

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD
CORAL GABLES YOUTH CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM
405 UNIVERSITY DRIVE
CORAL GABLES, FL 33134
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2015 @ 5:30 PM

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS		D 14	J 15	F 15	M 15	A 15	M 15	J 15	J 15	A 15	S 15	O 15	N 15	APPOINTED BY:
Ignacio Borbolla	G.	+-	P	E	P	E	P	P	+	P	P	E	P	Jim Cason
Gordon Sokoloff		+-	P	P	P	P	P	P	+	P	P	P	P	Patricia Keon
Deborah Swain		+-	P	P	P	P	P	P	+	P	P	P	P	Vince Lago
Courtney Thompson		+-	-		-	-	-	-	+	P	P	P	P	Jeannette Slesnick
Albert Corrada		+-	P	P	P	P	P	P	+	P	A	P	P	Frank C. Quesada
Chris Morrison		+-	P	P	P	P	P	P	+	P	P	P	P	Commission-as-a-Whole
Al Smith		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	P	P	City Manager

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

STAFF:

Jessica Keller, Assistant Public Works Director
Yamilet Senespleda, Public Works City Engineer/Senior Traffic Engineer
Jeannette Reyes, Public Works - Clerical Assistant II

CALL TO ORDER:

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

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

October 20, 2015 - Mr. Morrison made a motion to accept the minutes, Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

GUEST:

Jeannette Slesnick, City of Coral Gables Commissioner

Kevin Kinney, City of Coral Gables - Parking Department Director
Heidi Jensen, C. G. Resident 1240 Castile Avenue
Lars Jensen, C. G. Resident 1240 Castile Avenue

MOTIONS:

Mr. Morrison made a motion to table the discussion on the Castile Avenue traffic issue until Mrs. Molly Kiely arrives. Mr. Borbolla seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Swain made a motion recommending the City create a plan to install, at the Cities cost, the sidewalk plan to include a public input process that considers residents' concerns, Mr. Morrison seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Swain made a motion that the City expands the notice to the residents, based on the density and scope of the project from its existing 1,000 feet, Dr. Sokoloff seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Morrison made a motion to re-submit the moratorium motion made on October 20, 2015 to the commission for their consideration, Dr. Sokoloff seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Castile Avenue residents - Mrs. Jensen is representing her neighbors on the traffic issues they have been dealing with for years. Mrs. Jensen said that letters from the residents on Castile and Asturia have been submitted regarding, what they call a speedway from Granada to Alhambra. There's not a single stop sign on Asturia or Castile, there are children playing outside, on their bikes and the cars just fly down the street. There are no traffic circles, no stop signs, no adequate lighting lots of break-ins and she is present today to ask the board to have some changes implemented to make their street safer.

Mrs. Jensen said the issue on Castile has gotten worst. From Granada to Alhambra is their main focus because due to traffic on Coral Way people cut through their street.

Jessica said no special traffic studies are being done, outside of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan but she will have police do a special enforcement study. Jessica explained the Comprehensive Transportation Plan to Mr. & Mrs. Jensen. Mrs. Jensen also said there is a huge issue on Coral Way crossing Coral Way where St. Philips is, because there are no blinking lights or stop signs. She asked if there was a way to implement a push button to slow down traffic so that pedestrian can cross safely. Yamilet mentioned that staff had requested this from the county but they said no, they do not want to install crossings where there are no traffic control installs. Jessica said she will have staff re-submit these request to the county.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Various Sidewalks & Lighting program

1. *Sidewalks* - Jessica will like to make a recommendation at the next commission meeting on implementing sidewalks and lighting throughout Coral Gables. She will like to know what the general thoughts from the board would be. A request to the State was made last year for an appropriation to fund 5.2 million dollars' worth of sidewalk construction. A map was handed out to the board highlighting the identified sidewalks that could be funded by the 5.2 million dollars construction. Jessica asked the board, should the residents pay for the sidewalk or should it be cost sharing.

Mrs. Swain said it is important to stop thinking of streets only for automobiles and think of ways on how to make the pedestrians and residents safe. The City can find funding through grants or identify sources that can be earmarked for safety purposes. The City should find a way to layup a plan over a number of years and implement sidewalks.

Mr. Morrison suggested taking into consideration what the cost for the residents will be versus the collectors plan before making a recommendation.

Commissioner Slesnick asked Jessica if the residents along Granada requested sidewalks, because in the past they did not want sidewalks. Jessica replied no.

2. *Lighting* - Jessica said the City funded the NRP program a certain amount of money that would be cost sharing, for example if you wanted decorative lighting on your street there is funding so that the residents would pay for the pole and fixture and the City would pay for the infrastructure to install it. An RFP is expected to be advertised to change the existing streetlights to LED.

Transportation Alternatives Programs Award - The city won a grant for \$597,000 for the construction of bicycle lanes on Alhambra Circle from Coral Way to San Amaro. The funds will be available no later than 2021 or sooner, staff can begin with the design at any time.

Aragon & Giralda Traffic Calming - The ballots have been returned Aragon Avenue got the votes necessary to install speed humps between Hernando & Segovia and the raised intersection they requested. Giralda Avenue did not have sufficient support for any traffic calming on their street but FDOT The LeJeune Road Safety project will include a median installed on LeJeune at Giralda. Vehicles will not be able to make left turns; either east or west bound - this will help the traffic on Giralda.

Paseo de la Riviera - Dr. Smith asked Commissioner Slesnick if there is a way that the notification area can be expanded. He noted residents told him they were not notified.

POLICE UPDATE:

Mr. Thompson noted on record that he asked Chief Hudak to assign a permanent traffic officer to the board.

TRANSIT UPDATE:

Mr. Kinny stated that in 2015 the City purchased 2 more trolleys, one is on the road and the other will be shortly. The program will allow buying one more by 2016 and the ones coming in will replace some of the older fleets. Depending on how quickly the new project between Sevilla and Ponce happens (The Mediterranean Village) the City may even be purchasing four new trolleys in FY16. There are well over a million riders a year and they just started the fourth month of the route expansion to Grand Avenue that is producing about 125 passengers a day. With the additional funding from the Mediterranean Village it will be likely that a proposal for additional hours and days of operation for the trolley is submitted.

Dr. Sokoloff asked if the Agave project is aware that they also have to contribute to the trolley service and extended hours. Mr. Kinny said they should be participating with public transportation. There is an initial investment of 1.2 million which is capital divided fleet; there is also an annual contribution for operational purposes that will help with expanded hours and expanded days. One of the possibilities is a circulator system in the downtown area but they will try to do what's wise with the \$6,000 that's coming in.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Morrison said the landscape trucks are getting larger and when they are parked side by side on the right of way they create a traffic hazard. Mr. Morrison asked if there is some type of regulation that says they have to be an X number linear feet apart. Mr. Thompson stated he has also witnessed these landscape people pile the foliage so high that vehicles cannot see past it almost causing an accident. This is a police issue that needs to be enforced.

ADJOURNED

6:40 pm