



MIAMI BEACH

193-2012

LETTER TO COMMISSION

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

FROM: Kathie G. Brooks, Interim City Manager

DATE: July 25, 2012

SUBJECT: **FDOT PROPOSED BICYCLE LANES ON ALTON ROAD FROM 5TH STREET TO MICHIGAN AVENUE**

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

The purpose of this Letter to Commission is to provide an update on the pending matter of the proposed bicycle lanes on Alton Road as part of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) roadway reconstruction project that is scheduled to begin in April 2013. The project is located along State Road 907/Alton Road from 5th Street to Michigan Avenue.

At the City Commission meeting of July 18, 2012, FDOT presented an update on the planned Alton Road project. During the presentation, FDOT stated its preferred position is to install 5 foot wide standard bicycle lanes along Alton Road as part of the project. Discussion ensued among the Commission in regards to the safety and appropriateness of the proposed bicycle lanes and how to best move forward given the City's longstanding opposition to this position. City staff stated that a conference call was scheduled for July 19, 2012, between FDOT and City staff to discuss this outstanding matter in particular. The City Commission passed a resolution requesting the implementation of bicycle lanes along West Avenue and one-way bicycle pairs along the east-west side streets in lieu of standard bicycle lanes along the Alton Road corridor from 5th Street to Michigan Avenue as proposed by FDOT.

On July 19th, a conference call was held between FDOT and the City. Participants included our Mayor Matti Herrera Bower, Interim City Manager, Kathie G. Brooks, City Administration staff, City Attorney's staff, FDOT Assistant Secretary of Engineering and Operations, FDOT District Six Secretary, FDOT General Counsel, and the City's lobbyist in Tallahassee. The City explained its position and at the conclusion of the conversation, FDOT agreed that the solution identified in the City's Resolution adopted on July 18, 2012 is a fair compromise. The City proposed to install bicycle lanes on West Avenue as an equivalent alternative to the bicycle lanes on Alton Road as proposed by FDOT. The West Avenue bicycle lane alternative would include one-way pair bicycle lanes along the east-west streets to provide safe connectivity to Alton Road. The City further committed to fund the construction of the bicycle lanes on West Avenue and the connector streets and to begin construction of the bicycle lanes immediately after FDOT completes the construction of the Alton Road project. This mutually agreeable solution would ensure that FDOT would not need to shift the curb line or footprint of Alton Road in accordance with the final roadway design plans. FDOT would, however, modify the current roadway plans to reflect the elimination of the bicycle lanes on Alton Road. In addition, for your information and in accordance with FDOT standards, shared lane markings, or "sharrows" will be installed along Alton Road within the project limits.

It is important to note that bicycle lanes on West Avenue are part of the City's Atlantic Greenway Network (AGN) Master Plan adopted by City Commission as well as the West Avenue Basis of Design Report (BODR). The mutually agreeable solution reached by the City and FDOT as a

FDOT Proposed Bicycle Lanes on Alton Road from 5th Street to Michigan Avenue

July 25, 2012

Page 2 of 2

result of the July 19th conference call will allow for the implementation of a bicycle facility along an adjacent parallel corridor that ensures bicycle safety and connectivity.

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


KGB/JGG/FHB/JRW/JRG

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