

MIAMI BEACH

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee Members

FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager

DATE: May 14, 2025

TITLE: DISCUSS THE MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING CROSSWALKS, ALONG WITH THE NEED FOR THE INSTALLATION OF ADDITIONAL CROSSWALKS IN NORTH BEACH.

RECOMMENDATION

The City Administration ("Administration") is prepared to evaluate the condition of all existing pedestrian crosswalks in North Beach and prepare a report with the findings and recommendations. This will require performing site visits, documenting observations, and taking photographs of all crosswalks within the North Beach area. After the assessment is completed, in approximately four (4) to five (5) weeks, the Public Works and Transportation and Mobility departments will provide recommendations on how to further improve and/or enhance the pedestrian crosswalks in North Beach. For those streets that are under the purview of the Florida Department of Transportation ("FDOT") or the Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works ("DTPW"), Public Works will submit a request to the corresponding agency to restripe the deficient crosswalks.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

At the March 19, 2025, City Commission meeting, at the request of Commissioner Laura Dominguez and Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt, the Mayor and City Commission ("City Commission") referred agenda item C4 M, ("Attachment A") to the Public Safety and Quality of Life Committee ("PSNQLC" or "Committee") to discuss the maintenance of existing crosswalks, along with the need for the installation of additional crosswalks in North Beach.

Crosswalks are essential for pedestrian safety, traffic efficiency, and community accessibility as they provide a safe, designated space for pedestrians to cross the street, thereby reducing the likelihood of accidents involving pedestrians and vehicles. Without clearly marked crosswalks, pedestrians may attempt to cross at unsafe locations, increasing the risk of collisions, injuries, and/or fatalities.

Commissioners Dominguez and Bhatt would like for PSNQLC members to discuss the restriping of crosswalks in the North Beach area where paint has severely faded, and adding new crosswalks at additional intersections.

ANALYSIS

In the City of Miami Beach ("City"), crosswalks on state roadways are under the jurisdiction of the FDOT and, as such, are maintained by the FDOT. Crosswalks on local roadways are maintained by the DTPW, and, in some cases, the City.

STRIPING OF CROSSWALKS

The Transportation and Mobility Department ("Transportation") and Public Works Department ("Public Works") are always looking for opportunities to enhance pedestrian crosswalks in the

City. Most recently, in North Beach, Transportation completed the striping of a high emphasis (i.e. zebra) crosswalk on 77 Street within the school zone adjacent to Biscayne Beach Elementary School.

Public Works took the lead on a citywide resurfacing project funded by General Obligation ("GO") Bonds. The project began in 2018, and is scheduled to continue through 2028. While the project focuses on resurfacing, once the resurfacing is completed within a particular block, existing crosswalks will be restriped. Below is a list of streets in the North Beach area which have been resurfaced recently or scheduled to be resurfaced:

Completed in 2024:

1. Carlyle Avenue, between 73 Street and 89 Street
2. Byron Avenue, between 73 Street and 81 Street
3. 81 Street, between Collins Avenue and Harding Avenue
4. 84 Street, between Collins Avenue and Byron Avenue
5. 86 Street, between Harding Avenue and Byron Avenue

Scheduled in 2025:

1. Abbott Avenue, between 75 Street and 82 Terrace
2. 65 Street, between Collins Avenue and Indian Creek Avenue
3. 82 Street, between Collins Avenue and Harding Avenue
4. 83 Street, between Collins Avenue and Abbott Avenue
5. 86 Street, between Collins Avenue and Harding Avenue

Scheduled in 2026:

1. Portions of 76, 77, 78, 79, and 80 streets
2. A portion of Tatum Waterway Drive

NEW CROSSWALKS

The Administration has been actively working with the FDOT to add safe pedestrian crosswalks as part of future roadway projects and improve pedestrian safety in North Beach. Below is a list of proposed pedestrian crosswalk improvements wherein the City and FDOT have collaborated to provide enhanced pedestrian safety.

1. Pursuant to the City's request, FDOT recently completed a Roadway Safety Audit ("RSA") along the Normandy Drive/71 Street corridors from Bay Drive West to Collins Avenue. The RSA recommended the following crosswalk improvements, subject to further evaluation and funding availability:

- a. Conduct a traffic analysis for a mid-block pedestrian crossing at 71 Street and Rue Granville. If warranted, FDOT will proceed to design and construct a new mid-block pedestrian crosswalk with overhead rectangular rapid flashing beacons ("RRFB")

- b. Conduct a traffic analysis for a mid-block pedestrian crossing at 71 Street and Rue Versailles Court. If warranted, FDOT will proceed to design and construct a new mid-block pedestrian crosswalk with overhead RRFB
- c. Upgrade the existing mid-block pedestrian crosswalk with RRFB at Normandy Drive and Rue Notre Dame
- d. Conduct a traffic analysis for a pedestrian crosswalk at 71 Street and Biarritz Drive
- e. Conduct a traffic analysis for a pedestrian crosswalk at 71 Street and Bay Drive West

2. FDOT is currently in the design development phase for a roadway improvement project on Collins Avenue from 63 Street to 75 Street ("Project"). The Project is examining the feasibility of installing additional pedestrian crosswalks at the following locations to "close the box". Construction is anticipated to begin in 2027.

- a. North side of Collins Avenue and 63 Street
- b. North side of Collins Avenue and 65 Street
- c. North side of Collins Avenue and 71 Street
- d. North side of Collins Avenue and 72 Street
- e. Mid-block pedestrian crosswalk with overhead RRFB on Collins Avenue south of 65 Street to access Allison Park

3. FDOT is finalizing the design of a mid-block pedestrian crosswalk with overhead RRFB on Harding Avenue north of 87 Street (proximate to the Stella Maris House). Construction is anticipated to begin in summer 2025.

Below is a list of potential pedestrian crosswalk locations that have been evaluated by FDOT and determined to not be feasible:

- 1. West side of Indian Creek Drive/Dickens Avenue and 71 Street. This location was not recommended for a crosswalk due to potential safety concerns for pedestrians and bicyclists conflicting with a high vehicular demand for the southbound right-turn movement at the intersection.
- 2. Mid-block pedestrian crosswalk on Collins Avenue between 72 Street and 73 Street
- 3. Mid-block pedestrian crosswalk on Indian Creek Drive between 63 Street and 65 Street

It is important to note that depending on the placement and frequency of crosswalks, there could be delays to traffic flow given the duration of the pedestrian walk phases and the need for vehicles to yield to pedestrians. Along major corridors, for example, these delays could accumulate and exacerbate traffic congestion.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

City staff will continue to work with the FDOT and DTPW on the maintenance of existing crosswalks as well as on the evaluation and installation of additional crosswalks in North Beach, ideally at no cost to the City. However, should further evaluation and implementation of new crosswalks and/or enhancement of existing crosswalks be desired beyond the capabilities of the FDOT and DTPW, the Administration recommends placing a budget request for Fiscal Year ("FY") 2026 in the estimated amount of \$200,000 to perform these tasks as needed.

CONCLUSION

The Administration is prepared to evaluate the condition of all existing pedestrian crosswalks in North Beach and prepare a report with the findings and recommendations. This effort will require performing site visits, documenting observations, and taking photographs of all crosswalks within the North Beach area. The assessment will take approximately four (4) to five (5) weeks to complete following a favorable recommendation by PSNQLC and a Resolution of the City Commission.

Once the assessment is completed, the Public Works and Transportation departments will provide recommendations on how to improve and/or enhance the pedestrian crosswalks in North Beach, and if warranted, a recommendation to engage a consultant to conduct crosswalk warrant studies, in the estimated amount of \$200,000, to evaluate if/where new crosswalks should be installed. For existing crosswalks where paint has severely faded and that are under the purview of the DTPW and/or FDOT, Public Works will submit a request to the corresponding agency to restripe the deficient crosswalks.

The Administration recommends that while the PSNQLC evaluates directing the Administration to evaluate the condition of the crosswalks in North Beach and potential engage a consultant to conduct crosswalk warrant studies to determine if/where new crosswalks are warranted, it also carefully considers several critical factors that will significantly impact the General Fund budget, beginning in FY 2026:

1. The City's increasing unfunded capital improvement program.
2. Long-term General Fund financial projections indicating a potential shortfall in upcoming fiscal years.
3. The passage of Amendment 5 in November 2024, which increases the homestead exemption and further constrains the growth of taxable property values.

These considerations are essential to ensure that decisions regarding engaging a consultant to conduct crosswalk warrant analyses align with the City's broader long-term financial stability and strategic priorities. If the Committee recommends engaging a consultant, the Administration recommends it be considered as part of 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

Public Works

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Laura Dominguez

Co-sponsor(s)

Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt

Condensed Title

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