RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE, AT ITS JULY 27, 2022 MEETING, SUPPORTING THE STUDY OF UNDERGROUND TUNNELS IN THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, AND DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF THE RESOLUTION TO THE BORING COMPANY.

WHEREAS, road tunnels are viable means to minimize potential environmental impact such as traffic congestion, pedestrian movement, air quality, noise pollution, or visual intrusion; and

WHEREAS, given the challenges with constructing or expanding roadway and transit facilities in an urbanized environment and the increasing complexity and constraints of constructing and maintaining above-ground transportation infrastructure, there has been an increase in the use of tunnels for transportation systems in countries all over the world; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), the local agency responsible for regional transportation planning in Miami-Dade County, at its July 22, 2021 meeting, adopted a resolution authorizing the TPO to prepare a comprehensive study to evaluate advancements in tunneling technology that may provide accelerated project delivery and/or lower cost mobility options in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, in February 2022, the TPO completed a draft study entitled "Emerging Tunneling Technologies Feasibility Study" which evaluated emerging tunnel technologies to assess the implementation of transit tunnel corridors in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, the TPO study considered 25 potential tunnel corridors throughout Miami-Dade County, including corridors identified in the Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Plan and the County's Long Range Transportation Plan; however, no tunnel corridor in the City of Miami Beach was found to be feasible; and

WHEREAS, the Beach Corridor (a SMART Plan corridor which proposes a rapid mass transit link between Miami Beach and Downtown Miami via an elevated guideway along the MacArthur Causeway) was not considered as a potential tunnel corridor in the TPO feasibility study; and

WHEREAS, at the July 27, 2022 Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee (PSNQLC) meeting, the Administration presented the findings and recommendations of the TPO's Emerging Tunneling Technologies Feasibility Study in the context of the City of Miami Beach; and

WHEREAS, given the regional significance of a tunnel facility connecting Miami Beach to the mainland, and its impact on state, county, and local jurisdictions, any tunnel proposals/studies in the City of Miami Beach will need to be coordinated with the Miami-Dade County Transportation Planning Organization, the Florida Department of Transportation, Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works, and the City of Miami; and

WHEREAS, after some discussion on ongoing tunnel initiatives being undertaken by The Boring Company, the Committee suggested having discussions with The Boring Company as to

the feasibility of underground tunnel use in the City of Miami Beach to alleviate surface level traffic congestion; and

WHEREAS, the Committee passed a motion to move this item to the full Commission, directing the Administration to draft a Resolution supporting the study of underground tunnels in the City of Miami Beach, and to transmit a copy of the Resolution to The Boring Company.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby accept the recommendation of the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee, at its July 27, 2022 meeting, supporting the study of underground tunnels in Miami Beach, and direct the Administration to transmit a copy of the Resolution to The Boring Company.

PASSED and **ADOPTED** this 14th day of September 2022.

ATTEST:

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Dan Gelber, Mayor

_____
Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION

Nick Kallergis 9/8/22
for City Attorney Date