

# MIAMI BEACH

## COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee Members

FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager

DATE: March 26, 2025

TITLE: FINANCE AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND TAKING ACTION ON THE FAVORABLE PUBLIC SAFETY NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO EXPAND THE TREE CANOPY IN NORTH BEACH THROUGH A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY FIRM FOR TWO (2) MAIN THOROUGHFARES SUCH AS ABBOTT AVE OR DICKENS AVE AND EXPLORE PARK VIEW ISLAND WITH ASSOCIATED FUNDING.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Administration recommends the Finance and Economic Resilience Committee (FERC) review and discuss the feasibility study, the corridor options presented and provide a favorable recommendation for a feasibility study for the areas identified.

The Administration also recommends the Committee consider the broader infrastructure plans and critical needs in North Beach, noting the Request for Qualifications for the North Shore D Neighborhood Improvement Project was issued in September 2024. North Shore D is a significant infrastructure project that will include increasing the tree canopy and associated underground infrastructure for tree survivability within its boundaries. It will require major funding resources and be a priority from the staffing capacity perspective. The construction will have some disruption for the community at large and additional projects would need to be carefully coordinated.

### **BACKGROUND/HISTORY**

At the April 3, 2024 City Commission meeting, discussion item C4 P was referred to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life (PSNQLC) Committee regarding a broader vision to expand the tree canopy in North Beach. The item is sponsored by Commissioner David Suarez and co-sponsored by Commissioner Joseph Magazine.

On June 10, 2024 the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life (PSNQLC) Committee provided a favorable recommendation to expand the tree canopy in North Beach to fund a scope of work for a multi-disciplinary firm for two (2) main thoroughfares such as Abbott Ave or Dickens Ave and explore Park View Island with associated funding.

At the July 24, 2024 City Commission meeting, this item C4 E (Attachment A) was referred to the Finance and Economic Resilience Committee (FERC) to discuss funding for the multi-disciplinary firm.

At the November 8, 2024 Finance and Economic Resilience Committee (FERC) meeting, the item was not heard.

At the December 20, 2024 Finance and Economic Resilience Committee (FERC) meeting, the item was not heard.

At the January 24, 2024 Finance and Economic Resilience Committee (FERC) meeting, the item was not heard.

At the February 21, 2024 Finance and Economic Resilience Committee (FERC) meeting, the item was not heard.

## **ANALYSIS**

The referral item to increase tree canopy in North Beach introduces a broad vision for transformational change. The area has a low percentage of tree canopy cover due to the historical design of the streets, parking, and sidewalks next to dense private property. The City has plans, infrastructure projects, and the Resiliency Code that all require future development to be more resilient and sustainable. New development and infrastructure projects include requirements for green infrastructure and tree canopy. However, the density of North Beach makes planting trees difficult due to the lack of plantable space.

The Administration presented several options to expand tree canopy at the PSNQLC, and the Committee selected to procure a multi-disciplinary firm. The Office of Capital Improvement Projects developed a high-level scope for consultant services for a feasibility study, preparation of preliminary estimates of construction cost, and public engagement.

The multi-disciplinary report will examine possible locations for the installation of trees along these corridors and within the neighborhood to increase tree canopy and promote pedestrian and cyclist activity. The feasibility study would incorporate concepts and standards from the City's Urban Forestry Master Plan (UFMP) and Resiliency Code. Recommendations will need to be coordinated with neighborhood improvement and utility replacement projects currently underway, including the North Beach Town Center/ North Shore D Neighborhood Improvement Project. Consultants may consider street design and alteration of on-street parking space for the tree planting initiative.

Services would include evaluation of existing site conditions and identifying best locations for tree planting to accommodate survival of the trees. The consultant would identify all applicable codes and recommend best practices for tree selection and planting in these locations in compliance with the UFMP. Recommendations would be provided which include all remedial work that may be required to accomplish the tree plantings, and Estimates of Construction Cost.

The study may examine potentially altering two-way streets into one-way streets where possible to create new planting spaces. Potential new planter designs could include the creation a blocklong greenspace, corner bump-outs, mid-block planter beds, or combinations of all of these ideas. The multi-disciplinary firm will encounter challenges in their design work for this project with roadway and parking design, maintaining a required 20' wide fire lane on all streets, infrastructure interactions, potential parking space loss, locations with defined boundaries, and harmonization with private properties including their parking ingress and egresses. Solutions to this project's challenges could then be broadly applied to other North Beach areas that have similar challenges.

The City may select a consultant from existing continuing /rotational services contracts for the feasibility study. The required multi-discipline consulting services for the study is estimated to cost less than \$250,000.

After careful review of North Beach, the Administration is recommending the following locations for the feasibility study: (1) Park View Island- Wayne Avenue from 73rd Street to Michael Street, (2) Carlyle Avenue from 73rd Street to 77th Street, (3) Byron Avenue from 73rd Street to 77th Street, and (4) 74th Street from Dickens Avenue to Harding Avenue. Maps highlighting these locations are included as Attachment B.

The original referral memo highlights Dickens and Abbott Avenues. The Administration is not recommending Dickens Avenue due to the presence of a bike lane and role as a main corridor, making adjusting traffic movement challenging. Abbott Avenue is also not recommended at this time as the options presented offer better shade corridor connectivity.

## **Background**

Tree canopy provides countless benefits which promote environmental health and stormwater absorption, improve quality of life, and beautify spaces. Lack of shade can lead to many negative impacts, namely the urban heat island effect impacting public health, which can greatly increase ambient temperatures, especially at night. A lack of urban canopy can also contribute to stormwater and flooding issues, lower property values, lower quality of life, lower learning capacity, and increased air pollution.

The Urban Forestry Master Plan (UFMP) sets forth guidelines and goals regarding reforestation and establishes best management practices to adapt the tree canopy to be resilient to urban threats such as disease, tree abuse, and lack of space as well as climatic threats, including sea level rise, saltwater intrusion and rising temperatures. The main goal of the master plan is to grow from 17% to 22% canopy cover by the year 2040.

## **FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

The estimate to engage a multi-disciplinary firm is \$250,000.00. The estimate was provided by the Office of Capital Improvement Projects for this project to be considered in the FY 2026 budget process. The actual trees planted as a result of this project could be funded by the G.O. Bond program, however the capital project(s) associated with the construction will require a different funding source.

## **Does this Ordinance require a Business Impact Estimate?**

(FOR ORDINANCES ONLY)

The Business Impact Estimate (BIE) was published on .

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

## **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

IN DEVELOPMENT

## **CONCLUSION**

The Administration is pleased to provide preliminary recommendations for a high-level scope and estimate for a feasibility report. The report would address feasibility and challenges, preparation of preliminary estimates of construction cost, and public engagement to support a broad vision for expanding the tree canopy in North Beach. If the Committee provides a favorable recommendation, the feasibility study item can be provided to the full City Commission for review, approval, and prioritization during the FY 2026 budget process.

## **Applicable Area**

North 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

**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**

Environment and Sustainability

**Sponsor(s)**

Commissioner David Suarez

**Co-sponsor(s)**

Commissioner Joseph Magazine  
Commissioner David Suarez

**Condensed Title**

Ref: FERC – Expand Tree Canopy in NB/Explore Park View Island w/ Funding.  
(Suarez/Magazine/Bhatt) EN