

Memorandum



Date:

To: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: George M. Burgess
County Manager

Subject: Significant Modification of *Building Better Communities* Bond Program Project No. 48 –
“Miami MetroZoo – Construction of Phase III Zoo Wide Improvements and Entry”

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners adopt the attached resolution which approves a significant modification to the project description for Building Better Communities – General Obligation Bond (BBC-GOB) Project No. 48, “Miami MetroZoo – Construction of Phase III Zoo Wide Improvements and Entry” following a public hearing pursuant to Resolution No. R-913-04 (“Authorizing Resolution”). The change to the project description will allow the Miami-Dade Park & Recreation Department to utilize the allocated funds, in part, to provide new trams related to the proposed improvements to Miami MetroZoo.

Scope

The scope is limited to Miami MetroZoo in Commission District 9, and solely to this project.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source

There is no fiscal impact on the existing BBC-GOB allocation due to this modification.

Track Record/Monitor

The implementing agency is Miami-Dade Park & Recreation Department. The responsible party for monitoring this contract is the Miami MetroZoo and the project manager is Eric Stephens, Zoo Director.

Background

On November 2, 2004 voters overwhelmingly approved the referendum to fund more than 300 capital improvements throughout the County over the next 15 to 20 years. Appendix “A” to Resolution R-913-04 (Attachment 1) lists Miami MetroZoo projects eligible for funding from the BBC-GOB Program by number, name and project description. All additions, deletions and significant modifications to individual projects require a majority vote of the Board following a public hearing. One of Miami MetroZoo’s projects included in the BBC-GOB Program as Project No. 48 is “Miami MetroZoo – Construction of Phase III Zoo Wide Improvements and Entry” with an allocation of \$12,000,000.

Miami-Dade Park & Recreation Department has worked with the Zoo Oversight Committee, Zoological Society of South Florida and the Zoo’s staff in programming the Zoo-Wide funding in accordance with the Master Plan to maximize the public benefits of the bond program funding. Therefore, the Department is requesting a proposed change to the project description to allow the funds to be used, in part, to provide new trams to support patron circulation within the Zoo as new exhibits are opened, including the Amazon & Beyond exhibit scheduled to be completed this year. The new proposed description states: “Construction of Phase III – Zoo-Wide Improvements, trams, and entry.”

The Miami MetroZoo operates trams to enhance the visitor experience and by providing comfort to its patrons and as a revenue generator. The new trams will replace those currently in operation for the last 18 years. The vehicles have a life cycle of 20 years, including a warranty period of one (1) year.

Susanne M. Torriente
Assistant County Manager