

NB 10. FINANCE AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND TAKING ACTION ON THE FAVORABLE PUBLIC SAFETY NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO EXPAND THE TREE CANOPY IN NORTH BEACH THROUGH A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY FIRM FOR TWO (2) MAIN THOROUGHFARES SUCH AS ABBOTT AVE OR DICKENS AVE AND EXPLORE PARK VIEW ISLAND WITH ASSOCIATED FUNDING.

Applicable Area:

MIAMI BEACH

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee Members

FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager

DATE: March 26, 2025

TITLE: FINANCE AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND TAKING ACTION ON THE FAVORABLE PUBLIC SAFETY NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO EXPAND THE TREE CANOPY IN NORTH BEACH THROUGH A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY FIRM FOR TWO (2) MAIN THOROUGHFARES SUCH AS ABBOTT AVE OR DICKENS AVE AND EXPLORE PARK VIEW ISLAND WITH ASSOCIATED FUNDING.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends the Finance and Economic Resilience Committee (FERC) review and discuss the feasibility study, the corridor options presented and provide a favorable recommendation for a feasibility study for the areas identified.

The Administration also recommends the Committee consider the broader infrastructure plans and critical needs in North Beach, noting the Request for Qualifications for the North Shore D Neighborhood Improvement Project was issued in September 2024. North Shore D is a significant infrastructure project that will include increasing the tree canopy and associated underground infrastructure for tree survivability within its boundaries. It will require major funding resources and be a priority from the staffing capacity perspective. The construction will have some disruption for the community at large and additional projects would need to be carefully coordinated.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

At the April 3, 2024 City Commission meeting, discussion item C4 P was referred to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life (PSNQLC) Committee regarding a broader vision to expand the tree canopy in North Beach. The item is sponsored by Commissioner David Suarez and co-sponsored by Commissioner Joseph Magazine.

On June 10, 2024 the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life (PSNQLC) Committee provided a favorable recommendation to expand the tree canopy in North Beach to fund a scope of work for a multi-disciplinary firm for two (2) main thoroughfares such as Abbott Ave or Dickens Ave and explore Park View Island with associated funding.

At the July 24, 2024 City Commission meeting, this item C4 E (Attachment A) was referred to the Finance and Economic Resilience Committee (FERC) to discuss funding for the multi-disciplinary firm.

At the November 8, 2024 Finance and Economic Resilience Committee (FERC) meeting, the item was not heard.

At the December 20, 2024 Finance and Economic Resilience Committee (FERC) meeting, the item was not heard.

At the January 24, 2024 Finance and Economic Resilience Committee (FERC) meeting, the item was not heard.

At the February 21, 2024 Finance and Economic Resilience Committee (FERC) meeting, the item was not heard.

ANALYSIS

The referral item to increase tree canopy in North Beach introduces a broad vision for transformational change. The area has a low percentage of tree canopy cover due to the historical design of the streets, parking, and sidewalks next to dense private property. The City has plans, infrastructure projects, and the Resiliency Code that all require future development to be more resilient and sustainable. New development and infrastructure projects include requirements for green infrastructure and tree canopy. However, the density of North Beach makes planting trees difficult due to the lack of plantable space.

The Administration presented several options to expand tree canopy at the PSNQLC, and the Committee selected to procure a multi-disciplinary firm. The Office of Capital Improvement Projects developed a high-level scope for consultant services for a feasibility study, preparation of preliminary estimates of construction cost, and public engagement.

The multi-disciplinary report will examine possible locations for the installation of trees along these corridors and within the neighborhood to increase tree canopy and promote pedestrian and cyclist activity. The feasibility study would incorporate concepts and standards from the City's Urban Forestry Master Plan (UFMP) and Resiliency Code. Recommendations will need to be coordinated with neighborhood improvement and utility replacement projects currently underway, including the North Beach Town Center/ North Shore D Neighborhood Improvement Project. Consultants may consider street design and alteration of on-street parking space for the tree planting initiative.

Services would include evaluation of existing site conditions and identifying best locations for tree planting to accommodate survival of the trees. The consultant would identify all applicable codes and recommend best practices for tree selection and planting in these locations in compliance with the UFMP. Recommendations would be provided which include all remedial work that may be required to accomplish the tree plantings, and Estimates of Construction Cost.

The study may examine potentially altering two-way streets into one-way streets where possible to create new planting spaces. Potential new planter designs could include the creation a blocklong greenspace, corner bump-outs, mid-block planter beds, or combinations of all of these ideas. The multi-disciplinary firm will encounter challenges in their design work for this project with roadway and parking design, maintaining a required 20' wide fire lane on all streets, infrastructure interactions, potential parking space loss, locations with defined boundaries, and harmonization with private properties including their parking ingress and egresses. Solutions to this project's challenges could then be broadly applied to other North Beach areas that have similar challenges.

The City may select a consultant from existing continuing /rotational services contracts for the feasibility study. The required multi-discipline consulting services for the study is estimated to cost less than \$250,000.

After careful review of North Beach, the Administration is recommending the following locations for the feasibility study: (1) Park View Island- Wayne Avenue from 73rd Street to Michael Street, (2) Carlyle Avenue from 73rd Street to 77th Street, (3) Byron Avenue from 73rd Street to 77th Street, and (4) 74th Street from Dickens Avenue to Harding Avenue. Maps highlighting these locations are included as Attachment B.

The original referral memo highlights Dickens and Abbott Avenues. The Administration is not recommending Dickens Avenue due to the presence of a bike lane and role as a main corridor, making adjusting traffic movement challenging. Abbott Avenue is also not recommended at this time as the options presented offer better shade corridor connectivity.

Background

Tree canopy provides countless benefits which promote environmental health and stormwater absorption, improve quality of life, and beautify spaces. Lack of shade can lead to many negative impacts, namely the urban heat island effect impacting public health, which can greatly increase ambient temperatures, especially at night. A lack of urban canopy can also contribute to stormwater and flooding issues, lower property values, lower quality of life, lower learning capacity, and increased air pollution.

The Urban Forestry Master Plan (UFMP) sets forth guidelines and goals regarding reforestation and establishes best management practices to adapt the tree canopy to be resilient to urban threats such as disease, tree abuse, and lack of space as well as climatic threats, including sea level rise, saltwater intrusion and rising temperatures. The main goal of the master plan is to grow from 17% to 22% canopy cover by the year 2040.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The estimate to engage a multi-disciplinary firm is \$250,000.00. The estimate was provided by the Office of Capital Improvement Projects for this project to be considered in the FY 2026 budget process. The actual trees planted as a result of this project could be funded by the G.O. Bond program, however the capital project(s) associated with the construction will require a different funding source.

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

IN DEVELOPMENT

CONCLUSION

The Administration is pleased to provide preliminary recommendations for a high-level scope and estimate for a feasibility report. The report would address feasibility and challenges, preparation of preliminary estimates of construction cost, and public engagement to support a broad vision for expanding the tree canopy in North Beach. If the Committee provides a favorable recommendation, the feasibility study item can be provided to the full City Commission for review, approval, and prioritization during the FY 2026 budget process.

Applicable Area

North 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

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):

Department

Environment and Sustainability

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner David Suarez

Co-sponsor(s)

Commissioner Joseph Magazine
Commissioner David Suarez

Condensed Title

Ref: FERC – Expand Tree Canopy in NB/Explore Park View Island w/ Funding.
(Suarez/Magazine/Bhatt) EN

C4 E REFERRAL TO THE FINANCE AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS and TAKE ACTION ON FAVORABLE PUBLIC SAFETY NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO EXPAND THE TREE CANOPY IN NORTH BEACH THROUGH A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY FIRM FOR TWO (2) MAIN THOROUGHFARES SUCH AS ABBOTT AVE OR DICKENS AVE AND EXPLORE PARK VIEW ISLAND WITH ASSOCIATED FUNDING.

Applicable Area:



COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO:	Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
FROM:	Rickelle Williams, Interim City Manager
DATE:	July 24, 2024
TITLE:	REFERRAL TO THE FINANCE AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON FAVORABLE PUBLIC SAFETY NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO EXPAND THE TREE CANOPY IN NORTH BEACH THROUGH A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY FIRM FOR TWO (2) MAIN THOROUGHFARES SUCH AS ABBOTT AVE OR DICKENS AVE AND EXPLORE PARK VIEW ISLAND WITH ASSOCIATED FUNDING.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends the Mayor and City Commission refer this item to the Finance and Economic Resilience Committee.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

At the April 3, 2024 City Commission meeting, discussion item C4 P was referred to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life ("PSNQLC") Committee regarding a broader vision to expand the tree canopy in North Beach. The item is sponsored by Commissioner David Suarez and co-sponsored by Commissioner Joseph Magazine.

On June 10, 2024 the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life ("PSNQLC") Committee provided a favorable recommendation to expand the tree canopy in North Beach to fund scope of work for a multi-disciplinary firm for two (2) main thoroughfares such as Abbott Ave or Dickens Ave and explore Park View Island with associated funding.

ANALYSIS

The referral item to increase tree canopy in North Beach introduces a broader vision for transformational change. The area has a low percentage of tree canopy cover due to the historical design of the streets, parking, and sidewalks next to dense private property. The City has plans, infrastructure projects, and the Resiliency Code that all require future development to be more resilient and sustainable that includes requirements for green infrastructure and tree canopy.

Tree canopy provides countless benefits which promote environmental health and stormwater absorption, improve quality of life, and beautify spaces. Lack of shade can lead to many negative impacts, namely the urban heat island effect impacting public health, which can greatly increase ambient temperatures, especially at night. A lack of urban canopy can also contribute to stormwater and flooding issues, lower property values, lower quality of life, lower learning capacity, and increased air pollution.

The Urban Forestry Master Plan (UFMP) sets forth guidelines and goals regarding reforestation and establishes best management practices to adapt the tree canopy to be resilient to urban

threats such as disease, tree abuse, and lack of space as well as climatic threats, including sea level rise, saltwater intrusion and rising temperatures. The main goal of the master plan is to grow from 17% to 22% canopy cover by the year 2040.

Given the scarcity of plantable public property and the density of private property in North Beach, street redesign may be required to achieve this broader goal. The street redesign would need to be acceptable to the community and may include reducing lane widths, one-way conversions, or exchanging parking spots for plantable space. Considering this would be transformational change, it is important to define the goals of a long-term vision and if the community would accept, for example, less parking.

The following items were discussed, and PSNQLC selected option four (4) to procure a multi-disciplinary firm:

- 1) Expand the North Beach tree planting pilot program;
- 2) Explore Buoyant City raised planter recommendations;
- 3) Select a location with defined boundaries, such as Park View Island;
- 4) Procure a multi-disciplinary firm;
- 5) Implement the North Beach Town Center/ North Shore D Neighborhood Improvement Project;
- 6) Implement the North Beach Town Center Central Core Zoning District community benefits for tree canopy; and
- 7) Explore additional private property landscape requirements for smaller multi-family new developments the North Beach Conservation Overlay District and other areas of North Beach.

A broader vision for tree canopy expansion in North Beach would encompass landscape architecture, roadways changes, parking, multi-mobility needs such as sidewalks, bike safety, above and below ground infrastructure, and ADA accessibility. For option four (4), procuring a multi-disciplinary firm is needed to inform the selection of geographic location(s), establish the vision of streets design acceptable to the community, plan and estimate the costs, and synthesize in the form of a recommendations report. The Office of Capital Improvement Projects is developing a high-level scope and estimate for a report in partnership with the Environment and Sustainability, Public Works, Planning, and Transportation and Mobility Departments.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

IN DEVELOPMENT

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

IN DEVELOPMENT

CONCLUSION

The Administration will provide a high-level scope and estimate for a multi-disciplinary recommendation report to support a broad vision for expanding the tree canopy in North Beach for the Finance and Economic Resilience Committee's discussion and consideration.

Applicable Area

North 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

**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):

Department

Environment and Sustainability

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner David Suarez

Co-sponsor(s)

Commissioner Joseph Magazine

18, 2020. While the Report is the culmination of nearly twelve months of study and analysis of two (2) distinct areas of the Flamingo Park and Collins Waterfront local historic districts, it was anticipated that these adaptation guidelines will be able to be applied, with some modifications, to other historic districts in the City. The consultant team, consisting of multidisciplinary professionals, studied the areas utilizing a typological approach to existing buildings, landscapes and streetscapes. In addition to developing and illustrating practical strategies that property owners can take immediately to reduce flooding risks, this comprehensive study also provides a framework for future adaptation including potential zoning incentives for long term resilience.

Of note is the concept of raised tree planters for new trees located in this planting buffer/parking zone to allow for roadways or sidewalks to be repeatedly raised in the future without disturbing mature canopy trees along the avenues and streets.

3) Select a location with defined boundaries, such as Park View Island

By selecting a targeted area, a focused multi-disciplinary effort can be taken within defined boundaries. Park View Island is very walkable, has little tree canopy, and has limited vehicle circulation and pass through traffic in comparison to other areas of North Beach. Alternative transportation patterns can be evaluated that could allow for more space for tree plantings and canopy. The area has experienced water quality concerns surrounding the island and can benefit from additional green space to retain and filter stormwater runoff.

4) Procure a multi-disciplinary firm

A broader vision for trees in North Beach would encompass landscape architecture, roadways changes, parking, multi-mobility needs such as sidewalks, bike safety, above and below ground infrastructure, and ADA accessibility. Procuring a multi-disciplinary firm is needed to inform the selection of geographic location(s), establish the vision of streets design acceptable to the community, plan and estimate the costs, and synthesize in the form of a recommendations report.

5) North Beach Town Center/ North Shore D Neighborhood Improvement Project

The North Beach Town Center North Shore D Neighborhood Improvement Project is one of three (3) holistic neighborhood climate resilience projects underway in Miami Beach. The project was awarded \$10 million from the Resilient Florida grant program and is in the preliminary design phase with procurement expected this year for full design. It includes replacements/rehab of water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure, roadways with addition of new pump station with water quality treatment, creating greenspace, adding trees, mobility improvements for pedestrians and cars, and public outreach. The street trees will be planned and designed utilizing species that will grow best in Miami Beach now and in the future as salt tolerant needs increase.

6) North Beach Town Center Central Core Zoning District

On Nov 14, 2018, the City adopted the North Beach Town Center- Central Core (TC-C) zoning district, a recommendation of the North Beach Master Plan. In areas of the TC-C, the street trees are required to be larger to have more immediate shade impact and utilize structured soil systems for them to thrive in the longer term. The responsibility is with the private property developer to fund and implement these community benefits. Many projects have been approved by the Design Review Board, and in addition the buildings are required to have shade structure on the perimeter, further contributing to a more shaded environment for pedestrians. As these projects are built over time, the benefits will be realized. The street tree requirements are included in Chapter 5 of the Resilience Code.

7) Explore additional private property landscape requirements for smaller multi-family new developments the North Beach Conservation Overlay District and other areas of North Beach

As new development occurs over time, improved street tree requirements can have a positive impact on shade for the public right of way. There is an opportunity, given smaller multi-family developments anticipated, to incorporate a higher level of standards to meet the need for more canopy.

CONCLUSION:

The Administration is pleased to provide many options to support a broad vision for expanding the tree canopy in North Beach for the Committee's discussion and consideration.

Applicable Area

North Beach

Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-14?

Yes

Does this item utilize G.O. Bond Funds?

No

Strategic Connection

Environment & Infrastructure - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and heat.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type
 Referral Memo	Memo

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
FROM: Commissioner David Suarez
DATE: April 3, 2024

SUBJECT: REFERRAL TO PUBLIC SAFETY NEIGHBORHOODS AND QUALITY OF LIFE, DISCUSS
BROADER EXPANSION OF TREE CANOPY IN NORTH BEACH.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

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 name of lobbyist(s) and principal(s): N/A

ANALYSIS

Please place an item on the April 3, 2024 agenda a referral to Public Safety Neighborhoods and Quality of Life ("PSNQLC") to discuss the expansion of the tree canopy in North Beach.

Last year, Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez sponsored an initiative to plant 70 trees in 100 days in North Beach. The program was successfully completed. Despite these efforts, the issue of insufficient tree coverage in North Beach persists, exacerbated by lack of space on rights-of-way and insufficient irrigation infrastructure.

At the March 20, 2024 Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee (the "PSNQLC") meeting, Staff presented options for expanding the tree canopy in North Beach. One proposed solution involved the development of a pilot program to plant trees in concrete planters, addressing concerns about limited space on rights-of-way and inadequate irrigation infrastructure.

The PSNQLC unanimously agreed to direct Staff to further develop this pilot program, identifying contractors and additional locations for tree planting. Staff was tasked with presenting a revised cost estimate at the June 2024 PSNQLC meeting, incorporating visual aids and exploring potential collaborations, such as Public Private Partnerships ("PPPs").

Trees produce oxygen and intercept airborne particulates, enhancing a community's respiratory health. In addition, tree canopy in urban areas reduces urban heat island effects, offering shade and promoting greater physical activity. Trees also contribute to a community's quality of life by absorbing and blocking sound and creating more visually appealing streetscapes.

Given the many beneficial effects associated with tree canopy and the positive preliminary discussions held at the Committee level, I believe it is essential to continue this conversation with all of my colleagues on the City Commission for the benefit of North Beach. While the discussions to date have been productive, I am proposing a much broader vision for the expansion of the tree canopy in North Beach, possibly to start with a project on Byron Avenue.

SUPPORTING SURVEY DATA

N/A

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

N/A

Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-14?

Yes

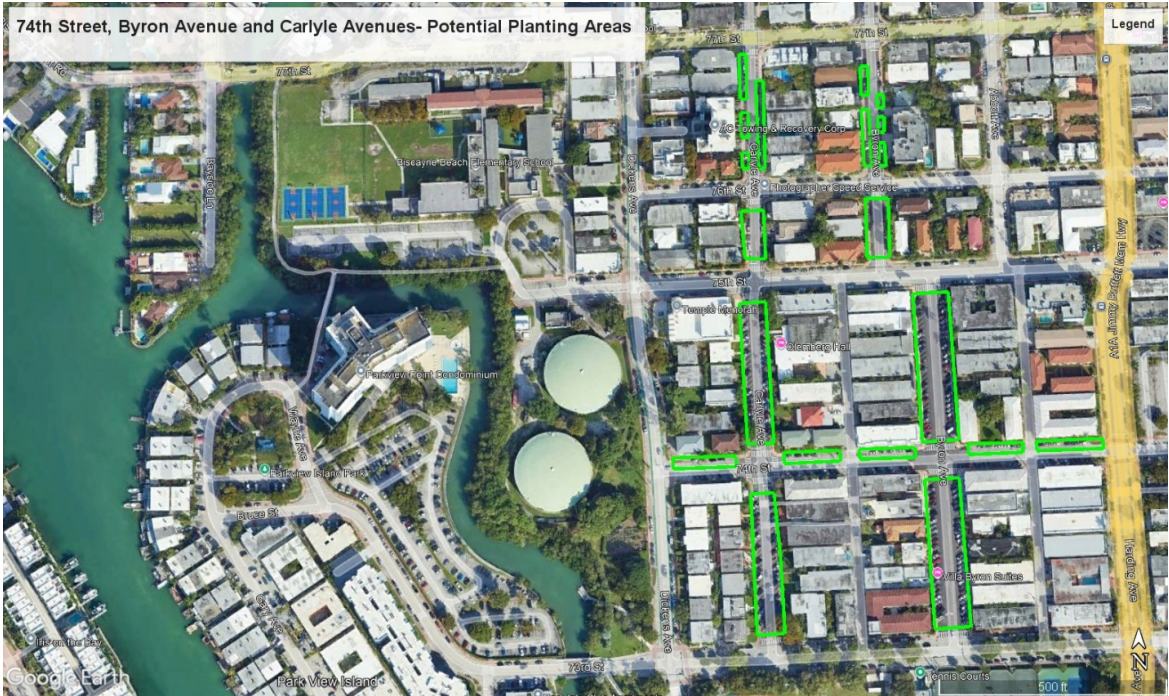
Does this item utilize G.O. Bond Funds?

Yes

Legislative Tracking

Commissioner David Suarez

ATTACHMENT A



ATTACHMENT A



ATTACHMENT A

North Shore D Neighborhood Improvement Project Limits

