MIAMIBEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # 091-2008

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: March 31, 2008

SUBJECT: 63rd Street at Collins Avenue Intersection Improvements

The purpose of this Letter to Commission is to provide you with an update on the 63rd Street at Collins Avenue intersection improvements. The traffic signal located at 63rd Street and Collins Avenue has been operating in a yellow flashing mode as part of the Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan for the FDOT 63rd Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project. As part of the MOT, this intersection has been operating to provide a free flow north bound turning movement for east bound 63rd Street traffic at the intersection of Collins Avenue. During routine field observations, the City noticed that this MOT seemed to improve the Level of Service (LOS) at this intersection and the 63rd Street and Indian Creek Drive intersection by virtue of the allowed north bound free flow movement.

Because a permanent northbound free flow movement was never considered by FDOT, the City subsequently retained the services of Marlin Engineering, who was the Engineer of Record for the 63rd Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project to evaluate the current free flow operation and the feasibility of keeping the current MOT as a permanent solution. In a draft report, Marlin Engineers recommended to keep operating the intersection with a continuous flow (as it is currently operating) rather than keeping the FDOT as-built traffic layout for which the intersection was originally designed.

With these traffic findings, the City met with FDOT, Miami-Dade County, and Marlin Engineering to determine the next steps for determining the final configuration of the subject intersection. At the conclusion of this meeting, the traffic engineering authorities of both County and State, determined that a revised study for the intersection of 63rd and Collins Avenue would be further warranted to address some outstanding traffic engineering parameters. These parameters included making improvements on the timing of signals with and without free flow condition; a review of the traffic accident data for the intersections of 63rd at Indian Creek and Collins Avenue, and for 65th at Indian Creek and Collins Avenue; as well as any associated impacts to immediately surrounding intersections.

Also, at the request of Commissioner Steinberg, a "Texas U-turn" (continuous left turn from Collins to southbound Indian Creek at 63rd) would also be analyzed on the south side of 63rd Street from Collins Avenue to Indian Creek Drive to provide for north bound Collins Avenue to west bound 63rd Street turning movement, which is not allowed under the current configuration.

By May 23, 2008, following approval by both County and State officials, the City will sponsor a public meeting on the intersection configurations in the interest of receiving public input and recommendations. Subsequent to the public meeting and any City Commission guidance, a reconfigured 63rd Street and Collins Avenue Intersection project could be completed in approximately six (6) months. Anticipated funding for a reconfigured intersection has been included in the draft Capital Budget for FY 2008/09. Should both FDOT and the County not recommend

proceeding with the modifications of this intersection, the City will revert the intersection to its as-built condition.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

RCM/FHB/FV/XF/cl

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