

MIAMI BEACH

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Land Use and Sustainability Committee Members

FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager

DATE: October 10, 2024

TITLE: DISCUSS INSTALLING TRAFFIC DIVERTERS AT CONVENTION CENTER DRIVE AND DADE BOULEVARD.

RECOMMENDATION

The City Administration ("Administration") recommends conducting a feasibility analysis, subject to funding availability, to evaluate the potential implementation of a traffic diverter(s) at the intersection of Convention Center Drive/Prairie Avenue and Dade Boulevard to restrict access, reduce cut-through traffic and improve the quality of life in the Central Bayshore neighborhood.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

At the June 26, 2024 City Commission meeting, at the request of Vice-Mayor Alex Fernandez, the Mayor and City Commission ("City Commission") referred an item (C4 S) to the Land Use and Sustainability Committee ("LUSC" or "Committee") to discuss the installation of traffic diverters at Convention Center Drive and Dade Boulevard.

The Central Bayshore neighborhood has expressed concerns with cut-through traffic and traffic congestion resulting from events in the Miami Beach Convention Center. As such, during major special events, such as Art Week (Art Basel) and the Miami International Boat Show, the City deploys Maintenance of Traffic ("MOT") devices and Variable Message Signs ("VMS") at the intersection of Convention Center Drive/Prairie Avenue and Dade Boulevard as well as other intersections throughout the neighborhood to prevent cut-through traffic in the Central Bayshore neighborhood. The deployment of temporary traffic diverters is also used to help prevent cut-through traffic in the Palm View neighborhood during major special events. Additionally, Transportation and Mobility Department ("Department") staff coordinates with navigation platforms, such as Waze and Google Maps, to update their navigation systems with the temporary closures and redirect traffic to major thoroughfares.

While these temporary measures have somewhat reduced cut-through traffic in the neighborhood during major special events, the installation of a permanent traffic diverter(s) at the intersection of Convention Center Drive/Prairie Avenue and Dade Boulevard may be beneficial in further reducing cut-through traffic year-round. The traffic diverter(s) would restrict northbound and southbound traffic at Convention Center Drive. Alteration of the traffic pattern would impact residents as well as visitors, and possibly help to preserve the residential integrity and quality of life of the neighborhood.

ANALYSIS

A traffic diverter is a concrete island built to restrict certain through and/or turning vehicular movements into residential streets. It is worth noting that diverters impact access for all motorists, including residents who live in the neighborhood. Therefore, diverters should be considered only when less restrictive measures are not appropriate or are ineffective. A traffic diverter(s) at the intersection of Convention Center Drive/Prairie Avenue and Dade Boulevard would prevent the

northbound and southbound through movements across the intersection while permitting certain turning movements in and out of the neighborhood. However, further analysis would be required to determine the proper diverter configuration to be implemented at this intersection.

The Department is currently considering two (2) potential alternatives to install a traffic diverter(s) at the intersection of Convention Center Drive/Prairie Avenue and Dade Boulevard. The options are described below:

Alternative 1: Installation of a traffic diverter at Convention Center Drive/Dade Boulevard (south side of the intersection)

This alternative will only allow eastbound right turns onto southbound Convention Center Drive and northbound right turns onto eastbound Dade Boulevard at the intersection. **Vehicles traveling northbound on Convention Center Drive will not be able to cross Dade Boulevard to Prairie Avenue; and vehicles traveling southbound on Prairie Avenue will not be able to cross Dade Boulevard to Convention Center Drive.** Additionally, vehicles traveling northbound will not be able to make a left turn onto westbound Dade Boulevard; and vehicles traveling westbound on Dade Boulevard will not be able to make a left turn onto Convention Center Drive. This alternative would require the elimination of the dedicated westbound left turn lane on Dade Boulevard as well as the northbound left turn lane on Convention Center Drive. A structural analysis will be required to ascertain that the bridge on Convention Center Drive can support the additional weight of the concrete traffic diverters; and a traffic recirculation study will be required to assess the impacts of the traffic modifications on the surrounding roadway network.

Alternative 2: Installation of a traffic diverter at Prairie Avenue/Dade Boulevard (north side of the intersection)

This alternative will only allow westbound right turns onto northbound Prairie Avenue and southbound right turns onto westbound Dade Boulevard at the intersection. **Vehicles traveling northbound on Convention Center Drive will not be able to cross Dade Boulevard to Prairie Avenue; and vehicles traveling southbound on Prairie Avenue will not be able to cross Dade Boulevard to Convention Center Drive.** Additionally, vehicles traveling westbound on Dade Boulevard will be able to make a left turn onto Convention Center Drive. Vehicles traveling northbound on Convention Center Drive will be able to make a left turn onto westbound Dade Boulevard as well as make a right turn onto eastbound on Dade Boulevard. A traffic study will be required to determine the feasibility of eliminating or repurposing the northbound through lane on Convention Center Drive to either a left turn lane or right turn lane. This alternative would prohibit eastbound left turns from Dade Boulevard onto Prairie Avenue which will affect access to Miami Beach Senior High School. Furthermore, this alternative would require the elimination of the dedicated eastbound left turn lane on Dade Boulevard as well as the southbound left turn lane on Prairie Avenue. It is worth noting that the Department is currently in the design phase of a dedicated pick-up and drop-off lane along Dade Boulevard in front of Miami Beach Senior High School. In order to minimize the impact to the current school pick-up and drop-off operations on Prairie Avenue, this traffic diverter alternative, if feasible, would need to be coordinated with the implementation of the pick-up and drop-off lane.

In order to enhance the quality of life and reduce cut-through traffic in the Central Bayshore neighborhood year-round, the Department is prepared to explore the feasibility of installing a traffic diverter at the intersection of Convention Center Drive/Prairie Avenue and Dade Boulevard. If the traffic diverter is determined to be feasible and recommended by the LUSC, the Administration will bring the Committee's recommendation to the City Commission for approval via a resolution. If approved by the City Commission, the Department is prepared to engage one of the City's pre-qualified rotational transportation consultants/contractors to design, permit, and construct the traffic diverter. Funding for this improvement has not been identified or appropriated at this time. It is important to note that Dade Boulevard is a roadway under the jurisdiction of Miami-Dade County, therefore, review and approval by the Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works ("DTPW") is required prior to implementation of a traffic diverter at the intersection of Convention Center Drive/Prairie Avenue and Dade Boulevard.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The cost of a feasibility analysis for the potential implementation of a traffic diverter(s) at the intersection of Convention Center Drive/Prairie Avenue and Dade Boulevard has not been determined at this time. Funding for such feasibility analysis has not been identified or appropriated. The Department will be reaching out to the City's transportation consultant(s) to determine an approximate cost of a feasibility analysis for consideration by the City Commission, should the Committee recommend moving forward.

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

TBD

CONCLUSION

The Administration is prepared to explore, subject to funding availability, the feasibility of implementing a traffic diverter(s) at the intersection of Convention Center Drive/Prairie Avenue and Dade Boulevard to restrict access, reduce cut-through traffic, and improve the quality of life in the Central Bayshore neighborhood. Based on Department staff's preliminary assessment of both alternatives, Alternative 2 is preferred as it would have less of an impact to the Miami Beach Convention Center from an access management perspective. However, the feasibility analysis may evaluate and recommend a different alternative.

This item is being presented to the LUSC for discussion and a recommendation. Should the LUSC make a recommendation for the Administration to pursue a feasibility analysis to evaluate the potential implementation of a traffic diverter(s) at the intersection of Convention Center Drive/Prairie Avenue and Dade Boulevard, the Administration will bring the Committee's recommendation to the City Commission for acceptance via a City Commission resolution; engage one of the City's pre-qualified rotational transportation consultants and negotiate a scope and fee; and work with DTPW for review and approval of the traffic diverter(s) prior to design and construction. As funding for the feasibility analysis has not been identified, should a budget amendment be required, the Administration will bring an item forward to the City Commission.

In the meanwhile, the Administration will continue to implement temporary traffic diversions and neighborhood protection strategies during major special events to restrict access and reduce cut-through traffic in the Central Bayshore neighborhood.

Applicable Area

South 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)

Condensed Title

Discuss Installing Traffic Diverters at Convention Center Dr / Dade Blvd.