

Memorandum



Date: May 23, 2022

To: Honorable Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniella Levine Cava".

Subject: Biscayne Gardens Report Related to the Creation of a Short-Term Plan and a Mid-Term Plan for Traffic Mitigation and to Include all Funding Necessary to Commence the Implementation of the Plans in Fiscal Year 2022-23 - Directive No. 213136

On July 8, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) adopted Resolution No. R-668-21, sponsored by Commissioner Monestime, directing the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee to conduct an engineering study related to flooding in the area of the County generally known as Biscayne Gardens, and more specifically, within the area bordered to the north by Northwest 167th Street; to the east by North Miami Avenue; to the south by Northwest 158th Street (east of Northwest 2nd Avenue) and Northwest 157th Street (west of Northwest 2nd Avenue); and to the west by Northwest 6th Avenue (the “study area”); to identify both short-term and long-term solutions to the problems that residents may be experiencing; and to prepare a report on the engineering study. On December 1, 2021, this Board accepted the County Mayor’s Biscayne Gardens Engineering Study Related to Flooding to Identify Short-Term and Long-Term Solutions.

On February 1, 2022, the Board adopted Resolution No. R-134-22, sponsored by Commissioner Monestime, directing the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee to create a Short-Term Plan and a Mid-Term Plan for traffic mitigation in Biscayne Gardens, to commence the implementation of the plans in fiscal year 2022–23, to include all funding necessary to commence the implementation of the plans in the County Mayor’s proposed Fiscal Year 2022–23 budget, and to provide a report.

The Biscayne Gardens area is located near three major expressways—Florida Turnpike, Interstate 95, and SR 826/Palmetto Expressway—which would provide connectivity for this area to other regions within the County and outside the County. The majority of the roadways in this area are County maintained except for NE 167 Street and NE 6th Avenue which are maintained by Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Most of the roadways in this area are local streets, except for NW 2 Avenue (major collector), Miami Avenue (minor arterial), and NE 6 Avenue (minor arterial). NE 167 Street/Palmetto Expressway is a six-lane principal arterial roadway.

Corridor of the SMART Plan , with improved transit, bike, and pedestrian connections to and from Biscayne Gardens, should significantly improve multi-modal mobility in the neighborhood.

The cumulative analysis assessing the combined impacts of the eleven projects proposed in this area indicates that all roadways will continue to operate within the adopted Levels of Service standards except for **NW 6 Avenue south of NW 159 Street**, which needs to be evaluated further to arrive at appropriate solutions. Additionally, NW 159 Street east of NW 6 Avenue is nearing capacity due to the additional traffic created from the proposed projects located along this street. The westbound and northbound traffic backup on **NW 2 Avenue and NW 167 Street** intersection extends for almost two blocks during peak hours. One of the mitigations for the Montebella project includes the extension of northbound left turn storage area, which would help reduce backups and delays. Also, one of the recommended improvements associated with the Golden Glades Interchange Enhancement project being conducted by FDOT calls for constructing a ramp that would directly connect eastbound NW 167 Street/Palmetto Expressway to northbound I-95, which is anticipated to improve traffic flow.

Traffic flowing from the Biscayne Gardens area to the east relies on heavily congested NW 2 Avenue. Traffic flows north on NW 2 Avenue and heads east on NW/NE 167 Street. To avoid this traffic flow pattern and provide relief to NW 2 Avenue, there is a need for more east-west continuous roadways which would help traffic flow to the east without utilizing NW 2 Avenue. Connecting NW 161 Street east of NW 2 Avenue would enhance east-west traffic flow, thereby easing the traffic on NW 2 Avenue. Two projects that are currently in the platting process, **“The Terraces of Biscayne Gardens” and “The Care Oasis,” will be responsible for providing this connection.**

In response to the directive, we recommend improvements to NW 6 Avenue south of NW 159 Street and NW 159 Street east of NW 6 Avenue since both roadway segments are either failing or nearing capacity due to the additional traffic created from the proposed projects. The proposed improvements include:

NW 6 Avenue South of NW 159 Street

1. New Right Turn Lane
2. Widening from two to four lanes

Potential Impact includes

1. Right of Way Acquisition
2. Utility Relocation

NW 159 Street East of NW 6 Avenue to North Miami Avenue.

1. Widening from two to four

Potential Impact includes

2. Right of Way Acquisition
3. Utility Relocation

Improvements to NW 6 Avenue South of NW 159 St and NW 159 Street East of NW 6 Avenue are considered mid-term strategies due to the potential impact to right of way requirements and utility relocations. The improvements to NW 6 Avenue south of NW 159 Street and NW 159 Street east of NW 6 Avenue should be considered over the next 5 years. In addition, traffic calming strategies will be evaluated and coordinated with the residents of Biscayne Gardens.

Conclusion

Funding to initiate the projects identified under the mid-term plans for traffic and capacity improvements are from Road Impact Fee District 3. The tentative funding for design, survey and construction are identified in FY22-23.

In accordance with Ordinance No. 14-65, this report will be placed on the next available Board meeting agenda. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Miguel Soria, Assistant Director, Highway Engineering, or Claudia Diaz, Chief Traffic Engineering in the Department of Transportation and Public Works.

cc: Geri Bonzon-Keenan, County Attorney
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