

MIAMI BEACH

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee Members
FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager
DATE: March 12, 2025
TITLE: DISCUSS THE BEAUTIFICATION OF SIDEWALKS ON COLLINS AVENUE WITH MOSAIC DESIGNS, LANDSCAPING AND DECORATIVE UPLIGHTING.

RECOMMENDATION

Public Works recommends working with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to beautify Collins Avenue on future projects. Public Works does not recommend uplights or upgraded sidewalks, estimated at \$3,139,474, 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 and 15th Streets, 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 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 the 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 service points at each corner. Public Works has obtained a quote from R&D Electric Inc. (Attachment B), and 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:

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

- Stamped 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 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 bump outs the second quarter of 2025.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The estimated cost for Uplights is \$1,361,299 and estimated cost for Stamped Specialty sidewalks is \$1,778,175, for a total estimated cost of \$3,139,474.

CONCLUSION

Public Works recommends working with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to beautify Collins Avenue on future projects. Public Works does not recommend uplights or upgraded sidewalks, estimated at \$3,139,474, 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?

Yes

Department

Public Works

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez

Condensed Title

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