

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

--MEMORANDUM--



TO: City Commission, City Manager Peter J. Iglesias, P.E., Deputy City Manager Joe Gomez, P.E., Assistant City Manager Carolina Vester

FROM: Mayor Vince Lago 

DATE: September 17, 2026

SUBJECT: Update to Bird Road Street Lighting

Following Mayor Lago's August 17 letter (attached) requesting assistance with streetlight replacement and maintenance along Bird Road (SW 40th Street) between Red Road and Ponce de Leon, Miami-Dade County's Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) conducted a field review of the corridor.

The County identified five missing streetlight poles, two more than originally reported. Four locations have compromised foundations that may require repair, while one has a usable foundation but is missing the pole and fixture. DTPW will repair the foundations as needed and install all five missing poles using in-stock equipment, with completion anticipated within approximately 60 days or sooner.

DTPW also identified and committed to addressing several maintenance concerns along the corridor:

- **Deteriorating paint:** Crews will perform targeted touch-up painting within approximately two to three months. DTPW noted that this is an interim measure and that it will work with FDOT and the City to develop a longer-term approach for repainting the decorative poles.
- **Missing access panels:** Replacement panels are being fabricated and are expected to be installed within approximately 60 days.
- **Unpainted replacement parts:** These will be painted as part of the upcoming touch-up work.

I would like to thank Miami-Dade County and DTPW for their prompt response and for taking the time to thoroughly inspect the corridor. We greatly appreciate their willingness to address these concerns and their continued partnership with the City of Coral Gables in keeping our roadways safe and well maintained.



September 14, 2026

The Honorable Vince Lago
Mayor, City of Coral Gables
405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Re: Response to Mayor Lago's Letter Regarding Bird Road Street Lighting

Mayor Lago,

This is in response to your August 17, 2026 letter to the Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) regarding missing streetlight poles and maintenance deficiencies on Bird Road/SW 40 Street/State Road 976 between Red Road (SW 57 Avenue) and Ponce de Leon Boulevard in the City of Coral Gables. Your letter noted three missing streetlight poles and cited deficiencies including: deteriorating paint, missing access panels and unpainted replacement parts.

The Traffic Signals and Signs (TSS) Division of DTPW has conducted a field review of this segment of Bird Road and has identified the following actions:

1. **Missing Streetlight Poles:** TSS review of the corridor indicated a total of five (5) streetlight poles are missing. There are four (4) locations where the light pole foundations are compromised and possibly not reusable, and one (1) location where the foundation is usable, but the streetlight post and fixture are missing. TSS in-house crews will move forward with the foundation repairs and installation of the missing light poles with our in-stock light pole assemblies. The timeframe for the replacement of the 5 missing light poles is approximately 60 days or sooner.
2. **Deteriorating Paint:** TSS in-house crews will perform touch-up repainting of the affected areas of the poles. We are not repainting the entire light poles nor touching every pole location. We are attempting to provide a reasonable aesthetic and protective treatment until a project to completely repaint or replace the poles is programmed. The interim treatment could be completed within 2-3 months. Since DTPW is not funded to maintain decorative aesthetic features, DTPW will work with FDOT and the City to develop repainting cycles via City means.
3. **Missing Pole Access Panels:** TSS is fabricating replacement panels and will install these over the next 60 days.
4. **Replacement Parts Remaining Unpainted:** Painting of these parts will be included in the touch-up repainting effort noted above.



Thank you for taking the time to share the City's concerns with the DTPW. We recognize the importance of functional and aesthetic streetlighting and look forward to refining our plan with City and Department staff.

Sincerely,



Stacy L. Miller, P.E.
Director and CEO

c: Roy Coley, Deputy Mayor, Miami-Dade County
Josiel Ferrer-Diaz, P.E., DTPW Deputy Director
Frank Aira, P.E., DTPW Assistant Director of Operations and Maintenance
Mark Plass, P.E., DTPW Chief of Traffic Signals and Signs
Peter J. Iglesias, P.E., City Manager
Joe Gomez, P.E., Deputy City Manager
Hermes Diaz, P.E., City of Coral Gables Public Works Director

August 17, 2026



CITY OF CORAL GABLES

MAYOR
VINCE LAGO

Mrs. Stacy Miller, P.E.
Director/ CEO
701 NW 1st Court, Suite 1700
Miami, FL 33136

Dear Director Miller,

I am writing to respectfully request the assistance of the Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works in addressing several streetlight and maintenance concerns along Bird Road (SW 40th Street), between Ponce de Leon Boulevard and Red Road (SW 57th Avenue).

At last count, three (3) streetlight poles are missing along this corridor, with orange safety cones marking the locations where the poles once stood. Given the volume of vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic along Bird Road, the missing lights create dark areas along the roadway and raise concerns about visibility and public safety.

There are also several maintenance issues with the remaining streetlights and related infrastructure, including worn and deteriorating paint, missing access panels with exposed wiring, and replacement parts that have been installed but remain unpainted. In addition to presenting potential safety concerns, these conditions detract from the overall appearance of this highly traveled corridor. (See attached)

On behalf of the City of Coral Gables and the residents who have brought these concerns to our attention, I respectfully request the County's assistance in evaluating the streetlights along this section of Bird Road, facilitating the replacement of the missing poles, and addressing the outstanding maintenance issues.

We greatly value our partnership with Miami-Dade County and appreciate your assistance in ensuring this important corridor is properly maintained, safe, and reflective of the standards our community expects.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to working together to address these concerns.

Sincerely,

Vince Lago
Mayor, City of Coral Gables

Streetlights on Bird Road (SW 40th Street) Between 57 Avenue and Ponce de Leon Blvd.



Inconsistent paint colors



Missing panels



Worn and missing paint



Missing streetlights