

# MIAMI BEACH

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

## COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: September 11, 2019

SUBJECT: **A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, APPROVING, AT THE REQUEST OF THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ("FDOT"), THE DESIGN APPROACH DEVELOPED BY FDOT FOR THE ALTON ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT, FROM MICHIGAN AVENUE TO 63<sup>RD</sup> STREET (THE "PROJECT"), AND REQUEST THAT FDOT CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING MODIFICATIONS: 1) RAISE ALTON ROAD TO A MINIMUM ELEVATION OF 3.7 NAVD, TO MATCH THE CROWN ROAD ELEVATION CRITERIA PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE CITY COMMISSION, AND ADDRESS THE ASSOCIATED HARMONIZATION OF ADJACENT PRIVATE PROPERTIES THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED AS A RESULT OF THE MINIMUM ELEVATION OF 3.7 NAVD; 2) INCLUDE DESIGNS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF UNDERGROUNDING CONDUITS, CITY WATER AND SEWER LINES, AND SHARED STORMWATER PUMP STATIONS AND OUTFALLS, SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATION AND EXECUTION OF A JOINT PROJECT AGREEMENT (JPA) WITH THE CITY; 3) CONTINUE THE COORDINATION WITH THE CITY'S URBAN FORESTER, FOR THE PROTECTION AND RELOCATION OF EXISTING TREES, AND THE INSTALLATION OF ADDITIONAL TREES, AS PART OF THE PROJECT; 4) INCLUDE A DESIGN FOR BICYCLE LANES AND SHARED USE PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE PATHS AT VARIOUS SPECIFIED LOCATIONS OF THE PROJECT.**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has been working on the design and programming of a reconstruction project along Alton Road (SR 907) from Michigan Avenue to 63<sup>rd</sup> Street (the "Project"). The Project consists of the construction of a new drainage system, stormwater pumps, pavement reconstruction, sidewalk reconstruction, new signalization, and new pavement markings.

FDOT has reached sixty percent (60%) design completion of the Project, and has requested that the City approve the current design approach, in order for FDOT to align the construction funding for fiscal year 2023 – 2024 and proceed to complete the design documentation for the Project.

The current design raises the elevation of Alton Road as much as possible, without impacting private property as described below:

- Alton Road, from Michigan Avenue to Chase Avenue (south segment): 95% of the road will be raised to a minimum elevation 3.7 feet NAVD or higher; and
- Alton Road, from 43<sup>rd</sup> Street to 63<sup>rd</sup> Street (northern segments): 25% of the road will be raised to a minimum elevation 3.7 feet NAVD or higher, 72% of the road will be between 3.0 and 3.7 feet NAVD, and 3% of the road will be below 3.0 feet NAVD.

Based on a tree assessment performed by FDOT, the FDOT design contemplates that approximately 85% of the existing trees within the area of the Project will require removal, due to roadway profile changes, declining health of the trees, and conflicts with overhead electrical lines. the City's Urban Forester has reviewed the FDOT design approach, and concurs that based on FDOT's current design, the impact to existing trees is unavoidable.

The Project was initially scheduled to begin in 2022; however, given delays to various other FDOT construction projects, FDOT has delayed the commencement of this Project, has an estimated construction cost of \$66 million, to Fiscal Year 2024.

During the early design stages of the Project, the City held various meetings with FDOT to discuss the scope of the Project, impacts to the existing trees, and the elevation of the roadway. On July 26, 2017, the Mayor and City Commission adopted Resolution No. 2017-29926, requesting that FDOT:

- 1) Work with the City's Urban Forester to determine which trees between Alton Road from Michigan Avenue to 63<sup>rd</sup> Street are healthy and not interfering with utilities; and
- 2) Remove unhealthy or mature trees that interfere with infrastructure; and
- 3) Increase the height of Alton Road to 3.7 NAVD, while mitigating the effects of the existing trees, in accordance with the City Commission's amended Stormwater Management Master Plan.

City staff has reviewed the current design approach and is requesting that FDOT consider the following modifications:

- Raise Alton Road to a minimum elevation of 3.7 NAVD, to match the crown road elevation criteria adopted by the City Commission on June 8, 2016, and address the associated harmonization of adjacent private properties that would be required as a result of the minimum elevation of 3.7 NAVD; and
- Protect and/or relocate the existing trees that do not require removal, and continue to coordinate with the City's Urban Forester for the protection of existing trees, direction of new tree relocation sites, and installation of new trees; and

- Secure an estimated One Million Dollars per roadway mile, to be applied toward above-ground landscape enhancements; and
- Consider the construction of new roadways in a manner that will accommodate additional tree canopy and provide for the planting of trees of larger species size at maturity; and
- Enter into a Joint Project Agreement (JPA) with the City for the design and construction/ installation of (1) underground conduits; (2) proposed improvements to the City's water and sewer lines along the geographical boundaries of the Project; and (3) shared stormwater pump stations and outfalls, based on the most current stormwater drainage reports prepared by AECOM; and
- Consider modifying the design, in collaboration with the City, to include bicycle paths on Biscayne Waterway bridge and Surprise Waterway bridge to close gaps in the bicycle network. If the modifications to the bridges are determined to be not feasible due to the project constraints, the City will work with FDOT in programming a project in the FDOT Five Year Work Program as soon as possible to create dedicated bicycle connections across both bridges; and
- Evaluate, design, and coordinate with the City with respect to the construction of a shared-use pedestrian and bicycle path along the east side of Alton Road, from Michigan Avenue to Chase Avenue; and
- To the extent that no trees are affected, consider evaluating, designing, and coordinating with the City in the implementation of a two-way bicycle lane along the east side of Old Alton Road between the bridge over Biscayne Waterway (Bridge #870710) and 43rd Street to secure a safe connection to North Bay Road.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Administration recommends approving the Resolution.

JLM/ETC/ RWC/LS