MIAMIBEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
FROM: Alina T. Hudak, City Manager
DATE: September 14, 2022

SUBJECT: REFERRAL TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON THE POTENTIAL USE OF ALTON COURT ALLEYWAY AS AN ALTERNATIVE PATH FOR PEDESTRIANS, BICYCLES AND MICROMOBILITY DEVICES.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that the Mayor and City Commission refer this item.

SUPPORTING SURVEY DATA

According to the 2022 Miami Beach Resident Survey, the second most important capital improvement project type is more walking/biking friendly streets, greenways, and paths (56.8%). Furthermore, according to the same survey, only 23.7% of the survey respondents feel safe when riding a bike within the City (as compared to 35.8% in 2019).

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

N/A

Applicable Area

South Beach

Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-14?	Does this item utilize G.O. Bond Funds?
No	No

Strategic Connection

Mobility - Improve the walking and biking experience.

Legislative Tracking

Transportation and Mobility

Sponsor

Vice-Mayor Alex Fernandez

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

- Alleyway Bicycle Feasibility Analysis Presentation



Pedestrian-Bicycle-Micromobility Alleyways

Feasibility Analysis For:

Alton Court

Meridian Court

Alton Court Alleyway



- Service alley located between West Avenue and Alton Road
- It operates one-way northbound and primarily serves "back of house" functions for businesses and provides access to private parking for businesses and residential properties
- There are various utilities along the alley
- Some bicyclists use Alton Ct as an alternate to Alton Road or West Avenue; however, the primary use of the alley is currently vehicular
- There are no sidewalks along the alley


8th Street
9th St.
10th St.
11th St.
12th St.
13th St.
14th St.
West Ave
14th Pl.
15th St.
16th St.
Lincoln Road
17th Street
Alton Ct
Alton Rd
N














8th Street
9th St.
10th St.
11th St.
12th St.
13th St.
14th St.
14th Pl.
15th St.
15th Ter.
16th St.
Lincoln Road
17th Street
West Ave
Alton Ct
Alton Rd
N







Existing Conditions – Alton Ct

- Alley ranges between 16’ to 18’ in effective width
- Utility poles, manholes, grates, and other public utilities are serviced from the alley
- There are various pavement deficiencies in the alleyway and sidewalk approaches which create hazards for users
- Lighting appears adequate on most blocks with 2-3 LED FPL fixtures per block and City maintained-LED fixtures at most alley entrances









Observations and Findings – Alton Ct

- Deliveries often block the alley which may result in inadequate clear space for bicycles to pass
- Whole Foods (10th Street) has significantly high truck and vehicular activity which frequently blocks alleyway
- Trash collection occurs from the alley
- Most businesses do not have customer back door entrances and will require alleyway users to use cross streets or the main road to access businesses









Observations and Findings – Alton Ct (cont.)

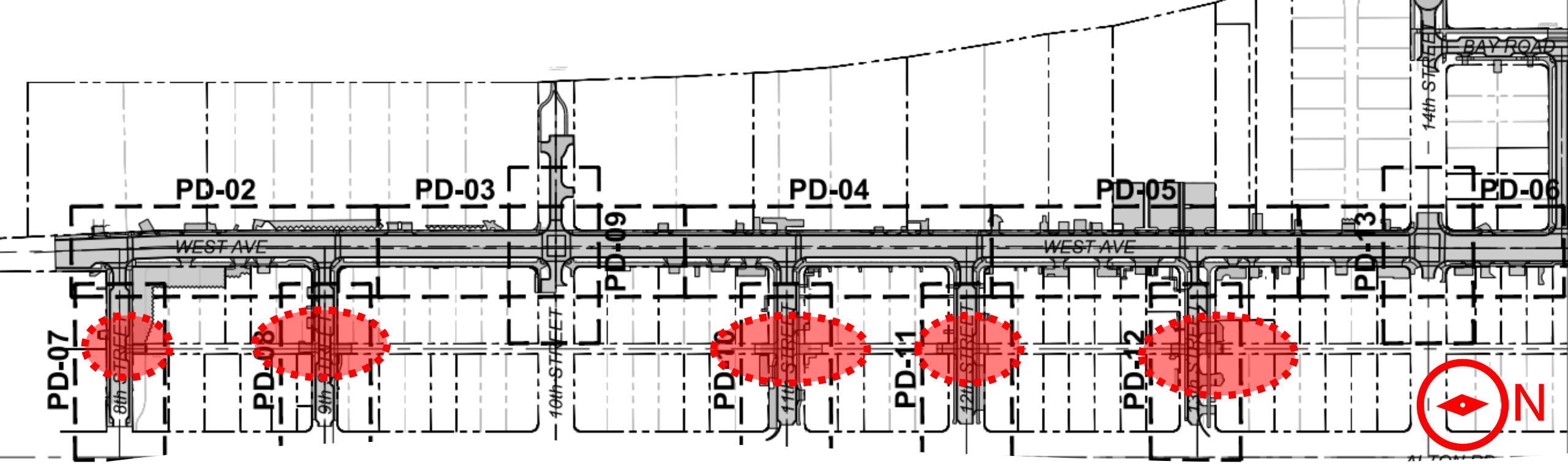
- Alley has high truck activity including trash collection which makes it inconvenient for cyclists
- Some private parking areas will require modifications to ensure sight visibility is adequate
- Given alley functions as a controlled side-street, as well as the limited sight visibility at intersections, cyclists and micromobility devices will need to frequently slow down or stop to cross a street



Observations and Findings – Alton Ct (cont.)

- Milling, resurfacing, and sidewalk repairs must be performed to address potholes and cracks that could affect safety and ride-ability
  - Cost - $250,000
- Striping and signage must be installed to advise motorists of the potential presence of pedestrians, cyclists, and micromobility devices traveling in both directions along a one-way alley and across the street
  - Cost - $50,000
- Wayfinding signage would help guide cyclists to/from the alley





Alton Court Construction

- There will be construction at all alley approaches as part of the West Avenue Neighborhood Improvement Project
- Connectivity and final elevation of the alley should be considered to ensure cyclist comfort

SUMMARY – ALTON COURT

- Pros:
  - Alternative pedestrian, bike, and micro-mobility facility during years-long construction of West Avenue project and for future
  - Connectivity to existing 16 Street bike lanes, Lincoln Road, and future 17 Street bike lanes
  - Potential to serve as catalyst for future alleyway revitalization and activation
- Cons:
  - High truck activity, often blocking safe passage for all modes
  - Limited visibility due to private parking spaces
  - Lack of direct access to businesses (few back door entrances)
  - Does not extend south of 8 Street, thus no direct connectivity to park at 600 Alton or existing 5th Street bike lanes
  - Once West Avenue project is completed, utility of alleyway as an alternative transportation facility is expected to decrease
- Preliminary Cost: $300,000 for resurfacing, sidewalk repairs, restriping, and signage (excludes lighting if needed)
- **Recommendation: Potentially pursue a pilot contingent upon funding**



- Meridian Court is the service alley located between Meridian Avenue and Jefferson Avenue
- Operates one-way northbound
- Lies within the Flamingo Park Slow Streets Pilot network and the South Beach Pedestrian Priority Zone
- Alley has significantly less commercial activity than Alton Court
- There are no sidewalks along the alley


5th Street
6th Street
7th Street
Jefferson Ave
Meridian Ct
8th Street
9th Street
Meridian Ave
10th Street
11th Street
N



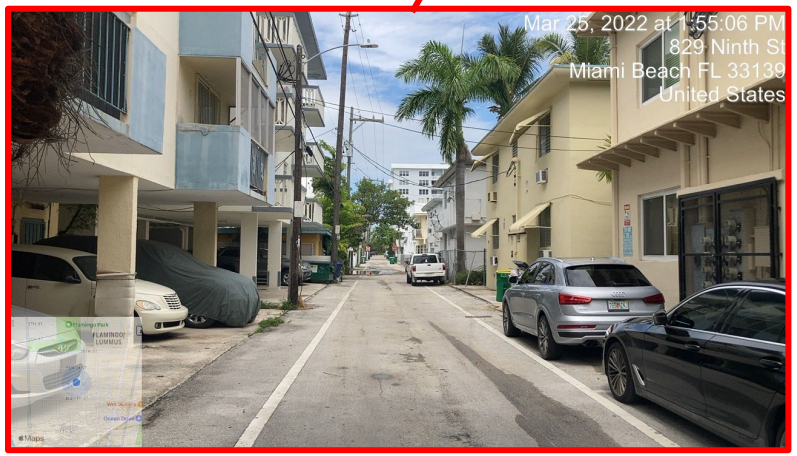

Mar 25, 2022 at 1:50:22 PM
626 Meridian Ave
Miami Beach FL 33139
United States


Mar 25, 2022 at 1:51:06 PM
650 Meridian Ave
Miami Beach FL 33139
United States


Mar 25, 2022 at 1:52:12 PM
704 Meridian Ave
Miami Beach FL 33139
United States


Mar 25, 2022 at 1:53:57 PM
805 Eighth St
Miami Beach FL 33139
United States


7th Street
Jefferson Ave
9th Street
Meridian Ct
5th Street
6th Street
Meridian Ave
8th Street
10th Street
11th Street
N


Mar 25, 2022 at 1:55:06 PM
829 Ninth St
Miami Beach FL 33139
United States


Mar 25, 2022 at 1:55:57 PM
830 Tenth St
Miami Beach FL 33139
United States
STOP

Existing Conditions – Meridian Ct

- Entrance is from Meridian Avenue through the South Shore Community Center parking lot which is the future site for Fire Station # 1
- Alley effective width is 12' so there is little to no room for a pedestrian or bicyclist to navigate around any large truck servicing the alley, including garbage trucks
- Little to no commercial activity which significantly reduces heavy vehicle traffic; however, many of the multi-family buildings have parking accessible only through the alley









Existing Conditions – Meridian Ct (cont.)

- Pavement is poor and there is spot flooding which typically affects bicyclists' comfort
- Most private parking is only accessible through the alley and most exits from parking facilities have limited sight visibility
- Lighting appears adequate on most blocks with 2-3 FPL-maintained LED fixtures per block and City-maintained LED fixtures at most alley entrances



Findings and Observations – Meridian Ct

- Trash collection vehicles completely block the alley which can be a safety issue for alleyway users
- Wayfinding signage is needed to guide alleyway users to/from the alley and across the streets
- The cost of upgrading this alleyway with new pavement, signage, and pavement markings would cost $113,000
- Located within Flamingo Park Slow Streets 2.0 and South Beach Pedestrian Priority Zone (funded capital project)
- City is pursuing buffered bike lanes on Jefferson Avenue



SUMMARY – MERIDIAN COURT

- Pros:
  - Primarily residential with low vehicle/truck activity, other than trash collection
  - Low stress facility for pedestrians, bicyclists, and micromobility
- Cons:
  - This neighborhood is already very walkable and bikeable; thus, the investment is not expected to result in significant benefits to mobility
- Preliminary Cost:
  - $113,000 for repaving, sidewalk repairs, signage, and striping (excludes lighting improvements if needed)
- **Recommendation: Not recommended**



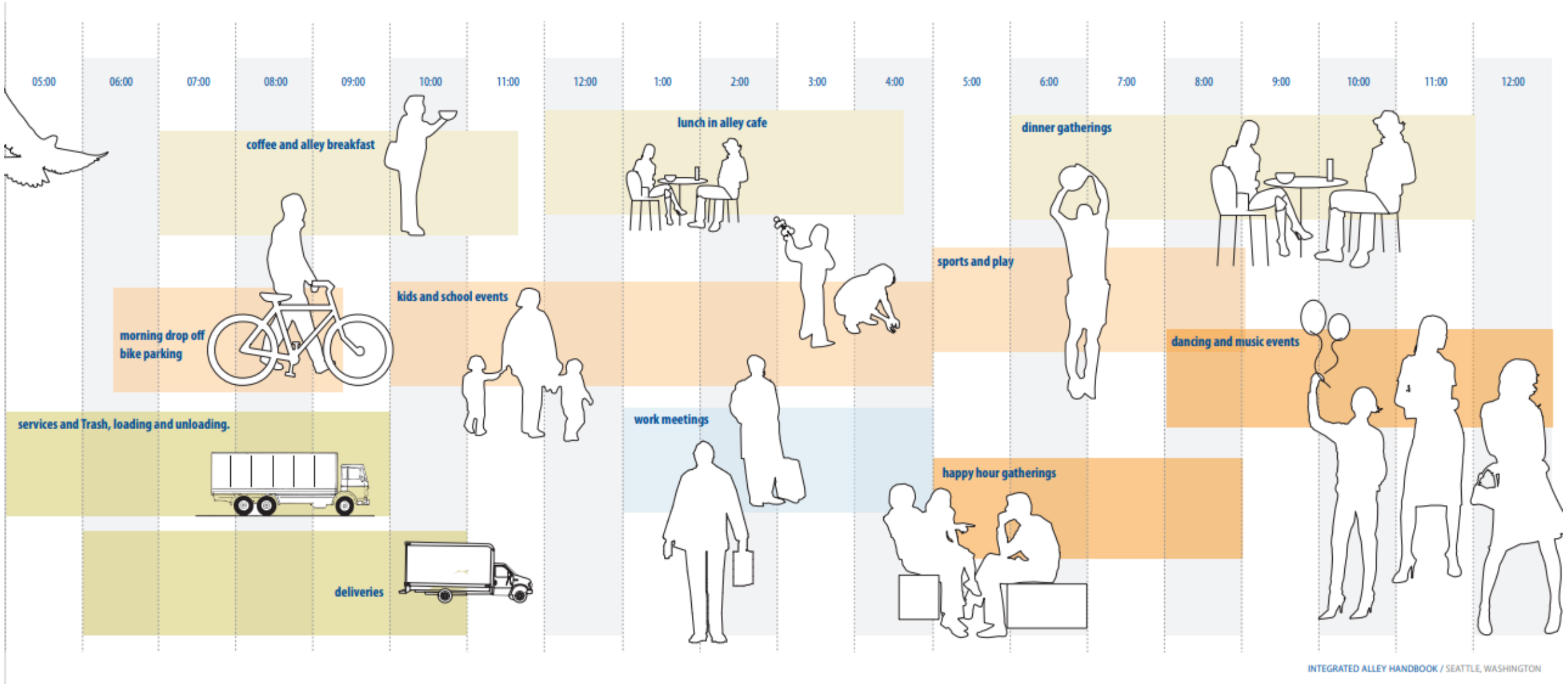
Alleyway Handbook/Seattle


Lincoln Road Master Plan – Lincoln Lane


Linden Alley – San Francisco

Livable Alleys Best Practices

- Several national and international cities have recognized alleys as quality underutilized space that could promote:
  - Walkability
  - Bikeability
  - Places for green infrastructure
  - Additional store frontage for greater economic impact to businesses
- Most cities are considering livable alley policies concentrated on:
  - Establishing hours for delivery/service operations
  - Modifying the type of delivery vehicles
  - Developing building policy which promotes alley livability depending on surrounding land-use
  - Creating a sense of place, including branding, murals, entrance features, and community events



Day in the Life of a Livable Alley

City of Miami District 5 Alleyway Improvements

- City of Miami has explored the implementation of traffic calming and shared-lane markings on City alleys to promote bicycling and provide connectivity to parks
- Many of the improved alleys were unpaved alleys and lighting is still a concern for some users (based on feedback on social media)







