

Memorandum



Date: October 6, 2009

To: Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Item No.
12(B)1

From: George M. Burgess
County Manager

Subject: Elderly Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee Recommendations

This report responds to Resolution R-748-09, "Resolution Creating Elderly Pedestrian Advisory Committee," passed on June 2, 2009. The Resolution established the Elderly Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee (EPSAC) to formulate recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners regarding:

1. Suggesting effective methods of educating the elderly and of disseminating information to the elderly regarding pedestrian safety precautions;
2. Reviewing infrastructure in areas highly populated by the elderly to explore the feasibility of engineering solutions to mitigate potential injury and to improve pedestrian safety and mobility;
3. Suggesting methods of enforcement to increase compliance with traffic laws by drivers and pedestrians; and
4. Recommending alternatives to promote and encourage elderly pedestrian safety.

The recommendations were to be submitted within 120 days and the EPSAC was to be dissolved within six months after adoption. EPSAC membership was comprised of one representative from the following departments or organizations to the extent they are able to participate.

1. Miami-Dade County Public Works Department
2. Miami-Dade County Planning and Zoning Department
3. Alliance for Aging
4. Miami-Dade County Police Department, Community Affairs Bureau
5. Florida Department of Transportation, Traffic Operations
6. Miami-Dade County Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee
7. Metropolitan Planning Organization
8. Miami-Dade Health Department
9. University of Miami School of Medicine
10. City of Miami Police Department
11. City of Miami Beach Police Department
12. Department of Elder Affairs
13. American Automobile Association
14. AARP
15. Office of Americans with Disabilities Act Coordination
16. The Senior Advocate of the Department of Human Services, Elderly Services Division, and
17. Any other offices, organizations or entities deemed appropriate by the Mayor or his designee.

The EPSAC met on August 19, 2009. The meeting agenda and sign-in sheet are attached. Leadership for this effort was provided by the Metropolitan Planning Organization's Bicycle Pedestrian Specialist.

Committee Discussion

The EPSAC reviewed data related to traffic crashes involving elderly pedestrians. There was discussion of existing safety education programs, traffic enforcement, and pedestrian safety roadway improvements.

Recommendations

The EPSAC recommendations are grouped into the four areas described in the Resolution.

Education

- Develop and implement an elderly pedestrian safety campaign that is language and culturally appropriate (e.g., Spanish and Haitian Creole) and uses a variety of media (for example, the UM Miller School of Medicine's "Safe Crossings" program).
- Compile a list of healthcare providers and other organizations that interact with elderly persons and which could provide information on pedestrian safety to their clients.
- Support formation of an Elderly Mobility Safety Team through the Florida Department of Transportation's Community Traffic Safety Program to continue raising awareness of elderly pedestrian safety after the EPSAC sunsets on December 2, 2009.

Engineering

- Implement appropriate pedestrian safety improvements at intersections and adjacent facilities (e.g., sidewalks, mid-block crossing, etc.) in Little Havana, South Beach, Little Haiti, Hialeah, Flagami, Westchester, downtown Miami and Sunny Isles where traffic crashes involving elderly pedestrians are concentrated as funding permits.
 - Improvements should include countdown pedestrian signals, raised medians, curb extensions, rapid flashing beacons, high-emphasis crosswalks, additional pedestrian crossing time, in-road pedestrian warning signs, turn prohibitions, audible pedestrian signals, accessible sidewalks, pedestrian pavement markings, and street lighting as appropriate.
 - A traffic safety study of elderly pedestrian crash sites is scheduled to be conducted by the Miami-Dade Public Works Department in 2009/2010 and will include cost estimates of improvements.
- Review roadway design standards to encourage the use of ADA sidewalks and curb ramps that are parallel to the direction of travel. Some ADA curb ramps are built on the diagonal and lead into the center of the intersection instead of along the crosswalk.

Enforcement

- Work with the Florida Transportation Technology Transfer Center to provide their Pedestrian Law Enforcement training in Miami-Dade County.
- Provide information on the locations of elderly housing and traffic crashes involving elderly pedestrians to police departments for targeted enforcement.

Encouragement

- Give healthcare professionals the information they need to encourage more walking by their clients, for example the AMA's "Walking is Medicine" walking prescription program.
- Promote Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department's Walking Clubs program among healthcare professionals and others involved in elder care.

Next Steps

- Coordinate with the Public Works Department on their traffic safety study of traffic crashes involving elderly pedestrians.
- Work with EPSAC to prepare list of healthcare providers and other organizations that interact with elderly clients and which could provide information on pedestrian safety to their clients.
- Continue to collect and disseminate information on safety programs for elderly pedestrians.
- A follow-up EPSAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 15, 2009 to discuss implementation of recommendations at which time a follow up report will be provided to the Board.



Assistant County Manager



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Miami-Dade County
Elderly Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee (EPSAC)

9:00 am August 19, 2009
10th Floor CITT Conference Room
Stephen P. Clark Government Center

AGENDA

1. Welcome – Introduction of Members
2. Background Data: Traffic Crashes Involving Elderly Pedestrians
3. Pedestrian Safety Countermeasures
 - a. Education
 - b. Engineering
 - c. Enforcement
4. Discussion of Recommendations
5. Transmission of recommendations to the BCC
6. Wrap-up





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 Elderly Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee (EPSAC)

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