



December 9, 2019

Lynda Westin, AICP
Transportation Manager

RE: 23rd Street Complete Streets Project

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Executive Director

Dennis Markatos-Soriano

Dear Ms. Westin,

The East Coast Greenway Alliance enthusiastically supports the City of Miami Beach's Complete Streets alternative for 23rd Street. The 23rd Street Complete Streets project would expand transportation options for the region and enhance the trail network that includes the Miami Beach section of the East Coast Greenway, a developing 3,000-mile traffic-separated bicycling and walking path connecting communities from Maine to Florida.

The project fits within Miami Beach's goals of reducing congestion, providing more travel options, increasing safety and accessibility for residents, visitors, and business owners. Through the use of buffered bicycle lanes, curb extensions, designated pedestrian spaces, and wider sidewalks, a more complete network is established providing safer and more convenient access to surrounding areas and the beach. The project would create a safe connection to the East Coast Greenway in Miami Beach, a viable alternative transportation option to help reduce congestion by offering residents a safe means for getting to work by bike or on foot.

In 2017, the East Coast Greenway Alliance commissioned a study to quantify what we know anecdotally: greenways are good for economic growth. The Alta Planning + Design report finds that the East Coast Greenway generates \$90 million in total benefits annually for the Triangle region of North Carolina, from improvements in health and the environment, transportation benefits, direct economic gains, and increased property values.

The 23rd Street Complete Streets project would increase access to the Greenway in Miami Beach, increasing mobility for residents and visitors.

Sincerely,

Dennis Markatos-Soriano
Executive Director

V Christiansen
Florida Coordinator

