

# MIAMI BEACH

City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139, [www.miamibeachfl.gov](http://www.miamibeachfl.gov)

## LETTER OF INTENT

TO: City of Miami Beach Planning Department

FROM: Carla Dixon, Capital Projects Coordinator

DATE: March 19, 2019

SUBJECT: **MacArthur Causeway Pedestrian Bridge**

### Background

The Office of Capital Improvement Projects is submitting an Application to the Design Review Board, seeking the design review approval for the construction of a pedestrian bridge crossing MacArthur Causeway, from the southwest corner of West Avenue, Miami Beach Florida 33139.

The Bridge will start at 450 Alto road with a look out area south of the Mc Arthur Causeway, continue with an aerial easement crossing the Mc Arthur Causeway northward, making landfall on a small state owned parcel along the southernmost property line of West Avenue and cross eastward to the west side of West Avenue (500 Alton Road) via a second look out area, where it will then slope down to the North at 6th street.

This area of the City, has limited north south pedestrian access. With the creation of this new pedestrian bridge, residents on either side of 5<sup>th</sup> street, West Avenue and Alton Road, will have an alternative accessible, safe way of crossing 5<sup>th</sup> street. This will also serve as a connector piece for the City's Bay walk projects.

The City intends to construct the Mc Arthur Causeway Pedestrian Bridge and are working together with the Property Owners of the Icon Condominium, Inc, 500 Alton Road Ventures, LLC, the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida, and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), that will be impacted by the construction of the pedestrian bridge.

In its communication dated March 12, 2019, attached, FDOT indicated that the design team and the City must submit and obtain the necessary City approvals for the proposed Pedestrian Bridge prior to their approval.

### Design Review Board Request

Based on the above stated, the CIP Office hereby request Design Review approval for the pedestrian bridge. The bridge concept plans prepared by Arquitectonica are included as part of the request for approval.

Section 133-50(a) of the Land Development Code establishes review criteria for sea level rise and resiliency that must be considered as part of the review process and the developer has considered the following criteria:

- (1) A recycling or salvage plan for partial or total demolition shall be provided.

*The Applicant will provide a recycling or salvage plan during permitting.*

- (2) Windows that are proposed to be replaced shall be hurricane proof impact windows.

*Any windows/glazing will be impact rated.*

- (3) Where feasible and appropriate, passive cooling systems, such as operable windows, shall be provided.

*No cooling system is proposed for the bridge.*

- (4) Whether resilient landscaping (salt tolerant, highly water-absorbent, native or Florida friendly plants) will be provided.

*The proposed pedestrian bridge has planned for new landscaping, where space and regulations allow, within 20' of each side of the bridge.*

- (5) Whether adopted sea level rise projections in the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Action Plan, as may be revised from time-to-time by the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact, including a study of land elevation and elevation of surrounding properties were considered.

*The bridge has been designed to accommodate sea level rise*

- (6) The ground floor, driveways, and garage ramping for new construction shall be adaptable to the raising of public rights-of-ways and adjacent land.

*The bridge has been designed to accommodate future raising of adjacent rights of way. As you know, 6th Street has already been raised.*

- (7) Where feasible and appropriate, all critical mechanical and electrical systems shall be located above base flood elevation.

*No mechanical or significant electrical systems are contemplated for the bridge.*

- (8) Existing buildings shall be, where reasonably feasible and appropriate, elevated to the base flood elevation.

*No existing buildings will be impacted.*

- (9) When habitable space is located below the base flood elevation plus City of Miami Beach Freeboard, wet or dry flood proofing systems will be provided in accordance with Chapter of 54 of the City Code.

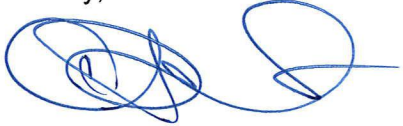
*No habitable space is proposed for the bridge.*

(10) Where feasible and appropriate, water retention systems shall be provided.

*Water retention elements are not included in the overall design, as this is an elevated walkway with limited opportunities.* Based on the above information, the City is requesting the approval of the development plan for the elevated pedestrian bridge crossing MacArthur Causeway.

If you have any questions or require additional information with regards to this application, please do not hesitate to contact me at (305)673-7071, extension 6264 or via email at [carladixon@miamibeachfl.gov](mailto:carladixon@miamibeachfl.gov),

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Carla Dixon, Capital Projects Coordinator

Cc: David Martinez, P.E., Director  
Maria Cerna, Division Director  
Sabrina Baglieri, Senior Capital Projects Coordinator