

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE CONCEPTUAL DESIGN FOR G.O. BOND PROJECT #40 - 41<sup>ST</sup> STREET CORRIDOR (THE PROJECT); AND AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO DEVELOP AND ISSUE A REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) FOR THE SELECTION OF A FIRM FOR THE DESIGN DEVELOPMENT, BID AND AWARD, AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION SERVICES OF THE PROJECT; AND FURTHER REQUIRING THAT THE RFQ BE TRANSMITTED TO THE CITY COMMISSION VIA LETTER TO COMMISSION (LTC) PRIOR TO ISSUANCE.**

**WHEREAS**, on July 31, 2018, the Mayor's 41<sup>st</sup> Street Blue Ribbon Committee approved the 41st Street Urban Design Vision Plan by Alta Planning and Design and Gehl Architects (the "Plan"); and

**WHEREAS**, on September 12, 2018, the City Commission referred the Plan to the Land Use and Development Committee for review; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 6, 2018, Miami Beach voters approved the \$439 million G.O. Bond Program (the "Program") in a City-wide voter referendum; and

**WHEREAS**, the Program was approved with a \$15 million budget allocated for quality-of-life improvements to the 41<sup>st</sup> Street Corridor; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project scope of work includes the renovation of lighting, landscaping, sidewalks, crosswalks, and street furnishings along the high-traffic corridor to enhance public safety, aesthetics, comfortability, and walkability for pedestrians; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 18, 2018, the Land Use and Development Committee reviewed the plan with Gehl Studio and members of the 41<sup>st</sup> Street Blue Ribbon Committee and recommended: (1) approving Option #1 of the 41st Street Design and Vision Plan and (2) developing a multi-year work plan by referring to Finance and Citywide Projects Committee to prioritize the budgeted funds for implementation in the G.O. Bond Program; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 12, 2018, the Mayor and Commission approved the recommendation of the Land Use and Development Committee, accepting Option #1 of the 41<sup>st</sup> Street Design and Vision Plan, and referred the item to the Finance and Citywide Projects Committee to prioritize budgeted funds for implementation by the Program; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 29, 2019, the Mayor and Commission established the G.O. Bond Oversight Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2019, the Mayor and Commission approved the issuance of Tranche 1 of the Program, in the amount of \$151.4 million (net of issuance costs); and

**WHEREAS**, in March 2020, the City engaged the design firm AECOM to produce conceptual streetscape design options for the \$15 million Program-funded 41<sup>st</sup> Street Corridor Project; and

**WHEREAS**, taking recommendations directly from the Alta-Gehl Vision Plan, AECOM was tasked with presenting conceptual design options to the community that are feasible and executable within the project budget, comply with Florida Department of Transportation ("FDOT")

standards, fit within County guidelines of the Bus Express Rapid Transit plan (“BERT”) and City master plans, and which coordinate efforts with surrounding City projects; and

**WHEREAS**, to achieve that, the AECOM team interviewed multiple City departments as well as FDOT and Miami-Dade County representatives, reviewed several Master Plans and previous district studies, and presented to and polled the members of the Mayor’s 41<sup>st</sup> Street Blue Ribbon Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 1, 2020, a virtual public meeting was held by the City where AECOM presented two different conceptual design schemes for a revitalized 41<sup>st</sup> Street corridor; and

**WHEREAS**, a public Q&A session followed the presentation of the two design options and a public online survey was released and advertised for one full week; and

**WHEREAS**, a total of 159 survey responses were submitted and an additional few dozen email responses were received; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 15, 2020, AECOM presented the results of the survey and open feedback sessions to the Mayor’s 41<sup>st</sup> Street Blue Ribbon Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, based on community and committee feedback, AECOM proposed an idea to create a third hybrid design scheme that would combine the preferred elements of both Scheme 1 and Scheme 2; and

**WHEREAS**, the Committee made a motion supporting the production of a third, hybrid design; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 22, 2020, AECOM presented the same survey results presentation to the G.O. Bond Oversight Committee, which also made a motion to support the development of a third hybrid design; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 6, 2020, AECOM presented their final conceptual design to the Neighborhoods & Quality of Life Committee (NQLC); and

**WHEREAS**, the NQLC requested staff to perform informational outreach to business and property owners of the 41<sup>st</sup> Street business district to raise their awareness of the project, and bring the item to be heard by the full Commission at its December 9, 2020 Commission meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, for the remainder of November 2020, the Economic Development Department distributed a letter (via certified postal mail) and e-mail to businesses and property owners along the 41<sup>st</sup> Street corridor; and

**WHEREAS**, over 180 property and business owners are confirmed to have received the certified letter, and 69 businesses have received information about the Project via e-mail; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 1, 2020, AECOM presented the final conceptual design to the Mayor’s 41<sup>st</sup> Street Blue Ribbon Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, after a lengthy discussion, the 41<sup>st</sup> Street Blue Ribbon Committee passed a motion to support the AECOM conceptual streetscape design plan, with the added request to examine the royal palms with a goal of removing no more than 10% to 15% of the royal palms; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed conceptual design maintains 72% of the royal palms on 41<sup>st</sup> Street and 62% of the existing ornamental palms, and recommends the planting of 125 new canopy trees along 41<sup>st</sup> Street and the side streets; and

**WHEREAS**, since many stakeholders have expressed strong feelings for keeping as many royal palms in place as possible, the design team is only proposing to remove those that are either ill placed (causing narrow pinch points or unnecessary clutter to a clear pedestrian pathway), hazardous (with trip hazards at overgrown roots and heavy branches falling from above), or unhealthy (diseased conditions that contribute negatively to surrounding environments); and

**WHEREAS**, the selective removal of some royal palms is also critical to the integrity of the design, which requires the removal of clutter, the widening of sidewalks, and the creation of programmable space; and

**WHEREAS**, AECOM's final hybrid design provides a compromise between the community's desire to maintain royal palms and the Urban Forestry Master Plan's recommendations for increasing walkability and diversity; and

**WHEREAS**, the Administration recommends the approval of AECOM's hybrid conceptual design; and

**WHEREAS**, the design takes into consideration the established Project budget, and is a balanced approach solution that meets the key objectives of the Project.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA** that the Mayor and City Commission approve the conceptual design for G.O. Bond Project #40 – 41<sup>st</sup> Street Corridor Project (the Project); and authorize the administration to develop and issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the selection of a firm for the Design Development, Bid and Award, and Construction Administration Services of the Project; and requiring that the RFQ be transmitted via Letter to Commission (LTC) to the City Commission prior to issuance.

**PASSED and ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Gelber, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO  
FORM & LANGUAGE  
& FOR EXECUTION**

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

1-4-21