



MIAMI BEACH

NO. LTC # 198-2017

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: April 17, 2017

SUBJECT: **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S (FDOT) INTERSTATE 95 (I-95) CORRIDOR PLANNING STUDY**

The purpose of this Letter to Commission (LTC) is to provide information on the FDOT I-95 Corridor Planning Study from US-1/SR 5 to the Broward County Line. The study is reviewing multiple future alternatives to increase capacity and improve traffic operations throughout I-95 in Miami-Dade County, and will provide detailed operational information and conceptual cross sections for each alternative.

The study was initiated in the Fall 2015 with a Project Advisory Team meeting. The Project Advisory Team consists of public agency representatives: Cities of Aventura, Miami, Miami Beach, Miami Gardens, North Miami, North Miami Beach, Florida Department of Transportation, Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works, Miami-Dade Expressway Authority, Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization (formerly Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization), South Florida Regional Planning Council, and South Florida Regional Transportation Authority.

Fourteen (14) design concepts were developed in 2016 as part of Tier 2 analysis, screened against engineering, cost, environmental and community considerations, and eliminated or retained for further study. The initial design concepts consisted of:

- Seven (7) at-grade widening concepts, all with an increased number of Express Lanes and General Purpose Lanes;
- Four (4) concepts with combinations of at-grade and elevated lanes; and
- Three (3) tunnel options

On March 21, 2017, the Project Advisory Team was updated on the 14 Tier 2 alternatives, and the status of the study to date. The four (4) highest ranking alternatives were recommended for further development during the next few months. These 4 surviving alternatives consist of the following components, all with varying requirements for right-of-way acquisition:

1. Increased number of General Purpose Lanes with varying numbers of elevated Express Lanes; and
2. Widening I-95 with combinations of increased General Purpose and Express Lanes, all at-grade

Community outreach is scheduled to begin in Fall 2017, the draft final report scheduled for Winter 2017, and the corridor planning study will be completed in Spring 2018.

City staff will continue to monitor the project through active participation in the Project Advisory Team. The Transportation Department has recommended that FDOT engage in intensive and pro-active community outreach to begin as early as possible; and consider new ingress/egress ramps to/from the I-95 managed lanes and the I-195/Julia Tuttle Causeway, as well as other community and environmental factors in the evaluation criteria.

According to FDOT, the project milestones are as follows:

1. Present to August 2017: Further development and screening of Tier 2 Alternatives
2. August 2017: Evaluation of Concept Alternatives/Conceptual Plan Development
3. November 2017: Recommended Alternative/Final Conceptual Plans

The next step in the FDOT study process is to conduct a Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) Study. According to the FDOT Work Program, the PD&E phase is scheduled to begin in Fiscal Year 2018/19 and is estimated to cost \$22.5 Million.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

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