divert traffic onto their streets.

Mr. Morrison asked that this information be e-mailed to the board members tomorrow morning.

POLICE UPDATE:

Police Chief Hudak said the Enforcement Plan from Police has to work hand in hand with the Comprehensive Transportation Plan that's working with Public Works. If a resident calls and states that the lives of children are in the hands of the police and it would be the fault of the police if nothing is done then everyone will get a ticket, if they are in violation of the laws. And that the law does not allow police officers to only give tickets to persons who do not live in the neighborhoods only. Chief Hudak said the DRC and the Commission stated they like to hear feedback from the Transportation Advisory Board. Chief Hudak said the biggest issue in the quality of life issues he is hearing is traffic and how to co-exist with bikes and how to co-exist with development.

Mr. Thompson asked the Chief if he has enough personnel on the streets to handle traffic, is this the issue. Chief Hudak responded that as a department, they are not fully staffed and their goal is to get fully staffed as quickly as possible. The Chief has said publicly to the board and the commission that their biggest emphasis is their staffing. Chief Hudak said they have a strategic plan as a department and as a City.

Mr. Thompson said that the job of the Transportation Advisory Board is to make transportation move better and safer, he asked if there is a way for the department to have officers work at major intersections to work at peak times to make traffic move better.

Chief Hudak responded by asking the Board if they would like to take a road trip to the Traffic Control Center in Miami Dade County, he will help facilitate this. He said the board will be able to see how the Control Center controls all the traffic lights in the county; and how everything is choreographed by computers.

Mr. Thompson asked Chief Hudak what the board can do to help with traffic issues. Chief Hudak said that the board's involvement is important and as long as the board keeps asking questions and making suggestions it keeps them thinking.

Mr. Thompson asked the Chief for any input he has on the Paseo De La Riviera Project. Chief Hudak said he has plenty of input, he said the project went through the DRC in which he sat in, they review the client, the plans and review impact on traffic, crime and population impact. They do have a seat at the table as well as input.

Mr. Thompson made a suggestion to Chief Hudak on the waterway traffic. He said to have some type of signage advising boaters that they are in a no wake zone repeatedly.

NEW BUSINESS:

Heraldo & Hardee Traffic Circle - RNA request from former Commissioner Withers that the board look into installing a traffic circle at Heraldo & Hardee. Jessica said this will be forwarded to the consultant to be part of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

Mr. Thompson asked if there is a code enforcing residents to keep the pile of landscape/yard waste at a minimal. Jessica said no, they are allowed by code to put out large landscape piles 7 days a week 24 hours a day. It's bulky trash that is not allowed.

Traffic Impact Study – Mrs. Swain said there's one overlying issue, the project has already been approved and now there is a presentation. Obviously this is because the Transportation Advisory Board is not part of the process or a step along the way and the board should be a step along the way. Mrs. Swain said as soon as it is identified that a traffic impact study has to be done, that traffic impact study should be scheduled to be presented to the Transportation Advisory Board. Mrs. Swain spoke with the commissioner who appointed her to the T.A.B. and he was very supportive, although it was late to bring up this issue at the commission meeting, the

commissioner did mention it and it was thrown out by everybody just like our moratorium motion was thrown out. Mrs. Swain saw the Sustainability Chair and staff go in front of the commission with a proposal for something with the process, they presented to the commissioners and it was accepted. Mrs. Swain suggest formalizing what the T.A.B. is requesting into a specific recommendation with steps along the way, getting staff support and presenting something logical to the commissioners, she thinks they would accept it.

Mr. Thompson added that all the members go in front of the commissioners and state that they no longer want to be an Advisory Board but an actual Board and that they become the same identity as the other boards are that have the right to say yes or say no or send things back.

Jessica stated the Sustainability Advisory Board is one of her boards and the board members held a special meeting where one of the members took the lead and drafted exactly what they wanted in the resolution, staff reviewed it and they submitted it to the commission.

Mrs. Swain said the presentation from the Sustainability Advisory Board to the commissioners was very powerful because it was presented by staff and the Chair of the committee; therefore it was very cohesive and professional. Mrs. Swain said this is just the first part; the second part is to consider having the city take the lead on all traffic impact studies so that they are done uniformly at the expense of the developer. At this point Mrs. Swain would like to see the Cities consultant take over.

Mrs. Swain provided an outline to the board:

- a) To include a presentation to the T.A.B. as part of the development approval process.
- b) To standardize a traffic impact studies.
- c) Establishing what elements need to be provided rather than it be considered, having the TAS prepared by a cities consultant to insure consistency and reliability, and to be performed by the city or cities consultant instead of the developer.
- d) Having a preliminary application submitted.
- e) Developer to meet with the City to figure out what the study boundaries are and what the scope of work is going to be.
- f) Develop a scope and budget that the consultant will present to the developer, the developer and the city will enter into an agreement, the city prepares it and submits it to the developer.

Mr. Morrison suggested Mrs. Swain share the information provided with Jessica and give the board an update at the February meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Morrison mentioned to Chief Hudak that at the last meeting he stated the landscaping trucks are getting bigger and causing traffic build up as well as minimal visibility, he wanted to know if there was some type of code stating how many feet apart they are supposed to be. Chief Hudak said he will have to check because he is not sure.

SECRETARYS REPORT:

Paseo De La Riviera Project presentation – Tim Plummer re-capped what was presented to the commission as well as a re-capped on the conditions of approval from a traffic stand point. Tim mentioned that the site is at the old Holiday Inn on US 1 at Caballero, he said the site is very unique from a transportation perspective for a number of reasons, 1; *it's about 700 or 800' from the University Metro Rail Station*, 2; *the Mariposa Court Pedestrian Crossing is coming in late 2016*, 3; *the underline is coming a great pedestrian/bicycle feature improvement also the project is on US1, a major arterial in Miami Dade County*. It's very uniquely situated and it's in the Coral Gables GRID (The Gables Redevelopment Infill District). The project went through a traffic impact study to include five (5) intersections, *three along US1, Caballero & Hardee & Madruga & Hardee*. The cities staff reviewed the study and this project does meet all of the Cities level of service standards. Tim explained to the board the access to and from US1 as well as to and from Madruga. The project consists of hotels, apartments, retail, restaurants and parking garage. Some conditions are required by the commission; first a year after the project has been open there will be an independent traffic study runned by the City of Coral Gables to look at the residential streets to the south to see if those streets meet traffic calming thresholds, if they do the applicant will have to pay for the mitigation and improvements to those residential streets. The other main traffic condition is every year, for five (5) years the City is going to do an independent traffic study on the trip generation from the site to vehicles coming in and out, if there is a threshold more than 10% projected on any year coming in and out of the project based on what it was projected to be, the City is going to do a larger independent traffic study paid for by the applicant to look at potential mitigation that may need to be included as part of the project. The Mediterranean village generates ten times the traffic that the Paseo De La Riviera project generates, yet those are the same conservative conditions with the commission and the applicants accepted that.

ADJOURNED 6: 40 pm