

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item C-1
March 26, 2019
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

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

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Assistant Public Works Director, Jessica Keller

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item C-1 [10:20:10 a.m.]
Mayor's Comments
A discussion regarding traffic calming

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Mayor's Comments C-1 – traffic calming. Will you report? Good morning.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Good morning Mayor, Commission, City Manager, City Attorney. I am Jessica Keller, Assistant Public Works Director. I want to give a brief presentation where we are as it relates to traffic calming as of yesterday morning. We began construction on March 8th, this is a photo on Mondavia Avenue. March 21st, we had a day and-a-half of rain that prohibited us from moving forward with construction. March 22nd they are forming the speed table, and this was yesterday afternoon, they had started laying the pavers.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Is that a raised table?

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Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Yes, its raised. So, moving forward, the area bound by north and south by Blue and Bird, which is what you just saw, we expect 12 weeks to completion weather permitting and I also want to give a special thanks to Eddy Hernandez, who is actually managing the construction out in the field. He's been out there guiding our contractor along. Following the completion of the Blue/Bird area, we will move forward with Aragon Avenue and Giralda, which is the area just west of LeJeune and east of Segovia where we are installing speed tables, just like the ones we are installing right now and raised intersections. Following that, we will begin Biltmore Drive speed cushions. Right now, we have the temporary devices. There are two temporary speed cushions on Biltmore Drive, we will be installing three permanent decorative speed cushions along that corridor.

Commissioner Mena: I'm sure you've explained this to me before.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: That's OK.

Commissioner Mena: Speed cushion versus speed table.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: The speed cushion allows our emergency responders to traverse a vertical traffic. So instead of it being a speed table, I don't have a picture.

Commissioner Mena: What I'm saying, what you showed us is a speed table.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: That's a speed table what I just showed you, but the speed cushion is designed in a way that will allow emergency responders, they drive through. So, they can drive through at a higher speed than your regular car or truck. And because Biltmore Way is used by our responders, we had to install that sort of traffic calming device.

Commissioner Mena: And what is it that precludes a non-emergency driver from doing the same.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: It's a different wheel base.

Commissioner Mena: It's what, I'm sorry?

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Different wheel base.

Commissioner Mena: OK.

Commissioner Lago: So, in regard to the speed table, because I've spoken to two residents and they were seeing the design, obviously its not complete, but they were concerned about the size and whether it was going to be effective. Are you hearing that also or no?

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: I'm sorry, say that one more time.

Commissioner Lago: I had two residents approach me saying they were expecting it to be more significant speed table, they didn't think it was tall enough. That is wasn't sufficiently an actual breaker enough. That was the exact terminology they used. Do you feel that we made it a little too small or you think that we are in the right range?

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: No. It's the same geometry of the speed cushions on Biltmore Drive, the temporary ones, and we have a ten mile per hour speed limit reduction that's documented on Biltmore Drive. So, I'm not concerned.

Commissioner Lago: The ones that Key Biscayne installed, these are on the same size or those are...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Yes.

Commissioner Lago: OK. Perfect. That's all I need to know. Thank you.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: After the Biltmore Drive speed cushions, we will move forward with University Drive and Anderson Road roundabout. And then of course, the long-awaited citywide traffic calming, which is a component of the multi-modal transportation plan that we've been working on for years, you will see the traffic counts. We have 85 locations citywide that need to be counted.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And that is simultaneous with the first four?

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Oh, absolutely. The traffic counts are going to begin in the next couple of weeks. That has to be completed before school lets out. You'll see those deployed citywide in the next two weeks. Following once we get that data back, we have to analyze it to make sure that all those locations that were proposed in the multi-modal plan do meet the new traffic calming requirements. Those locations that have been identified that we're doing the 85 counts are new locations that were provided to us as input over the number of years that we've collected concerns from our residents. Following the analysis of the data, we will host community meetings, we also have to get concurrency. In this past year, have changed the concurrency requirements to 50 percent concurrency in order to move forward with the traffic calming devices.

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We will go into design. We have multiple consultants on board who can begin the design work, so we will be working across the City at the same time with the design; and then of course, construction. We are currently developing a scope of work to advertise for construction services, so that we can have multiple contractors working throughout the City implementing the traffic calming devices citywide.

Commissioner Mena: Respect to your list here and I know Blue/Bird kind of became like ground zero for this implementation of the speed tables and I know there were some streets that opted out because they were concerned about the signage at the time they were voting, what's the process going to be to sort of loop those people back in now that they've had an opportunity to see what you've installed.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: So, we will finalize the construction for the area and we will address them, the Blue/Bird once we move forward, move along to the other areas, they've been waiting; and they voted and we have to address those other areas, but we will revisit the Blue/Bird area and allow for voting.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Thank you very much. Very informative and I'm glad its started. Thank you.

[End: 10:27:18 a.m.]