

MIAMI BEACH

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee Members
FROM: Rickelle Williams, Interim City Manager *RW*
DATE: July 10, 2024
TITLE: **DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON INCREASING VISIBILITY FOR CROSSWALKS IN SCHOOL ZONES TO INCREASE STUDENT SAFETY.**

RECOMMENDATION

The City Administration ("Administration") recommends that the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee ("PSNQLC" or "Committee") discuss this item and provide a recommendation.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

At the June 26, 2024 City Commission meeting, Commissioner Joseph Magazine sponsored a referral item (C4 AI) to the July 10, 2024 Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee ("PSNQLC" or "Committee") meeting to discuss and take action on increasing visibility for crosswalks in school zones to increase student safety.

The Transportation and Mobility Department recently completed a Miami Beach School Zone Speed Study ("Traffic Study") to evaluate the current vehicular speeds along seventeen (17) school zones associated with eight (8) schools within the City of Miami Beach ("City"). Following is the list of schools evaluated in the Traffic Study:

1. South Pointe Elementary School
2. Miami Beach Fienberg Fisher K-8 Center
3. Miami Beach Senior High School
4. North Beach Elementary School
5. Miami Beach Nautilus Middle School
6. Biscayne Beach Elementary School
7. Mater Beach Academy
8. Hebrew Academy

Additionally, the Traffic Study assessed the existing conditions and physical characteristics of the striping and pavement markings within the 17 school zones evaluated, including school crossings (i.e. pedestrian crosswalks). Based on the multiple field visits conducted, the study team identified that some of the crosswalk pavement markings were in poor conditions and require restriping to enhance the safety of students crossing.

As a result, in January 2024, the Transportation and Mobility Department completed the striping of a high emphasis (i.e. zebra) crosswalk, replaced faded school zone signs, and replaced the damaged delineators within the school zone adjacent to Biscayne Beach Elementary School.

ANALYSIS

The Transportation and Mobility Department staff is prepared to evaluate the condition of all existing pedestrian crosswalks within school zones in the City and prepare a report with the

findings and recommendations. This will require performing site visits, documenting observations, and taking photographs of all school crosswalks within the City. After the assessment is completed, the Transportation and Mobility Department will provide recommendations on how to further improve the pedestrian crosswalks within school zones in the City.

It is important to note that while raised crosswalks are intended to elevate pedestrians for greater driver awareness and pedestrian safety, raised crosswalks also have the effect of reducing vehicle speeds similar to traffic calming devices. As such, approval from the Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works (“DTPW”) is required to install a raised pedestrian crosswalk. Pursuant to the “Miami-Dade County Traffic Flow Modification(s)/Street Closure(s) Procedure Manual”, raised crosswalks are evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and to be eligible to implement a raised crosswalk, the street must not be located along an emergency response route, regional transit route, or school bus route.

The Transportation and Mobility Department is currently managing several projects intended to improve the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists within school zones in the City, including, but not limited to:

1. Miami Beach Senior High School Pedestrian Enhancements Project

The scope of this “Safe Routes To School” project is to design and install upgraded crosswalks at the intersections of Meridian Avenue and Dade Boulevard, and Prairie Avenue/Convention Center Drive and Dade Boulevard in front of Miami Beach Senior High School. Design is anticipated to be completed in early 2025; and construction is anticipated to begin in spring 2025, pending approval from the Florida Department of Transportation (“FDOT”) and DTPW.

2. Miami Beach Senior High School Pick-up/Drop-off Lane

This project will introduce a pick-up and drop-off lane along Dade Boulevard in front of Miami Beach Senior High School and upgrade the intersection of Washington Avenue and Dade Boulevard with high emphasis pedestrian crosswalks. Design is anticipated to be completed in fall 2024; and construction is anticipated to begin early 2025, pending DTPW approval.

3. South Beach Pedestrian Priority Zone

This project proposes raised crosswalks or enhanced crosswalks with high emphasis pavement markings, clear sidewalk paths, signage, and curb ramp improvements to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) standards at multiple intersections in the South of Fifth, Flamingo Park, and Entertainment District neighborhoods. Design is anticipated to begin in summer 2024; and construction is anticipated to begin in 2025, pending FDOT and DTPW approval.

As noted above, the Transportation and Mobility Department staff is continuously exploring ways to enhance school zones through the installation of appropriate signage and enhanced crosswalks, as well as working with DTPW to upgrade school zone flashing beacons.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

TBD

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

TBD

CONCLUSION

This item is being presented to the PSNQLC 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): N/A

Department

Transportation and Mobility

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Joseph Magazine

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

Discuss and Take Action on Increasing Visibility for Crosswalks in School Zones

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO:	Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
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FROM: Commissioner Joseph Magazine

DATE: June 26, 2024

TITLE: REFERRAL TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE TO TAKE ACTION ON INCREASING VISIBILITY FOR CROSSWALKS IN SCHOOL ZONES TO INCREASE STUDENT SAFETY.

RECOMMENDATION

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

ANALYSIS

Please refer a discussion to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee ("PSNQLC") at the July 10th meeting to discuss taking action to increase visibility of crosswalks in our school zones by painting and/or elevating them in order to increase students safety and create a much more aesthetically pleasing entrance to our schools that children can be more excited to cross.

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-notices/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

CONCLUSION

Applicable Area

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Department

Office of Commissioner Joseph Magazine

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Joseph Magazine

Co-sponsor(s)