

# MIAMIBEACH

## Mayor's Blue Ribbon 41<sup>st</sup> Street Committee

4:00 PM Thursday June 25, 2020

### MINUTES

#### **Committee Members in Attendance:**

- Michael Burnstine
- Yechiel Ciment
- Bonnie Crabtree
- Seth Gadinsky, Chair
- Robin Jacobs, Vice Chair
- Marcella Novella

#### **Elected Officials in attendance**

- Commissioner Steve Meiner

#### **City Staff in Attendance**

- Amy Mehu
- Gedel Merzius
- Kevin Pullido
- Vanessa Vazquez

Seth Gadinsky opened the meeting at 4:02 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance of the meeting.

#### **Approval of May Minutes**

Gedel Merzius, City of Miami Beach, Economic Development Specialist stated that he was not able to complete the minutes for the month of May but will provide the minutes before the July meeting for review.

#### **Proposed Ordinance First Floor Banks**

Seth brought this memorandum item to the attention of the committee, stating that it is something that is concerning and should be discussed. The item is pertaining to possible recommendations for regulations to prohibit banks at the first level of stores city wide. Alternatively, banks could be disincentivized as a use on the ground floor some potential options would include the following:

1. Revise the parking requirements for banks at the first floor in certain areas.
2. Placing maximum size limits on banks located on the ground floor in certain areas.

Seth stated that he does not agree with the proposal as it would change the landscape of the banking industry and directly affect the 41<sup>st</sup> street corridor. Yechiel Ciment stated that he would like to get more information on the initiative before judgement is made. Eric Hankin stated that he would also like to here all sides as well.

Seth proposed that the sponsors of this initiative come in to speak and explain the intent of the initiative. The whole community can than ask questions and give opinions on this proposed ordinance. Seth asked that we set a motion.

**Motion: To invite Commissioner Arriola and his staff to come and discuss the proposed ordinance restricting banks from first floor retail spots city wide, so we can further understand their perspective as well as get community input.**

**Motion made by: Yechiel Ciment**

**Motion seconded by: Robin Jacobs**

**Motions passes 6-0**

Eric Chiroles, Commissioner Aide to Commissioner Rickey Ariola stated that Commissioner Arriola will withdraw the previously discussed item, Commissioner Arriola also stated that he has donated all of his salary towards charity and doesn't have time for all of the committee meetings as he has been in other meeting for the benefit of the City of Miami Beach. Eric also stated that Commissioner Arriola's original intent was to make sure that the City of Miami Beach was not going to be overrun by banks who only operate from 9 – 5, occupying space that could be used for other purposes. Commissioner Arriola is also withdrawing his support for the ballot question that he originally sponsored for the rezoning of 41<sup>st</sup> street, furthermore he also stated that any other redevelopment items would need to seek a different sponsor.

### **Discussion of the newly installed lights on 41<sup>st</sup> street**

Gedel Merzius stated that a pilot of a new lighting installation has been implemented on the 41<sup>st</sup> street corridor. The intent of the pilot is to seek public comment on the possible year-round lighting enhancements along the 41 Street corridor between Alton Road and Indian Creek Drive. This initiative comes from a recommendation by the Mayor's 41 Street Blue Ribbon Committee, just over 250 Royal Palm trees will be wrapped with expandable LED light strings to brighten one of Miami Beach's main entrances.

Seth Gadinsky, Chair asked members of the committee on their thoughts of the pilot lighting implementation. Yechiel stated that there was a significant improvement to what it originally was, Robin thanked Commissioner Meiner for his efforts to initially placing these lights on the corridor. Commissioner Meiner who was in attendance stated that it will take 4-8 weeks to install all of the lighting through the corridor. The lamp lighting will be a separate expense that will cost \$80,000, the city staff will simultaneously switch the tree lighting with the lamp lighting. Seth asked that Gedel to speak with City of Miami Beach staff about potential alternative lighting options. Seth stated perhaps the lighting should not be on every lamp pole. Yechiel and Robin both stated to allow the implementation to take place.

### **Miami Dade County SMART Bus Rapid Transportation Implementation plan**

Franchesca Taylor, AICP Miami Dade County Transportation and Public Works department and their attended the June 41<sup>st</sup> street meeting with the intent to provide a presentation for the Bus Express Rapid Transportation (BERT) plan on the 41<sup>st</sup> street corridor. Peter Haliburton from Cambridge Systematics stated that there will be new technology buses, electric, hybrid or compressed natural gas, quiet, smooth acceleration and deceleration and reduced emissions. The service frequency will have 10 minute peak time, 20 minute off peak time.

Peter explained the difference between the Bus Express Rapid Transportation (BERT) and the Bus Rapid Transportation (BRT). The BERT plan will have an express bus service for commuters for point to point service, A BRT plan is a bus rapid transit that imitates a train

service, has high capacity and speed, and bus infrastructure stations. The incumbent plan that will be implemented on the 41<sup>st</sup> street corridor will be a BERT plan.

Miami Dade County Department of Transportation has been in coordination with the City of Miami Beach, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Federal Highway Association (FHWA) to implement interim service for Route. Interim service for route is contingent on the following: Miami Dade County Transportation and Public Works will prepare the Concept of Operations to justify the use of shoulders with FHWA, FDOT will prepare the outside shoulder for safe bus operations, Miami Dade County Transportation and Public Works must conduct outreach with the cyclists to notify them of the reserved use of the outside shoulder for transit operations, Miami Dade County Transportation and Public Works will provide buses for the interim service, Miami Dade County Transportation and Public Works will work with the City of Miami Beach to confirm the interim route for the service Funding for the Operation & Maintenance costs for the interim service is still pending. Service is anticipated to begin in early 2021, or upon completion of the above items.

Yeziel asked will there be a dedicated bus lane and also how will this factor into a possibility of widening the sidewalk of the 41<sup>st</sup> street corridor. Peter responded by saying that this concept is not for a dedicated transit lane. Robin asked for clarification about the direction of the bus as she wanted it to be clear that every 10 minutes a county bus will be passing through the 41<sup>st</sup> street corridor stopping at the Miami Beach Fountainbleau hotel than heading south towards the Miami Beach Convention center.

Robin asked what happened to the idea of the intermodal with trolleys connected to the 41<sup>st</sup> street corridor. Commissioner Samuelian stated that he was not aware of a plan for the intermodal, but has been in close communication with FDOT and Miami Dade County about the BERT plan. Jose Gonzalez, Miami Beach Transportation department stated that there were plans to set up a intermodal near Mount Sinai but those plans have not materialized. Gie Bian, Chief planner for Miami Dade County stated that the bus stop located near the Mount Sinai hotel will be turned into a bus terminal, the county is now in the process of seeking funding for this task.

Seth asked about the possible connectivity for a trolley service to 41<sup>st</sup> street. Jose Gonzalez explained that the Trolleys are limited in terms of the capacity of demand for commuters, which would lead to multiple issues. Seth stated perhaps there can be a potential trolley plan for the 41<sup>st</sup> street corridor as it relates to the master plan.

Commissioner Samuelian stated that he seconds the vision of the committee where a potential Trolley service may be incorporated in the possible masterplan so that commuters and residents can shop, eat, do business and play on the 41<sup>st</sup> street corridor. Robin asked if there were any express buses coming along the 79<sup>th</sup> street causeway.

Francesca stated that they are primarily planning on using the improvements of what FDOT has done to the shoulders of the Julia Tuttle as a basis to use for the BERT plan. Gie stated that the whole premise of creating the BERT plan was for the accessible routes it has to the I-95 highway, the 79<sup>th</sup> street causeway does not.

**Motion: The 41<sup>st</sup> street committee would like to see local connectivity within the BERT plan, highlighting the 41<sup>st</sup> street corridor with the intent to push individuals to shop on the street. Furthermore, if there are anymore plans from the county to pertaining to the BERT plan can the committee review them before they are finalized.**

**Motion made by: Yechiel Ciment**  
**Motion seconded by: Betty Behar**  
**Motions passes 6-0**  
**Meeting with AECOM adjourned at 5:20pm**