

MIAMI BEACH

TO: Members of the Neighborhood and Quality of Life Committee

FROM: Raul J. Aguila, Interim City Manager

DATE: March 22, 2021

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Raul Aguila
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SUBJECT: **DISCUSSION REGARDING METHODS TO REDUCE EXCESSIVE VEHICULAR SPEEDING IN MIAMI BEACH.**

HISTORY

Residents voiced concerns to the Office of Commissioner Steven Meiner regarding speeding vehicles in the City. At the October 14, 2020 City Commission meeting, Commissioner Meiner placed a referral to the Neighborhood and Quality of Life Committee (NQLC) to further discuss reducing vehicular speeding as an important component of ensuring pedestrian safety. These concerns were discussed at the December 16, 2020 NQLC, where members of the Police Department and Transportation and Mobility Department explained their respective efforts to reduce speeding by utilizing street design and strategic enforcement. Following the discussion, the NQLC also requested that staff return to the NQLC in 90 days with an update on the bollards for the specific problem area of the Normandy Drive by Temples Moses and Terra Beachside Villas on Collins Avenue.

ANALYSIS

UPDATE SINCE DECEMBER 16, 2020 NQLC MEETING

Normandy Drive and Vichy Drive Intersection

As requested by the Committee at its December 16, 2020 meeting, the City has worked with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to review safety concerns due to vehicles turning from the center lane on Normandy Drive onto Vichy Drive adjacent to Temple Moses. As discussed at the meeting, these illegal turns often result in crashes which have caused vehicles to swerve onto the sidewalk in front of the temple and jeopardize the safety of pedestrians.

On January 12, 2021, the City's Transportation and Mobility Department staff and Temple Moses representatives met with FDOT staff to discuss options to improve pedestrian and vehicular safety at the intersection of Normandy Drive and Vichy Drive. During the meeting, the City requested that FDOT consider the installation of bollards on the sidewalk in front of Temple Moses to protect pedestrians from vehicles swerving onto the sidewalk. FDOT advised that this treatment was not feasible at this location because FDOT's minimum lateral offset requirement of 4 feet from the face of the curb would result in the bollards being placed in the middle of the sidewalk which is about 8 feet wide. As an alternative solution, the City requested that FDOT install plastic delineators between the left lane and the center lane on Normandy Drive to deter the illegal left turns from the center lane of Normandy Drive onto Vichy Drive. The installation of the delineators will substantially address the illegal left turns from the center lane causing the accidents. On March 15, 2021, FDOT responded favorably to this request and advised that it will be installing the plastic delineators on Normandy Drive within the next 90 days.

6000 Block of Collins Avenue

On a parallel track, and pursuant to the Committee's recommendation, the City has requested that FDOT consider installing bollards or similar protection on the west sidewalk on Collins Avenue adjacent to the Terra Beachside Villas located at 6000 Collins Avenue. Bollards would protect pedestrians from vehicles swerving onto the sidewalk due to excessive speeding when approaching the horizontal curve adjacent to the Terra Beachside Villas. FDOT is currently evaluating the City's request. However, similar to the conditions on Normandy Drive, the installation of bollards at this location may be unfeasible due to FDOT's minimum lateral offset requirement of placing rigid objects at least 4 feet from the edge of the curb since the sidewalk at this location is only about 5 feet wide. Furthermore, the City has suggested that FDOT install rumble strips on the left travel lane of Collins Avenue as a speed calming treatment as vehicles approach the horizontal curve. City staff will provide an update on these requests once FDOT concludes its analysis.

FDOT has an upcoming milling and resurfacing project on Collins Avenue from the 5800 Block to 63 Street which includes speed limit pavement markings and raised pavement markers to advise drivers of the reduced speed limit in an effort to reduce speeding along the corridor. At the request of the City, FDOT has included additional speed limit pavement markings as part of the project. The FDOT project is currently at the 90% design stage and is anticipated to commence construction in 2022. It is worth highlighting that due to historic concerns with speeding in this area, FDOT had previously installed two speed feedback signs in the median and a curve advisory speed flashing beacon for northbound Collins Avenue between 5775 Collins Avenue and the 6000 Block.

FDOT is also addressing the needs of the Collins Avenue corridor through a multi-modal planning study extending from 41 Street and 63 Street currently underway. The study will make recommendations to enhance the multimodality of Collins Avenue in Mid-Beach which will include treatments to reduce the operating speed and facilities to improve the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists. The FDOT study is being closely coordinated with the Transportation and Mobility Department and the Middle Beach Neighborhood Association.

POLICE UPDATE

The Miami Beach Police Department (MBPD) takes speed enforcement seriously. Between December 16, 2021 and March 18, 2021, the Department has issued 767 speeding citations citywide. As part of its daily operations, the MBPD Motor Squad proactively addresses citywide locations historically known for traffic crashes. Traffic crash reports are reviewed and analyzed by the Accident Investigations Unit in an effort to reduce potential for collisions and address crashes involving excessive speed. Additionally, the Police Department occasionally receives complaints of excessive speed. The Community Affairs Unit in concert with Area Captains consequently utilize speed technology to measure data of normal and excessive speed in and around a complaint area over a minimum two-week time frame. If the analysis reveals a speeding condition, the Motor Squad is then deployed to conduct speed enforcement at the complaint location.

CONCLUSION

The Administration will continue to work with FDOT and track progress on the installation of the plastic delineators along the center lane of Normandy Drive to deter illegal left turns that often result in accidents and vehicles swerving onto the sidewalk in front of Temple Moses. In addition, once FDOT concludes its analysis, staff will provide an update via Letter To Commission on the City's request that FDOT install additional speed mitigation measures on Collins Avenue adjacent to the Terra Beachside Villas. Furthermore, the Police Department will continue to address speeding complaints citywide and conduct speed enforcement at complaint locations such as the two included above.

Applicable Area

Citywide

Is this a Resident Right to Know item?

No

Does this item utilize G.O. Bond Funds?

No

Strategic Connection

Mobility - Increase multi-modal mobility citywide and connectivity regionally.

Attachments:

None

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ATH JRG

RJA/ATH/JRG