

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD
HYBRID MEETING AT CITY HALL/ZOOM
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON JUNE 15, 2021

	M	J	J	A ^V	S ^V	O ^V	N	D ^H	J ^H	F ^H	M ^H	A	J	
	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	21	21	21	21	21	
Kevin Mase	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	-	*	P	(+ -)	P	P	P	E	P	E	Menendez
Silvia Pinera-Vazquez	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	/	/	/	(+ -)	/	/	/	/	/	*	Fors
Steven Williamson	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	P	P	P	(+ -)	A	A	P-V	P-V	P	E	Mayor
Debbie Swain	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	P	P	P	(+ -)	P-V	E	P	P	P	P	VM Mena
Sue Kawalerski	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	P	P	P	(+ -)	P	P	P	P	P	P	Anderson
VACANT	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	/	/	/	(+ -)	/	/	/	/	/	/	Commission
Peter Wood	(+ -)	(+ -)	(+ -)	P	P	P	(+ -)	A	P	P	P	P	P	City Manager

P: Present in person

E- Excused Absence

*-New Member

P: Present virtually (zoom)

A- Absent

(+ -) No Meeting

^V Virtual Meeting

^H Hybrid

Staff:

Melissa de Zayas, Sr. Multimodal Transportation Engineer
Jeanne Espinal, Assistant to the Public Works Director
Jorge Gomez, Deputy Public Works Director

Guest:

John Nelson and Virginia Sotomayor- residents at 1434 Milan Avenue
Roberta Neway

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Sue Kawalerski at 5:35 PM and roll call was done. Debbie Swain, Silvia Pinera-Vasquez, Peter Wood and Sue Kawalerski attended in-person. *Kevin Mase and Steve Williamson did not attend. Debbie Swain motioned to excuse Kevin Mase and Steve Williamson's absence. The motion was seconded by Silvia Pinera-Vasquez, voted upon, and adopted unanimously by the board.*

Meeting Minutes Approval: *Debbie Swain motioned to approve the April 20, 2021, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Peter Wood, voted upon, and adopted unanimously by the board.*

New Member and Vacancy:

Ms. De Zayas informed the board that there is a vacancy for the commission-as-a-whole appointee. One resident reached out and submitted their resume, but no date has been established for the vote of the appointee. Ms. Pinera-Vazquez, the new board member appointed by Commissioner Fors introduced herself. She is a lifelong gables resident, twice University of Miami graduate and trial attorney. She is an enthusiastic bicycle rider, walker, and runner. Ms. Pinera-Vazquez became more involved in local government when the residents of the Alhambra Circle area did not receive notice of a bicycle path that was going and there was not enough transparency in the process. She is interested in the transportation board as she has seen the growing infrastructure and congestion that has resulted, and believes it is important to provide alternate modes of transportation, particularly for the aging communities.

Public Comments: Lieutenant Barnett reported that in the last couple of weeks the police department has received various calls regarding traffic calming concerns in the north part of the City. Mr. Barnett introduced Mr. John Nelson whom he has been conversing with and invited to the board's meeting so he could express his concerns to the board.

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John Nelson: Mr. Nelson and his wife live on 1434 Milan Avenue, the second house off Ferdinand Street. Mr. Nelson stated that most people ignore the existing traffic circle and would like to know if a speed bump or cushion could be installed to alleviate the speeding issue. The existing speed limit is 25 MPH and many vehicles drive about 45 MPH. Melissa advised the board that his property falls under Zone 1 for traffic calming. The City is in the process of designing the recommended, presented, and approved traffic calming devices. Mr. Nelson advised the board that they did not attend the community meeting that took place on January 22, 2020. His wife expressed concerns regarding increased crime in the area and asked if sealing that road is a possibility. Melissa advised them that Milan Avenue has several traffic calming devices being proposed, but the City did not receive complaints for the 1400 block of Milan, therefore data was not collected. All devices already approved will be constructed first, and his request will be added to the list. Ms. Kawalerski asked Lt. Barnett how the police department handles the speeding complaints. He advised the board they place speed shields to collect data and officers are deployed to the area for enforcement. Melissa advised the board that shield speed data is collected first and once a threshold is met, then official data is collected and based on the results of the data a traffic calming device is recommended, designed, reviewed and goes through the approval process.

Roberta Neway: Ms. Neway Inquired on the status of action item of the advisory board asking the City Commission to direct staff to present a plan for the bikeway on the first three (3) blocks of south Alhambra Circle. Ms. Neway informed the board that she has a list of the signatures of most of the property owners or representative of the property owners in favor of the bikeway. Ms. Pinera-Vazquez inquired about this action item and the dates of the meeting that took place in 2018. Ms. Swain updated Ms. Pinera Vazquez on the background of the action item and advised her that the intent of the resolution is to get the community engaged and informed of this proposed project.

New Business

Alexan Crafts: Ms. Kawalerski asked staff to add this new Development Review Committee (DRC) application to the agenda to further discuss what the project entails. The proposed project is a seven (7) story building, and the board is concerned about what the zoning code allows and how developers can qualify. The developer is asking for seven (7) stories, but the existing zoning code only allows for six (6). Ms. De Zayas informed the board that this project has not triggered a traffic impact study (TIS) yet. The board further discussed the concerns with increased density in the area, as this development would neighbor The Plaza and the proposed Ponce Park Tower/ "The Residences". Ms. Kawalerski suggested using the old resolution that was previously presented to the former City Commission requesting a "*holistic and comprehensive traffic study of the area*". The board discussed how the resolution did not result in any action from the City Commission and suggested a different approach that would lead to an action from the current Commission. They further discussed their intent to think forward to ensure that various transportation elements are taken in consideration. Debbie Swain, who is familiar with the process and criteria that must be met for a TIS to be triggered, explained that the developer is required to pay the City for a consultant that the City then hires to conduct the traffic study. The board members discussed proposing a resolution of the transportation advisory board asking the City Commission to direct City staff to conduct a comprehensive traffic study of at least a mile radius of the CRAFTS section that will include the Plaza, the residences (Ponce Tower) and all pertinent developments in the area pursuant to the submittal of the Alexan Crafts application. The board further discussed that every development in the

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CRAFTS area must be considered, and that no exceptions shall be granted if a development does not generate sufficient trips for a traffic impact study as per the City's current threshold. The board requested for staff to provide answers to the following questions: what a trip generation is and when does a project require a TIS. Further, they requested for staff to provide a conceptual plan that they can visualize on ways to mitigate the expected increase in density as it relates to multimodal modes of transportation. Once staff provides the aforementioned, the board will be able to present potential solutions to the City and help the residents by providing proactive measures. Ms. Pinera-Vazquez expressed that the board's intent is to work with developers to better serve the community and the board would like to provide something that is reasonable and tangible to get it moved. The board requested from staff the specifics/particulars of the project and to point out the situations where there will be a loss of parking in order to accommodate traffic.

Secretary's Report

1. Traffic Impact Studies: No new traffic impact studies
2. DRC Applications: Alexan Crafts
3. Planning and Zoning Meeting: No meeting in July
4. Commission Meeting: Debbie Swain will plan to attend the July Commission meeting and present the board's three (3) items.

Traffic Projects Update

Citywide Traffic Calming: Melissa De Zayas provided an update to the board on the community/resident driven program for traffic calming.

Zone 1: Construction is expected to begin in the early fall.

Zone 2: Pre-conceptual designs are to be completed July 2021 and will be reviewed internally once submitted.

Zone 3: Pre-conceptual designs are to be completed July 2021 and will be reviewed internally once submitted.

Zone 4: Community meeting took place March, 2, 2021.

Zone 5: No date for community meeting has been established.

Police update: Police Lieutenant provided an update on the intersection of Alhambra and Coral Way. The board inquired on the statistics for pedestrian accidents, and Lt. Barnett stated that although they have occurred there are not that many.

Old Business: None

Meeting Adjourned: 7:07 PM