

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

--MEMORANDUM--



FROM: Mayor Vince Lago

TO: Florida Department of Transportation

DATE: January 30, 2025

SUBJECT: Request for Improved Maintenance of Bird Road Lighting

Dear FDOT Team,

I am writing on behalf of the City of Coral Gables to express serious concerns regarding the inadequate maintenance of streetlights on Bird Road (SW 40th Street). Bird Road serves as a major artery connecting Coral Gables and other South Florida communities, accommodating a significant volume of vehicular and pedestrian traffic daily. The proper functionality and routine maintenance of its lighting infrastructure are essential to ensure public safety and support the well-being of all who use this critical thoroughfare.

It has come to our attention that the streetlights along Bird Road, which are maintained by Miami-Dade County, are not being serviced adequately. This neglect has resulted in frequent outages, creating unsafe conditions for drivers and pedestrians alike, especially during nighttime hours. These darkened stretches of road not only increase the risk of accidents but also diminish the sense of safety for the community at large.

Coral Gables takes immense pride in preserving the safety and aesthetics of our public spaces. Our city is committed to ensuring that our roadways and infrastructure are maintained at the highest standards, as they are essential to the quality of life and security of our residents and visitors. Properly functioning streetlights are a key component of this effort, serving as both a safety measure and a deterrent to crime.

As one of the region's busiest corridors, Bird Road facilitates the movement of thousands of vehicles and pedestrians every day, connecting neighborhoods, businesses, and residents across South Florida. This arterial road's importance to the region underscores the need for consistent maintenance of its lighting infrastructure. We believe that routine maintenance, rapid response to repairs, and overall care for these lights are critical to supporting the safety, mobility, and economic activity of our community and the region as a whole.

We urge FDOT to collaborate with Miami-Dade County to prioritize this issue and implement a sustainable maintenance plan for Bird Road's lighting. The City of Coral Gables stands ready to support these efforts in any way we can to ensure that Bird Road remains a safe and efficient corridor for all South Floridians.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter. Should you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office at vlago@coralgables.com or (786) 397-3957; cgranell@coralgables.com or (305) 733-0143; tley Moran@coralgables.com or (305) 619-7942.

Sincerely,

Vince Lago

Mayor, City of Coral Gables

Cc: Miami Dade County Public Works Director





