

## DISCUSSION ITEMS 1

# MIAMI BEACH

## COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Land Use and Sustainability Committee Members  
FROM: Eric T. Carpenter, City Manager  
DATE: September 5, 2024  
TITLE: **DISCUSSION REGARDING I-395/MACARTHUR CAUSEWAY.**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The City Administration (“Administration”) recommends that the Land Use and Sustainability Committee (“LUSC” or “Committee”) discuss this item and provide a recommendation.

### **BACKGROUND/HISTORY**

At the May 15, 2024 City Commission meeting, at the request of Vice-Mayor Alex Fernandez, the Mayor and City Commission (“City Commission”) referred an item (C4 AH) to the LUSC to discuss urging the Florida Department of Transportation (“FDOT”) to create an additional exit lane for westbound traffic on the MacArthur Causeway onto Biscayne Boulevard to alleviate traffic congestion as part of the ongoing I-395/State Road (“SR”) 836/I-95 Design-Build Project (“Project”).

At the July 9, 2024 LUSC meeting, the Committee raised concerns with FDOT’s proposed design consisting of a single lane off-ramp from westbound MacArthur Causeway onto Biscayne Boulevard. The LUSC recommended that City staff work with FDOT to explore the feasibility of implementing an additional exit lane (i.e. creating a two (2) lane off-ramp) for westbound MacArthur Causeway traffic onto Biscayne Boulevard and return to the September 5, 2024 LUSC meeting with an update.

### **ANALYSIS**

On August 8, 2024, Transportation and Mobility Department staff met with FDOT representatives to discuss the LUSC’s concerns and the feasibility of implementing an additional exit lane on westbound MacArthur Causeway onto Biscayne Boulevard as part of the Project. During the meeting, FDOT expressed that while physical right-of-way constraints exist on the north side of the off-ramp (private property and a Metromover pier column), the Project Development and Environment (“PD&E”) Study conducted by FDOT for the Project does not support a two (2) lane off-ramp.

The comprehensive traffic analysis prepared by FDOT in advance of the Project supports the proposed single lane off-ramp, expanding to four (4) travel lanes west of the off-ramp to have sufficient storage capacity for queuing vehicles approaching the Biscayne Boulevard intersection. As the single lane off-ramp expands to four (4) lanes, it will include a free-flow right turn lane at N. Bayshore Drive. Attachment A depicts the proposed configuration of the off-ramp. **FDOT emphasized that the comprehensive traffic studies concluded that the proposed configuration of the westbound off-ramp onto Biscayne Boulevard would have sufficient capacity and storage length to meet both the current and future forecasted traffic vehicular volumes along the MacArthur Causeway.**

FDOT is currently in the construction phase of the Project, with construction anticipated to be substantially completed by 2028. FDOT representatives will be in attendance at the LUSC meeting to provide a detailed status update and respond to any questions from the Committee on the Project.

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**Does this Ordinance require a Business Impact Estimate?** Click or tap here to enter text.  
(FOR ORDINANCES ONLY)

The Business Impact Estimate (BIE) was published on .  
See BIE at: <https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/city-clerk/meeting-notice/>

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

N/A

**CONCLUSION**

This item is being presented to the LUSC for discussion and a recommendation.

**Applicable Area**

Citywide

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

No

**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**

Transportation and Mobility

**Sponsor(s)**

Commissioner Alex Fernandez

**Co-sponsor(s)**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Condensed Title**

Discussion Regarding I-395 / MacArthur Causeway.