

Date: May 20, 2022

To: Eulois Cleckley, Director
Department of Transportation and Public Works

George Perez, Director
Miami Dade Police Department

From: Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor



Subject: Implementation of Immediate Additional Cyclist Safety Measures along Rickenbacker Causeway

On May 15, 2022, two cyclists were fatally struck and killed by a vehicle in a tragic accident along the Rickenbacker Causeway. As you are aware, this incident occurred at an off-ramp by the William Powell Bridge where a road joins the causeway meeting a bike path. While I understand the Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) and Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) have current measures in place to protect cyclists, including green-painted exclusive bicycle lanes, electronic feedback and speed limit signs, and audible vibratory markings and handrails along the bridges, more must be done to maximize safety. Accordingly, I am directing DTPW and MDPD to immediately take the following steps starting today to reassure the riding public of Miami-Dade County's commitment to making the Causeway safer for all our residents:

1. Assess the Rickenbacker Causeway for installation of vertical barriers along the most dangerous stretches of the causeway, separating bikes from traffic lanes;
2. Coordinate to reduce the existing speed limit and deploy additional signage, officers, and radar technology to enforce that limit;
3. Install additional bicycle warning signs, supplementing the continuous, green-painted bicycle lanes; and
4. Any other measures that in your collective professional judgement can be implemented in the immediate short term to improve the safety of the riding public.

As mentioned during this week's County Commission meeting, I have allocated up to \$250,000 to support the swift implementation of these preventative measures; additional funding will be allocated as needed.

While these short-term deterrents are important measures to increase public safety, we also need to accelerate long-term solutions to make our roads safer. As such, I am instructing DTPW to develop and implement a permanent design that reduces conflicts between cyclist and motorists on the Rickenbacker. DTPW is also undertaking important initiatives to increase cyclist and pedestrian safety including the implementation of Vision Zero, to make design improvements at the most accident-prone intersections Countywide, and developing a comprehensive countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. I believe these short- and long-term safety management efforts can meaningfully improve public safety along the causeway as well as throughout the County. I am expecting to be kept abreast of the implementation status of the above-mentioned measures and look forward to the first update during our biweekly Department Directors meeting.

c: Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz
And Members, Board of County Commissioners
Geri Bonzon-Keenan, County Attorney
Gerald K. Sanchez, First Assistant County Attorney
Jess McCarty, Executive Assistant County Attorney
Jimmy Morales, Chief Operations Officer
Alfredo "Freddy" Ramirez III, Interim Chief Public Safety Officer
Office of the Mayor Senior Staff
Yinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor
Jennifer Moon, Chief, Office of Policy and Budgetary Affairs
Basia Pruna, Director, Clerk of the Board