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LETTER TO COMMISSION CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
107-2013

TO: Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission  
FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager  
DATE: April 1, 2013  
SUBJECT: **Dade Boulevard Bike Path Landscaping**

The purpose of this LTC is to provide you with information on the proposed landscaping improvements to the Dade Boulevard bike path currently under construction. The City is finalizing the construction of the bike path and reducing the scope of work from the present contractor. Part of this scope reduction includes the project landscaping.

The City used this opportunity to revisit the proposed landscaping plan, as the Greenspace Tree Advocacy Group (GTAG) had advocated for different species of trees other than those which had been proposed. The Parks and Recreation Department, in coordination with GTAG, has developed a landscaping plan for the new path along the Collins Canal from Bay Road to Convention Center Drive. This plan includes mostly native species of shade trees and ground cover for approximately 1,460 feet of the 2,660 feet of recently built seawall. The remaining 1,200-foot section has limited space for planting. Therefore, only a vine that will cover the wall is proposed at this time.

As part of the greater effort to replace and enhance the landscaping for this 1,200 foot section, the City and GTAG approached Publix Supermarkets, which has a store at 1045 Dade Boulevard, to discuss the elimination of a dedicated turning lane into its property. If an agreement can be reached, this removal would allow Dade Boulevard to be shifted to the north and provide additional space for improved landscaping from Alton Road to Meridian Avenue. This section of the bike path has been constructed with a temporary asphalt surface as it would also be shifted to provide the additional width for the landscaping.

The estimated cost for the landscaping improvements is \$250,000. Funding is available from funds previously encumbered for the construction of the Dade Boulevard Bike Path project. It is estimated that the procurement of a contractor will take four months and the work will take five months. Therefore, the installation of the landscaping should be completed in early 2014.

Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

  
Rick Saltrick