



COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt

DATE: November 20, 2024

TITLE: REFERRAL TO THE FINANCE AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCY COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS FUNDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE INFRASTRUCTURE STUDY FOR NORTH BEACH.

RECOMMENDATION

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

There is currently a comprehensive hydraulic infrastructure study being conducted in South Beach, which is essential for assessing the city's water, sewer, and stormwater systems. This study will help identify and address infrastructure deficiencies in that area. Given the rapid development and unique challenges facing North Beach, I would like to refer a discussion item to the Finance and Economic Resilience Committee (FERC) to explore funding opportunities for conducting an equivalent study for North Beach.

North Beach has a number of significant, unique infrastructure challenges that have yet to be addressed in a comprehensive or holistic way. These challenges include, but are not limited to, the following:

- No-contact water advisory surrounding Park View Island since February 2020 due to elevated bacteria levels, affecting the health and safety of the area's residents and visitors.
- A sinkhole caused by raw sewage, into which a truck fell in 2022, located just off Indian Creek, highlighting vulnerabilities in the existing sewage infrastructure.
- 13 new significant development projects in an 8x6 block area in Town Center, all of which are impacting the local infrastructure and creating new demands on water, sewer, and stormwater systems.
- Thousands of residential units under development in North Bay Village, contributing to increased strain on already stressed infrastructure systems in the region.
- A sports/community complex scheduled to be built on the site of the ground parking lot at 72nd Street, an area that contains critical water and sewer pipes beneath the surface. The development of this complex will likely place additional strain on the existing infrastructure.

ANALYSIS

While each individual development project conducts its own infrastructure analysis to determine the viability of that specific project, there has yet to be a comprehensive, integrated survey that evaluates the overall stresses and needs of North Beach's hydraulic infrastructure. Given the rapid pace of development and the increasing strain on existing systems, it is prudent to take a proactive approach before we reach a point of critical failure or irreparable damage.

The Administration should be prepared to discuss the estimated cost for such a study as well as

a reasonable timeline if the FERC recommends, and the City Commission approves, proceeding with this undertaking.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

n/a

Does this Ordinance require a Business Impact Estimate?

(FOR ORDINANCES ONLY)

If applicable, the Business Impact Estimate (BIE) was published on:

See BIE at: <https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/city-clerk/meeting-notice/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

CONCLUSION

Applicable Area

Citywide

**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

**Was this Agenda Item initially requested by a lobbyist which, as defined in Code Sec. 2-481,
includes a principal engaged in lobbying?** No

If so, specify the name of lobbyist(s) and principal(s):

Department

Office of Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

Ref: FERC - Funding for a Comprehensive Infrastructure Study for North Beach. (Bhatt)