

MIAMI BEACH

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee Members

FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager

DATE: December 2, 2024

TITLE: DISCUSS TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES ON MERIDIAN AVENUE BETWEEN 42ND AND 47TH STREET, INCLUDING IDENTIFYING THE APPROPRIATE AREAS WHERE THESE MEASURES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED.

RECOMMENDATION

The City Administration (“Administration”) recommends that the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee (“PSNQLC” or “Committee”) discuss this item and endorse the Administration’s recommendation to explore the installation of rubberized speed cushions on Meridian Avenue as a temporary traffic calming measure to reduce vehicular traffic speeds and increase road safety in advance of the installation of permanent speed tables.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

At the October 30, 2024 City Commission meeting, at the request of Vice-Mayor Alex Fernandez and Commissioner Joseph Magazine, the Mayor and City Commission (“City Commission”) referred an agenda item (C4 AM) to the PSNQLC to discuss the potential implementation of traffic calming measures on Meridian Avenue between 42 Street and 47 Street.

Meridian Avenue is a local roadway in the Mid-Beach portion of the City of Miami Beach (“City”). This roadway provides north/south connectivity between State Road (“SR”) 112/41 Street on the south and W 47 Court on the north. Meridian Avenue is owned, operated, and maintained by the City; notwithstanding, pursuant to the Miami-Dade County (“County”) Home Rule Charter, the County has jurisdictional authority and purview over traffic engineering functions, traffic flow, and traffic control devices on local roadways, including within municipalities.

The current posted speed limit on Meridian Avenue is 25 miles per hour. In 2022, as part of the Nautilus Neighborhood Traffic Calming General Obligation Bond (“GOB”) Project, the City installed two (2) traffic circles and 10 speed tables throughout the neighborhood. Furthermore, the Meridian Avenue corridor currently has green bicycle lanes in both directions from 41 Street on the south to 48 Street on the north.

ANALYSIS

The Transportation and Mobility Department completed the Nautilus Neighborhood Circulation and Traffic Calming Study (“Traffic Study”) to identify streets in the neighborhood experiencing speeding and/or high cut-through traffic volumes; determine whether and where traffic calming measures are warranted; and determine the type of traffic calming measure(s) for each identified location to reduce speeding and/or cut-through traffic in the neighborhood. The Traffic Study area encompassed the Nautilus neighborhood, which is bounded by 41 Street to the south, 48 Street to the north, Meridian Avenue to the east, and Alton Road to the west.

The Traffic Study provided recommendations for traffic calming measures on individual roadway segments and intersections, based on the daily traffic volumes, 85th percentile speeds, crashes,

and complaints received from residents. The Traffic Study found that speeding was occurring on Meridian Avenue south of 44 Court, highlighting the need for traffic calming improvements on Meridian Avenue.

As part of the City's adopted traffic calming process, a ballot survey ("survey") is conducted to gauge community support for implementation of traffic calming improvements. Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works ("DTPW") requires 100% approval from all property owners directly adjacent to the locations where the recommended traffic calming devices are proposed to be installed. While Meridian Avenue was evaluated as part of the Traffic Study, and the data collected warranted traffic calming measures, the proposed speed tables along Meridian Avenue were not supported by the directly affected property owners. As such, the City did not proceed with the implementation of the speed tables along Meridian Avenue as part of the GOB Project.

In preparation for this discussion item, the Transportation and Mobility Department reviewed the Traffic Study to ascertain the original locations where speed tables were recommended along Meridian Avenue. Based on the review, the following three (3) strategic locations were identified for the potential installation of raised speed tables. The pair of addresses below are opposite each other as the speed tables would span east/west from one side of Meridian Avenue to the other.

- 4585 Meridian Avenue/4584 Meridian Avenue
 - Alternate location at 4580 Meridian Avenue/4581 Meridian Avenue
- 4460 Meridian Avenue/4475 Meridian Avenue
- 4255 Meridian Avenue/Miami Beach Nautilus Middle School

To reduce vehicular speeds and improve safety on Meridian Avenue in the short-term, the Transportation and Mobility Department is prepared to explore the potential installation of temporary rubberized speed cushions, in advance of permanent speed tables. However, it is important to note that County review and approval is required prior to the installation of the temporary rubberized speed cushions in addition to 100% approval from all property owners directly adjacent to the locations where the recommended traffic calming devices are proposed to be installed. However, per DTPW's guidelines, in lieu of 100% approval from all property owners directly adjacent to the locations where the recommended traffic calming devices are proposed to be installed, the City may adopt a resolution, after a public hearing, requesting DTPW to consider the proposed traffic calming devices.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

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-notice/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

N/A

CONCLUSION

Should the PSNQLC recommend that the Administration move forward with the potential installation of temporary rubberized speed cushions along Meridian Avenue, the Administration will bring the PSNQLC's recommendation, including a cost estimate, to the City Commission for

acceptance via a City Commission Resolution. Once approved, the Transportation and Mobility Department will proceed to ballot the directly affected property owners for approval of the proposed temporary speed cushions and subsequently engage one of the City's rotational consultants for the design and permitting of the temporary speed cushions on Meridian Avenue for County review and approval prior to installation.

Applicable Area

Middle Beach

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): N/A

Department

Transportation and Mobility

Sponsor(s)

Vice-Mayor Alex Fernandez

Co-sponsor(s)

Commissioner Joseph Magazine

Condensed Title

Discuss Traffic Calming Measures on Meridian Avenue between 42 Street and 47 Street.