



City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager
Tel: 305-673-7010, Fax: 305-673-7782

October 26, 2018

Jim Wolfe, P.E.
District Secretary
Florida Department of Transportation, District Six
1000 NW 111th Avenue
Miami, FL 33172

RE: COLLINS AVENUE SAFETY PROJECT FROM THE 4700 BLOCK TO THE 5800 BLOCK

Dear Secretary Wolfe,

The purpose of this letter is to formally transmit Resolution No. 2018-30510 of the City of Miami Beach Commission, adopted at its September 12, 2018 meeting, urging the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to suspend the current design phase of the proposed Collins Avenue Safety Project (Project) from the 4700 Block to the 5800 Block. Additionally, the City Commission is requesting that FDOT reallocate the funds currently programmed in the Project to conduct a comprehensive multi-modal corridor analysis along the Project corridor which considers the elimination of the frontage road as well as the implementation of dedicated transit lanes, bicycle lanes, and additional crosswalks along the corridor. These multimodal mobility enhancements were recommended for the Collins Avenue corridor in the City of Miami Beach Transportation Master Plan adopted by the City Commission in March 2016.

The Project, as currently proposed, does not align with the City's Adopted Modal Prioritization or the 2016 Adopted Transportation Master Plan. The recommendations from the City of Miami Beach Transportation Master Plan were previously shared with FDOT staff. Additionally, while the Project proposes to mitigate crashes occurring as a result of the existing frontage road, no consideration was given to the potential elimination of the frontage road, nor does the Project address other known safety issues along the corridor, such as speeding and lack of safe pedestrian connectivity.

We look forward to working with your staff on a comprehensive mobility study that enhances all modes of transportation along this important corridor; and we stand ready to meet at your earliest convenience to discuss the scope of the requested multimodal corridor analysis in further detail.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request and for the Department's assistance and continued support to improve mobility in the City of Miami Beach.

Please feel free to contact me or Jose R. Gonzalez, P.E., Transportation Director, at (305) 673-7514 or JoseGonzalez@miamibeachfl.gov, if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Jimmy L. Morales
City Manager

Attachment: Resolution No. 2018-30510

C: Kathie G. Brooks, Assistant City Manager
Jose R. Gonzalez, P.E., Transportation Director

JLM/KGB/JRG/JFD

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We are committed to providing excellent public service and safety to all who live, work, and play in our vibrant, tropical, historic community.

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, URGING THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO SUSPEND THE CURRENT DESIGN PHASE OF THE PROPOSED COLLINS AVENUE SAFETY PROJECT FROM THE 4700 BLOCK TO THE 5800 BLOCK, AND REQUESTING THE REALLOCATION OF THE PROJECT FUNDS TO CONDUCT A MULTIMODAL CORRIDOR ANALYSIS, WHICH CONSIDERS THE POTENTIAL REMOVAL OF THE EXISTING FRONTAGE ROAD AND THE INCLUSION OF DEDICATED TRANSIT AND BICYCLE LANES, IN ORDER TO COMPREHENSIVELY ADDRESS THE MULTIMODAL NEEDS OF THE COLLINS AVENUE CORRIDOR IN MIDDLE BEACH PURSUANT TO THE CITY'S ADOPTED TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN.

WHEREAS, Collins Avenue between 41st Street and 63rd Street is the corridor with the highest residential density in the City of Miami Beach; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the City adopted a new modal hierarchy prioritizing pedestrians, transit, and bicycles above private vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the current typical section of the corridor does not conform to the City's adopted Transportation Master Plan vision; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) performed a safety analysis of the corridor concentrated on vehicular access management along the Collins Avenue Frontage Road from the 4700 Block to the 5800 Block; and

WHEREAS, FDOT is currently at 60% design phase for the safety improvements identified in the 2015 safety analysis ("Collins Avenue Safety Project" or "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the FDOT-proposed roadway design for the Collins Avenue corridor does not align with the adopted Modal Hierarchy or Transportation Master Plan as adopted by the City; and

WHEREAS, FDOT conducted a public hearing in March 2018 where residents and City staff expressed concerns with the Project in terms of access management, reduction of crosswalks, speeding, and pedestrian safety and connectivity; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2018, representatives from the City and FDOT met to discuss the scope of the Project and concerns with the lack of consideration for exclusive transit lanes, bicycle lanes, narrowing of travel lanes, lowering of speed limit, and the reduction of pedestrian crossings, as reiterated by City staff; and

WHEREAS, FDOT advised that the holistic review described in the City's request would require indefinitely suspending the current Project to conduct an in-depth corridor analysis; and


WHEREAS, the Project was discussed at the September 12, 2018 City Commission Meeting where the Middle Beach Neighborhood Association expressed concerns with the

current direction of the Project and requested that an expedited holistic study of the corridor be conducted in accordance with the City's Master Plan.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that Mayor and City Commission hereby urge the Florida Department of Transportation to suspend the current design phase of the proposed Collins Avenue Safety Project from the 4700 Block to the 5800 Block, and request the reallocation of Project funds to conduct a multimodal corridor analysis, which considers the potential removal of the existing frontage road and the inclusion of dedicated transit and bicycle lanes, in order to comprehensively address the multimodal needs of the Collins Avenue corridor in Middle Beach pursuant to the City's adopted Transportation Master Plan.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 12th day of September, 2018.

ATTEST:


 10/26/18

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk



Dan Gelber, Mayor
Vice-Mayor Mark Samulian



APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION
 10/26/18

City Attorney ☒ Date