

MIAMI BEACH

City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, FL 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS, Melissa Berthier
Tel: 305.673.7575, E-mail: melissaberthier@miamibeachfl.gov

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 17, 2016

Miami Beach Takes the Lead in Public Transportation Initiatives

-- New Efforts to Expediently Bring a Light Rail/Modern Streetcar to Miami Beach --

Miami Beach, FL: With over a decade of discussion on creating a light rail/modern streetcar that would link Downtown Miami and South Beach, the City of Miami Beach is now actively moving forward in soliciting proposals to design, build, finance, operate and maintain the Miami Beach portion. This Friday, February 19 at 10 a.m. in the Commission Chambers, the city will be hosting a pre-proposal meeting to communicate expectations to potential companies that will bid on this project. Attendance is required as part of the bidding process and is a public meeting.

“Public transportation is a vital component in alleviating our traffic congestion and improving quality of life,” said Mayor Philip Levine. “We are committed to completing this project.”

Last year, the Mayor and Commission unanimously passed resolutions approving the City Administration to accelerate the South Beach component and realigned up to \$10 million of funding to finalize plans for the project as part of an Environmental Review and concurrently procure the Miami Beach portion of a light rail/modern streetcar without overhead wires.

This project aims to ease traffic congestion, link key points of interest, connect people with jobs and opportunities, and reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

“Our light rail/modern streetcar project will be developed in close coordination with our transportation partners in the region, and will ultimately link to the Beach Corridor Transit Connection Project along MacArthur Causeway,” added City Manager Jimmy L. Morales. “We are also working closely with our Resiliency and Sustainability team to ensure the implementation respects our unique, historical environment.”

With construction expected potentially as early as 2017, a wide range of public and private sources of funding are being explored. A funding plan identifying the preferred types of funding necessary to construct and operate the Miami Beach light rail/ modern streetcar will be developed in the next several months as part of the Environmental Review.

The first phase of the proposed light rail/ modern streetcar will cover South Beach and impact the Washington Avenue, 17 Street, Alton Road and 5 Street corridors. Current studies will determine the exact alignment, and additional extensions will be explored going north along Collins Avenue in the future.

###

To request this material in alternate format, sign language interpreter (five-day notice required), information on access for persons with disabilities, and/or any accommodation to review any document or participate in any city-sponsored proceedings, call 305.604.2489 and select 1 for English or 2 for Spanish, then option 6; TTY users may call via 711 (Florida Relay Service).

We are committed to providing excellent public service and safety to all who live, work and play in our vibrant, tropical, historic community.