

Coral Gables – Alhambra Circle Complete Street FAQ

Why do we need this on Alhambra Circle if there's a bike lane on 57th Avenue?

Alhambra Circle is an important link between several Coral Gables neighborhoods, downtown, the University of Miami and the future Underline. The transformation of Alhambra Circle will introduce traffic-calming measures and create connectivity specifically for Coral Gables residents. Our residents will have a safe, shaded local option specifically tailored to the needs of our community. This will enhance the neighborhood experience, making us less reliant on cars which create congestion and pollution.

How will my swale be affected?

Each property is unique. Both proposed designs create more distance between residences and vehicular traffic. Neither design will impact the ability to park on the swale.

How is the city going to address speeding?

This project is about quality of life and safety, which includes controlling speeding. The existing roadway's wide lanes and lack of sidewalk and bike lanes encourage drivers to speed because it gives the illusion that they are the only ones using the road. With the complete street enhancements, narrower vehicle traffic lanes and new traffic circles will slow cars, and sidewalks and bike lanes will encourage drivers to be more alert.

Will the trees be removed?

The City maintains more than 38,000 trees in its public rights of way. Working closely with our city arborist, our goal is to remove as few trees as possible. We are committed to protecting our emblematic tree canopy, which is not only beautiful, but also an important component of our resilience efforts providing practical and environmental benefits. The Alhambra Circle Complete Street project is also an important part of making Coral Gables resilient, enhancing how our residents move around our city, among other benefits. The project also includes adding trees in the traffic circles, and on parts of the improved swales.

We have an issue with sign pollution, won't this create even more?

One of the proposed designs would introduce minimal signage in comparison to the other option. Signage is an important safety component. There are minimum standards that must be met by law. Out of an abundance of caution, in the past more than the minimum required signage has been used in some areas. Currently and as we plan for the future, we are evaluating the amount and placement of signage. Ultimately, we need to meet the minimum standards and ensure safety while also protecting the aesthetic of our neighborhoods.

Is the city going to reimburse us for pavers, landscaping or other work we've done in the swale that will now be torn up?

The transformation of Alhambra Circle into a complete street is for the benefit of the entire neighborhood. The swale is public property and any work done on the swale by the owner of an adjacent property, including permitted work such as a paver driveway, is subject to

modification by the city for public improvements such as this. It's important to note that other neighborhoods that have gone through similar projects have seen an increase in property values.

The bridge is narrow as is, wouldn't adding bike lanes be dangerous?

We have heard the legitimate concerns about the bridge and are exploring all options. The original design meets the standard for both vehicle and bicycle lanes. The alternative option includes plans for a new shared pedestrian/bicycle bridge on the east side of the existing roadway bridge. Out of an abundance of caution and to enhance safety, we are looking to add traffic calming measures on either side of the bridge.

The curve is very dangerous as is, won't this make it more dangerous?

Speeding vehicles are the primary concern in this area. As part of the transformation of Alhambra Circle, traffic calming tactics such as narrower vehicle lanes and other traffic calming approaches will slow cars, making it safer for everyone.

Why weren't residents more involved in the 2014 Master Plan, of which this project is part of?

Coral Gables residents drive everything we do. We have policies and procedures to notify residents and promote opportunities for engagement. As is typical for a project like this, for Alhambra Circle we have and will continue to provide opportunities for residents to give their input on a project specific basis, including via an upcoming neighborhood poll.

Won't this attract more traffic to Alhambra Circle and ruin the neighborhood feel?

Bike lanes, sidewalks, narrower vehicle lanes and traffic circles, especially when used in combination in a complete street design, have been shown to reduce vehicle speeds, which would make Alhambra Circle a less desirable cut-through street for commuters. Complete streets enhance neighborhoods. They encourage people to be more active, rely less on cars, and enjoy their neighborhoods more. Our goal is to enhance our neighborhoods and improve the quality of life in Coral Gables.