

MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR AND COMMISSION


COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

To: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager
Rafael Granado, City Clerk

From: Mayor Philip Levine

Date: March 1, 2017

Re: Request for Deferral of Agenda Item R7A – 3rd Amendment to FY16/17 Capital Budget



As I am unable to attend the March 1, 2017 City Commission meeting, I respectfully request that Item R7A be deferred to the April, 2017 Commission meeting, so that I may participate in the consideration of this item and more fully address the issues set forth in this Memorandum.

The proposed Agenda Item R7A, the Third Amendment to the FY 2016/17 Capital Budget, "deappropriates" the \$36 million the City Commission previously allocated, from various revenue sources, to fund the Light Rail/Modern Streetcar Project, so that the \$36 million may become available for use for other unspecified projects (so long as those projects meet the authorized uses for each individual fund).

Although my colleagues and I unanimously voted to suspend the Streetcar Project at the December 14, 2016 City Commission meeting (see Resolution No. 2016-29690, attached), the purpose and intent of the Streetcar Project was to bring about meaningful traffic solutions that address traffic congestion and gridlock within our City.

With or without a Streetcar Project, the need for traffic relief continues to be one of our City's greatest challenges. For several years now, the City's residents and visitors have continued to experience increased traffic congestion as a result of significant growth in traffic volumes. As we all know, traffic congestion increases overall driver frustration, increases safety concerns, and serves to diminish our residents' quality of life and our visitors' experience. A local and regional transportation network that includes short and long-term mobility solutions, and that brings about traffic relief to the maximum extent possible, is critical to our City's continued success.

As much remains to be done to improve traffic conditions in the City, and in view of this Commission's recent unanimous support for meaningful local and regional traffic solutions in Resolution No. 2016-29690, **I believe that this Commission should continue to prioritize transportation initiatives that reduce traffic congestion and improve the quality of life for our City's residents and our visitors' experience.**

For this reason, with respect to the proposed amendment to the Capital Budget, I support the re-prioritizing of the \$36 million allocated for the Streetcar Project, **but only if these funds are used for transportation-related initiatives and projects, including but not limited to transit projects that may be developed in partnership with Miami-Dade County, the Florida Department of Transportation, and the federal government.**

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I urge each member of this Commission to not only support *talk* of traffic reduction measures, but to *dedicate the funds* to improve traffic conditions for the benefit of our community.

As there is no emergency requiring the immediate approval of this item, I request the brief deferral of Agenda Item R7A to the April, 2017 Commission meeting, so that I may participate in the consideration of this important amendment.