

# MIAMI BEACH

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

### Staff Report & Recommendation

### Design Review Board

TO: DRB Chairperson and Members

FROM: Thomas R. Mooney, AICP  
Planning Director

SUBJECT: DRB19-0385  
**5<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge –Pedestrian Bridge**

DATE: July 02, 2019

**DRB19-0385, 5<sup>th</sup> Street Pedestrian Bridge.** An application has been filed requesting Design Review Approval for the construction of a pedestrian overpass bridge over 5<sup>th</sup> Street, and ramps, stairs and an elevator in the right-of-way.

#### **SITE DATA:**

Zoning: GU (Government Use)

#### **BACKGROUND:**

On November 6, 2018, the residents of Miami Beach approved three ballot questions authorizing the City to issue General Obligation Bonds to fund capital projects within the City in the areas of public safety, parks and recreation, and infrastructure. The General Obligation Bonds (G.O. Bonds) projects include, among other City projects, \$10 million for the 5th Street Pedestrian Bridge Project. Subsequently, on March 13, 2019, the Mayor and City Commission adopted Resolution No. 2019-30754, authorizing the issuance of the first tranche of G.O. Bonds, and as part thereof, approved the G.O. Bond Implementation Plan. The 5<sup>th</sup> Street Pedestrian Bridge Project is one of the projects scheduled for implementation during the first tranche of G.O. Bond projects.

On January 9, 2019, the Development Agreement was executed pertaining to the 500-600 blocks of Alton Road, and provided that the City and the Developer agree to exercise diligent, good-faith efforts to negotiate and draft terms for the Developer to develop, design and or construct a pedestrian bridge over and across 5th Street and West Avenue, to connect the baywalks south of 5th Street with the area north of 5th Street; provided, however, that any such agreement with respect to the Bridge Project shall be subject to the prior approval of the City Commission.

Following the execution of the Development Agreement, the City and the developer have worked together to define the processes and refine the scope for implementing the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Pedestrian Bridge Project.

On May 08, 2019, the City Commission passed a resolution that endorsed the conceptual plans and authorized the Administration to submit an application to the Design Review Board for its consideration of the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Pedestrian Bridge Project. The final design, permitting and construction of the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Pedestrian Bridge Project will be subject to the City Commission's approval of an amendment to the Development Agreement.

On June 04, 2019, the Design Review Board reviewed and approved the location, orientation, width, height, vertical clearance, access points, landscaping, and temporary

enclosures for the bridge and walkways of the proposed pedestrian bridge. The design of the permanent protective barriers, signage, materials, finishes, and other design elements were continued to the July 02, 2019 DRB meeting.

**THE PROJECT:**

Revised plans depicting the new design are pending.

**CONSISTENCY WITH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:**

A preliminary review of the project indicates that the proposed **residential use** is **consistent** with the Future Land Use map designation of the 2025 Comprehensive Plan, and the incorporation of a proposed pedestrian pathway access connection from Collins Avenue to the Beachwalk and the oceanfront is **consistent** with **Objective 5: Public Access Corridors** of the 'RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT' and Policy 5.8: Beachwalk and Baywalk Projects of the TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

**Objective 5: Public Access Corridors.** *To develop a network of greenways, scenic open space vistas, beachfront promenades, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and multi-purpose public access corridors to waterways, the beach and outdoor recreational opportunities in order to preserve the natural eco-systems and to enhance the quality of urban life.*

**Policy 5.8: Beachwalk and Baywalk Projects.** *The City shall continue the implementation of the Beachwalk and Baywalk Projects in order to further the City's vision of having a continuous on-grade recreational path running north/south along the City's South, Middle and North Beach Neighborhoods. Such projects would combine to form one interconnected recreational path that is ADA accessible and environmentally compatible with the dune and marine environment.*

**STAFF ANALYSIS:**

**DESIGN REVIEW**

On June 04, 2019 the Design Review Board reviewed and approved the general site plan and structural design for the bridge including its orientation, width, height, vertical clearance, access points, landscaping, and temporary enclosures for the bridge and walkways. The "skin" of the bridge, its architectural expression and articulation including its final design details, materials, finishes, colors, dimensions, and type, were all continued.

A revised staff recommendation will be distributed at a later date.