

# MIAMI BEACH

## COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee Members

FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager

DATE: May 14, 2025

TITLE: DISCUSS THE BEAUTIFICATION OF SIDEWALKS ON COLLINS AVENUE WITH MOSAIC DESIGNS, LANDSCAPING AND DECORATIVE UPLIGHTING.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Administration recommends working with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to beautify Collins Avenue on future projects. The Administration does not recommend uplights or upgrading sidewalks (stamped concrete) at this time, which is estimated at \$3,139,474, and currently unfunded.

### **BACKGROUND/HISTORY**

On February 3, 2025, at the request of Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez, the Mayor and City Commission (City Commission) approved item C4O (Attachment A), a referral to the Public Safety and Quality of Life Committee (PSNQLC) to discuss the segmented beautification of sidewalks on Collins Avenue between 5th Street and 15th Street, with mosaic designs (similar to the renowned calçada (sidewalk) along the beach in Rio de Janeiro, designed by Roberto Burle Marx), as well as landscaping and decorative uplighting. The goal is to create a cohesive and inviting environment that draws residents, visitors, and tourists to Collins Avenue, enriching their experience in this iconic part of Miami Beach.

### **ANALYSIS**

There have been similar discussions heard at the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee (FERC) meetings during the past few months, regarding the beautification of Washington Avenue and Ocean Drive, utilizing General Obligation (G.O.) Bond funds (used to fund capital improvements including landscaping, lighting, and sidewalks). Collins Avenue, however, is not a recipient of these funds, since Collins Avenue falls under FDOT jurisdiction. Any improvement requests on Collins Avenue would require FDOT approval, a budgetary process and City Commission approval. A recent meeting with the Secretary of FDOT and Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez took place to discuss these enhancements. FDOT would be amenable to the enhancements with the City paying for such items.

### **UPLIGHTS:**

It is important to note that any uplight installation along Collins Avenue will require:

- FDOT approval and permitting.
- Existing power outlets are for the exclusive use of FDOT. The installation of uplights will require that the City install electrical service points at each corner.

The estimated cost for permanent uplights is \$1,296,476, plus an estimated 5% per year for maintenance, for a total estimated cost of \$1,361,299, currently unfunded.

### **SIDEWALKS:**

Several options exist for the replacement of the existing sidewalks:

- Miami Beach red concrete: \$1,500,000
- Exposed Shell Specialty concrete: \$1,983,000
- Stamped Concrete Specialty sidewalks: \$1,693,500

Public Works researched mosaic walkways by Burle Marx, to get an idea of how these sidewalks looked (photo below). The closest sidewalk material to create the desired wave-like design is Stamped Concrete Specialty sidewalk, estimated at \$1,693,500, plus an estimated 5% per year for maintenance, for a total estimated cost of \$1,778,175 for the first year.



The undulating mosaic of the walkway at Rio's Copacabana beach is perhaps Burle Marx's most famous work. Photo by Mteixeira62/Wikimedia Commons/CC-by-SA.

#### LANDSCAPING:

Landscaping on Collins Avenue was restored by FDOT ten years ago. Public Works Greenspace Management is planning on adding shrubbery in the existing bump outs during the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2025.

On March 12, 2025, PSNQLC members continued the discussion and potential steps needed to beautify Collins Avenue. There was a recent study on lighting and sidewalk improvements presented by the Capital Improvements Projects (CIP) Department for Ocean Drive (Attachment B), with different paver brick options. There was also mention of tree ring lights within the discussion. A motion was made to come back to the next meeting with quotes for pavers and tree ring lights. The discussion was added to the April 9, 2025, agenda, however not reached. It is scheduled for May 14, 2025.

Additional estimated costs:

- Paver Bricks: \$3,049,025 (Collins Avenue from 5th to 15th Streets)
- Tree Ring Lights: \$5,000 each, installed, not including electrical service points. There are 66 palm trees, for an estimated \$330,000 (this option is currently not allowed by the City Code as it would damage the trunk of the palm tree over time).

It is important to note there is no G.O. Bond funding available for Collins Avenue. There is G.O. Bond funds for Citywide Sidewalk Improvements, Project #37, in the amount of \$1.9 Million. These funds will be used for citywide sidewalk replacement, scheduled over the next three (3) to four (4) years. Using the \$1.9 Million for Collins Avenue would leave the scheduled citywide sidewalk replacement project unfunded.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

The estimated costs are: uplights: \$1,361,299, ring lights: \$330,000, Stamped Concrete Specialty sidewalks: \$1,778,175 or paver bricks: \$3,049,025.

**CONCLUSION**

The Administration recommends working with FDOT to beautify Collins Avenue on future projects. The Administration does not recommend uplights or upgrading sidewalks (stamped concrete) at this time, which is estimated at \$3,139,474, and currently unfunded.

**Applicable Area**

South Beach

**Is this a “Residents Right to Know” item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-17?**

Yes

**Is this item related to a G.O. Bond Project?**

No

**Department**

Public Works

**Sponsor(s)**

Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez

**Condensed Title**

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