

MIAMI BEACH

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee Members
FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager
DATE: September 20, 2024
TITLE: DISCUSS BEAUTIFYING WASHINGTON AVENUE BY ENHANCING LIGHTING AND STREET-SCAPING

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

On the June 26, 2024 meeting, at the request of Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez, co-sponsored by Commissioners Joseph Magazine and David Suarez, the Mayor and City Commission (City Commission) approved a referral item (C4 C) to the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee (FERC), to discuss beautifying Washington Avenue by enhancing lighting and streetscaping.

ANALYSIS

Similar requests have been brought up for discussion at the Public Safety and Quality of Life Committee (PSNQL) and Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee (FERC), to enhance lighting on Ocean Drive, Washington Avenue and Collins Avenue, without the success of a favorable recommendation due to costs for installation and maintenance exceeding \$1 Million for Washington Avenue.

The cost for wrap lights on median trees, east and west sidewalks, including maintenance costs for a period of one year after installation (full proposal attached) are as follows:

- Washington Avenue from 5th Street to 17th Street (median trees).
\$272,532.00
- Washington Avenue from 5th Street to 17th Street, (east and west sidewalks).
\$1,195,950.00

There is a proposed \$10 Million G.O. Bond Washington Avenue Corridor Project that will be led by Tourism and Culture and Economic Development Departments. Said funding, once allocated, will be used to invest in capital improvements, lighting and landscaping along Washington Avenue to increase vibrancy and business retention through the construction of pedestrian and streetscape enhancements, community programming, and marketing, however, wrap lights are not covered under this bond.

The Greenspace Management Division (Greenspace) is in its second year of a two-year long landscape restoration project. Last year, all medians on Washington Avenue were targeted for landscape restoration from South Pointe Drive to 5th Street. The restoration project will resume by the end of this calendar year.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The lighting fiscal impact including maintenance costs (for the first year) is estimated at approximately \$1.5M.

CONCLUSION

The Administration recommends proceeding with wrap light enhancements along Washington Avenue once the landscaping project is complete and contingent upon funding allocation.

Applicable Area

South 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

Department

Public Works

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez
Commissioner Joseph Magazine
Commissioner David Suarez

Condensed Title

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