

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager

DATE: September 11, 2024

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING IN PART, THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE LAND USE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE (LUSC) AT ITS JULY 9, 2024 MEETING, REQUESTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO CONSIDER REPRIORITIZING THE LAKEVIEW A CRITICAL NEEDS PROJECT AHEAD OF ITS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED YEAR OF 2033.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends the Mayor and City Commission (City Commission) approve in part, the recommendation of the Land Use and Sustainability Committee (LUSC) at its July 9, 2024 meeting, not by altering the order of the critical needs project list, but by allocating funds towards the fast-tracking implementation of the adopted prioritized list of projects, and throughout these efforts, execute the recommended Critical Needs Projects ahead of the currently proposed construction start of 2033.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

At its June 26, 2024, meeting, the City Commission approved a referral (Item C4 Z) to the Land use and Sustainability Committee (LUSC), sponsored by Commissioner Alex Fernandez to review and assess the impacts of Invest 90L, which was a large area of disorganized showers and thunderstorms that impacted the Florida peninsula.

On June 12, 2024, Governor DeSantis issued an Executive Order declaring portions of South Florida under a State of Emergency. Also on June 12, 2024, Miami-Dade County issued a State of Local Emergency, and on June 13, 2024, the City of Miami Beach issued its own State of Emergency following severe weather and flooding. Sponsoring Commissioner Alex Fernandez requested the LUSC to:

- Review the areas severely affected by the storm
- Identify areas of critical concern and determine whether there was any impact to ongoing infrastructure projects.

The referral requested the assessment to consider the Critical Needs Project that were part of the recently approved Stormwater Master Plan and the Commission-adopted multi-year Neighborhood Improvement Plan (NIP) to determine whether any updates needed to be made, including the timeline and a reprioritization of projects.

ANALYSIS

It is important to note that the most effective way to address flooding is through a robust stormwater system containing pump stations and large diameter pipes to be able to convey and

carry the large volume of water that has to be collected, treated and discharged. Minimum road elevation is also a key part of the strategy to address tidal flooding, which can exacerbate rainfall flooding.

In a period of two (2) days, the City experienced an unprecedented amount of rainfall with 22.5 inches of rain. Over 11 inches fell during June 11, 2024, and over 10 inches on June 12, 2024. The ground became extremely saturated and the stormwater system was overwhelmed. This amount of rainfall far exceeds the capacity of any installed and or future proposed drainage infrastructure in Miami Beach, since the City's current criteria is to address the 10-year, 24-hour storm with a 1.25 safety factor (a total of 8.75 inches of rainfall in 24 hours).

The City has most of its stormwater pump stations located from 47th Street south, with two (2) stormwater pump stations at the northern end of the City. Most of the drainage systems north of 47th Street work by antiquated gravity collection pipes and outfall discharges. Many of the pipes are undersized based on current standards. Finally, the extraordinary amount of rainfall that occurred in a 48-hour period completely overwhelmed drainage systems throughout Miami-Dade County.

Based on the documented service calls to the Control Room from June 11 to June 13, 2024, the following number of flooding service calls were received:

- South Beach = 44
- Mid Beach = 129
- North Beach = 77

As indicated in the attached documents (Flooding Complaints & June 2024 Storm Map), the majority of the areas that experienced the worst flooding were those that are low lying, i.e., La Gorce, Lakeview or areas such as North Beach that primarily have gravity drainage systems with outfalls and no stormwater pumps. These observations are consistent with data previously gathered and analyzed as part of the Stormwater Master Plan and Hydraulic Modeling efforts.

At its March 13, 2024, meeting, the City Commission approved adoption of the update to the Stormwater Master Plan. This plan included the implementation of 20 stormwater Critical Needs Projects to be constructed over a 10-year period. Many of the areas severely impacted by Invest 90L will be addressed with these Critical Needs Projects. The Administration recommends a robust discussion of moving forward with the overall Neighborhood Improvement Plan (NIP) adopted by the Commission in 2020 that provided long-term infrastructure improvements holistically to neighborhoods.

Possible future rate increases to the water, sewer and stormwater enterprise funds should be considered as well as the fast-tracking of the Critical Needs Projects for low-lying areas, as recommended by the adopted 2024 Stormwater Master Plan.

At the July 9, 2024 meeting of the LUSC, members discussed the item at length, and concluded with a recommendation to the City Commission, requesting the Administration to consider reprioritizing the Lakeview A critical needs project, scheduled to undergo under construction in 2033, so it may take place on an earlier date.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Contingent future funding.

CONCLUSION

The City's updated Stormwater Modeling and Master Plan approved by the City Commission on March 13, 2024, proposes the implementation of Critical Needs Projects in the areas severely impacted by Invest 90L, including Lakeview A. The plan recommends a list of 20 critical needs projects, which were prioritized based on specific criteria, weight, ranking and score considering where temporary pumps have been historically deployed, low topography, flooding complaints, ease of implementation, NIP ranking, existing drainage sufficiency, historic district designation, community and emergency facilities, permitting complexity, connectivity to outfalls and projected 10-year design storm flooding.

The flooding complaints received during the unprecedented June 2024 rainfall were in line with historical information analyzed. Therefore, unless directed to change the specific criteria, criteria weights or rankings in any specific way, a re-prioritization of the critical needs projects is not deemed necessary. As such, the Administration does not recommend altering the order of the critical needs project list approved by City Commission on March 13, 2024.

The Administration does recommend the allocation of funding towards fast-tracking the implementation of the adopted prioritized list of projects, and through these efforts, execute the recommended Critical Need Project for Lakeview A and others ahead of the currently proposed construction start of 2033.

Applicable Area

Middle 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 Alex Fernandez

Condensed Title

Accept Recommendation, Reprioritize Lakeview Project. (Fernandez) PW