

# 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 ANALYSIS AND REMOVAL OF ALL PLACED SIGNAGE AND ROAD OBJECTS THAT ARE SUPERFLUOUS POTENTIALLY SUCH AS DIGITAL TRAFFIC MESSAGE BOARDS, CONES, BARRICADES AND OTHER ROAD SIGNAGE

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Public Works Operations team recently conducted a sweep throughout the City of Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) signs in the right-of-way as requested by Committee members. Displaced MOT signs were collected and stored/relocated. In addition to continuous Public Works efforts, the Administration recommends adding public engagement (through the Neighborhood Affairs Division's bi-weekly citywide newsletters), advising the public to report any superfluous road signage left behind in their neighborhood. The Administration recommends that the PSNQLC discuss and close the item.

### **BACKGROUND/HISTORY**

At its June 26, 2024 meeting, at the request of Commissioner Joseph Magazine, the Mayor and City Commission (City Commission) approved a referral to the Public Safety and Quality of Life Committee (PSNQLC), Item C4 AM (Attachment A), to discuss the analysis and removal of all placed signage and road objects that are superfluous, potentially such as digital traffic message boards, cones, barricades and other road signage.

**Land Jurisdiction:** It is important to note there are streets in Miami Beach that are owned and maintained by Miami-Dade County (County): Venetian Way, Dade Boulevard and, Pine Tree Drive; the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT): 5th Street to MacArthur Causeway, Alton Road, Collins Avenue, Indian Creek Drive and Harding Avenue, 41st Street to Julia Tuttle Causeway, 71<sup>st</sup> Street and Normandy Drive; The Eisenhower Interstate Highway System: The Julia Tuttle Causeway (I-195) and MacArthur Causeway (I-395). The City is not permitted to replace, remove or relocate any traffic signals, signage, variable message signs (VMS) trailers used for either traffic monitoring or speeding awareness installed by any of these agencies.

**Variable Message Signs:** The City's Transportation and Mobility Department has a total of 27 trailers (17 VMS and 11 temporary cameras) strategically deployed throughout the City as part of the temporary traffic monitoring and management services provided by TransCore ITS, LLC. The use of temporary cameras allows the City to monitor traffic flow, manage incidents causing congestion, and mitigate congestion more efficiently and effectively. These VMS pieces of equipment are a temporary measure until the Intelligent Transportation System is complete.

**Abandoned cones, barricades and other road signage resulting from private development construction:** The Public Works Department acknowledges that with the several ongoing infrastructure improvements projects across the City, as well as several private developments, there has been an increase of MOT signs across the City Right-of-Way (ROW). As a result, there is evidence of several cases where said MOT signs have not adhered to the approved ROW plans and may have been displaced and as a result may be obstructing pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

While it is the sole responsibility of contactors to maintain all MOT signs and adhere to the approved ROW plans, Public Works has taken several proactive steps to ensure these signs are properly maintained and the safety of all residents and visitors is preserved:

- Public Works has and will continue to stress the importance to all contractors to properly maintain their MOTs along the City ROW.
- Through its review process, Public Works plans to minimize sign redundancy or "Sign Pollution" in order to reduce the number of signs within the ROW.
- Once the MOT plans are approved, Public Works inspectors will continue to regularly check the site for compliance and inform contractors of any discrepancies.
- Inspectors are instructed to immediately address any MOT issues that may pose a public safety risk, removing them, if necessary, at the contractor's expense. Additionally, to prevent abandoned MOT devices in the ROW, as part of the Public Works ROW permitting process and permit closure request (upon completion of any road work, maintenance, or construction), contractors are required to restore the construction site to equal or better condition prior to construction and remove any and all MOT signage. To ensure these are followed through, Public Works inspectors may not close the permit until all requirements are met.

At its September 18, 2024 meeting, PSNQLC members discussed ways these construction and variable message signs could be inventoried and or removed short and long term, and to perhaps engage the community (having the public reach out to the City and report any superfluous road signage they see in their area). A motion was made to return to the December 2024 PSNQLC meeting with an update.

**Status Update:** Public Works Operations team recently conducted a sweep throughout the City of MOT signs in the ROW as requested by Committee members. Displaced MOT signs were collected and stored/relocated. Additionally, the Neighborhood Affairs Division will be contributing to this effort by sending out, through their citywide biweekly newsletters, a public notification request to have the public report any superfluous road signage left behind in their neighborhood.

### **FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

No fiscal impact

### **CONCLUSION**

The Public Works Operations team recently conducted a sweep throughout the City of MOT signs in the right-of-way as requested by Committee members. Displaced MOT signs were collected and stored/relocated. In addition to continuous Public Works efforts, the Administration recommends adding public engagement (through the Neighborhood Affairs Division's bi-weekly citywide newsletters), advising the public to report any superfluous road signage left behind in their neighborhood. The Administration recommends that the PSNQLC discuss and close the item.

### **Applicable Area**

Citywide

**Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-17?**

**Is this item related to a G.O. Bond Project?**

No

**Department**

Public Works

**Sponsor(s)**

Commissioner Joseph Magazine

**Co-sponsor(s)**

Commissioner Laura Domingez  
Commissioner Tania Bhatt

**Condensed Title**

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