

Memorandum



Date: June 28, 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: Implementation of Immediate Additional Cyclist Safety Measures along Rickenbacker Causeway

Following the tragic cycling accident on the Rickenbacker in May, I directed the Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) and Miami-Dade Police Department to take immediate action to reassure the riding public of Miami-Dade County’s commitment to making the Causeway safer for all our residents. I allocated up to \$250,000 to support the swift implementation of measures including:

- Assessing the Rickenbacker Causeway for installation of vertical barriers along the most dangerous stretches of the causeway, separating bikes from traffic lanes;
- Coordinating to reduce the existing speed limit and deploying significant additional signage, officers, and radar technology to enforce that limit;
- Installing additional bicycle warning signs, supplementing the continuous, green-painted bicycle lanes.

At the same time, I directed DTPW to develop and implement a permanent design that reduces conflicts between cyclists and motorists on the Rickenbacker, and to work closely with key community stakeholders to understand key solutions to improve safety.

As a result of extensive input from stakeholders, including a public community meeting on May 31 with various stakeholder groups including residents and leadership of Key Biscayne and City of Miami, Miami-Dade County District 7 Commissioner Raquel Regalado, cyclists who ride the Causeway, transit advocates, public safety officers, and more, DTPW will begin implementing an additional set of safety measures starting this week. Those measures include:

- Removing “U Turn” movement at the conflict point where the two bike fatalities recently occurred (West of William Powell Bridge);
- Conducting short-term demonstration pilot to improve safety for cyclists and motorists during “peloton” group rides;
- Closing an access point to vehicles crossing the bike lane East of William Powell Bridge.

It’s important to note that these additional measures represent phase 1 of our long-term safety improvements on the Rickenbacker, as DTPW explores further safety enhancements including creating greater permanent delineation of bike lanes to protect cyclists.

Honorable Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners
Page 2


More details are provided in the attached update from DTPW Director Eulois Cleckley. We look forward to continuing to keep you updated of progress as we work together to take all possible action to improve safety on the Rickenbacker for all our residents.

Attachment

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

Date: June 28, 2022

To: Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor

From: Eulois Cleckley 
Director
Department of Transportation and Public Works

Subject: Update on Implementation of Safety Measures along Rickenbacker Causeway

Following the recent tragic deaths of two cyclists on the Rickenbacker Causeway, you directed the Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) and Miami-Dade Police Department to take immediate action to implement safety measures to better protect bicyclists and pedestrians and make the Causeway safer for all users.

DTPW immediately assessed the Rickenbacker Causeway for installation of vertical barriers along the most dangerous stretches of the causeway, separating bike and traffic lanes; coordinated with the County's Police Department to reduce the existing speed limit and deploy additional officers to enforce that limit; and installed additional bicycle warning signs, supplementing the continuous, green-painted bicycle lanes.

In addition, you allocated up to \$250,000 to support the swift implementation of these preventative measures. DTPW has completed the following:

- Lowered speed limits throughout the Rickenbacker causeway;
- Coordinated with Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) to assist with enforcement and bike safe awareness;
- Deployed cones and barricades to better define vehicular and bike lanes;
- Deployed additional signage to inform motorists to be aware of cycling activity along the causeway.

The Department, Mayor, and Miami-Dade County District 7 Commissioner Raquel Regalado then convened a public community meeting with various stakeholder groups including residents and leadership of Key Biscayne and City of Miami, cyclists who ride the Causeway, transit advocates, public safety officers, and more.

As a result of extensive input from the public meeting, further coordination with the various stakeholder groups, and staff review, the following additional safety measures will be implemented:

- Remove "U Turn" movement at the conflict point where the two bike fatalities recently occurred (West of William Powell Bridge).
 - Action: DTPW will install delineators that will prevent vehicles from turning across the bike lane to access the park area.
 - Timeframe: Installation will occur June 29 – July 6.
 - Cost: The total costs of implementation will be approximately \$35,000.

Honorable Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz
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Page No. 2

- Conduct short-term demonstration pilot to improve safety for cyclists and motorists during “peloton” group rides.
 - Action: DTPW will place signage and variable message boards to inform motorists and cyclists of the event. MDPD will provide an escort and enforcement.
 - Timeframe: 5:30 am – 7:30 am on July 12 (Tuesday), July 17 (Sunday), July 19 (Tuesday), and July 25 (Sunday).

- Close access point to vehicles crossing the bike lane East of William Powell Bridge.
 - Action: DTPW will close the existing access point at Hobie Beach and reestablish a new access point further east to allow more space for vehicles to slow down before turning.
 - Timeframe: Additional civil design and construction necessary. Anticipated completion is 4-6 months.

These measures represent “phase 1” of our long-term safety improvements to the Causeway that we can begin implementing immediately. We are continuing to explore additional safety measures including the best path forward to create greater permanent delineation of the bike lanes.

As we implement these new safety measures, we will remain in close contact with community stakeholders to seek further input and feedback. We will also work closely with our partners in the cities and Florida Department of Transportation to develop and fund cyclist safety measures including protected bike lanes. We will continue to monitor effectiveness, collect data, and conduct field observations. We look forward to keeping you informed of all progress as we work together to improve safety on the Rickenbacker for all members of our community.

c: Geri Bonzon-Keenan, County Attorney
Gerald K. Sanchez, First Assistant County Attorney
Jess M. McCarty, Executive Assistant County Attorney
Alfredo “Freddy” Ramirez III, Interim Chief Public Safety Officer
Jimmy Morales, Chief Operations Officer
George Perez, Interim Director, Miami-Dade Police Department
Office of the Mayor Senior Staff

Rickenbacker Causeway Safety Enhancements – Phase I

Objective: Miami-Dade County, under the leadership of Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, took swift action to make immediate safety enhancements on the Rickenbacker Causeway, to better protect bicyclists and pedestrians and make the Causeway safer for all users.

The proposed improvements were developed with extensive input from various stakeholder groups including residents and leadership of Key Biscayne and City of Miami, Miami-Dade County District 7 Commissioner Raquel Regalado, cyclists who ride the Causeway, transit advocates, public safety officers, and more.

Background: As a result of recent incidents between cyclists and vehicular traffic at the conflict point west of the William Powell Bridge, Mayor Levine Cava directed the Department of Transportation and Public Works to take immediate action to implement short and long-term measures to improve safety on the Rickenbacker. DTPW spearheaded a meeting with the public and key stakeholders and identified specific recommendations.

Proposed Enhancements: The proposed improvements to be performed and anticipated completion schedule are below. The illustration explains the recommendation to close the existing U-Turn through the main highway and provide exclusive access to the U-Turn thru the Hobie Island Beach Park North Road.

Project Feature	Location	Installation Start Date	Anticipated Completion Date
Installation of Traffic Delineators	Immediately West of William Powell Bridge at Approximately Mile Marker 6.5	June 28, 2022	July 6, 2022
Installation of Stripping	¼ Mile West of Conflict Zone to Conflict Zone	June 28, 2022	July 6, 2022
Installation of Signage	Throughout Eastbound Lanes of Causeway Leading to William Powel Bridge and within Hobie Beach Park	June 28, 2022	July 6, 2022

Rickenbacker Causeway Safety Enhancements – Phase I

