



CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

MAYOR
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

June 4, 2015

Honorable Philip Levine
Mayor
City of Miami Beach
1700 Convention Center Drive
Miami Beach, FL 33139

Dear Mayor Levine:

The emergency repair of the West Venetian Bascule Bridge has been a high priority for my administration. Since discovering the bridge's deficiencies in the spring of 2014, I have worked closely with my team of administrators within the Public Works and Waste Management Department (PWWM) to identify funding to conduct emergency repairs to the bridge.

Due to the structural condition of the Bridge, the Board of County Commissioners waived competitive bid selection requirements, including all protest procedures, and granted me the authority to enter into a contract for design-build services. This type of repair project is typically completed in 12 to 18 months. However, PWWM staff negotiated a \$12.4 million design-build contract with GLF Construction to achieve substantial completion of the project in nine months (270 calendar days).

Funding for this project was authorized using Building Better Communities General Obligation Bond funds and reallocated funds from the County's Tamiami Swing Bridge replacement project. No other funding sources are currently available. While the emergency repair of the bridge will extend the life of the West Venetian Bascule Bridge an additional 60 years, the remaining 11 Venetian Causeway bridges will require replacement at a current estimated cost of \$135 million. In 2013, FDOT, in partnership with the PWWM, initiated a Project Development and Environmental Study (PD&E) for the bridges' future replacement. The PD&E evaluates replacement alternatives, taking into consideration the Causeway's historic designation, public and stakeholder concerns, environmental impacts and potential costs. The PD&E is anticipated to be completed in the next three to four years (2018-2019).

PWWM Construction and Engineering staff recently reviewed a proposal prepared by GLF, per your request, for the City of Miami Beach. GLF has indicated that for an additional \$4.7 million, the already-expedited project can reach substantial completion in six months (180 calendar days). This would require a 24-hour noise waiver permit from the City of Miami. Please note that PWWM has already applied for the noise waiver. PWWM staff evaluated the proposal with

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Public Works Department personnel from both the City of Miami and the City of Miami Beach. All parties agreed that the contractor's plan for construction expedite lacked sufficient details regarding efficiencies that will guarantee a successful six-month completion. Furthermore, my discussions regarding the proposal conducted with the contractor and representatives from your City did not reveal adequate information that would justify the investment of close to \$5 million in taxpayer money.

With this information in mind, if you are interested in partnering with Miami-Dade County and providing funding from the City of Miami Beach to achieve the expedited construction schedule, please advise so that we can revisit within the contract scope what the possibility of further expediting this project. I am asking the City of Miami to consider participation as well.

On a separate note, please be advised that, at the County's additional expense, we are working with the Florida Department of Transportation to implement improvements to MacArthur Causeway (an FDOT facility) to improve conditions for bicyclists and pedestrians.

My staff continues to communicate with your staff, as well as all impacted residents. Updates are provided regularly on our website PWWM@miamidade.gov.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

C: Honorable Chairman and Members, Board of County Commissioners
Alina T. Hudak, Deputy Mayor and Director, Public Works and Waste Management
Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager, City of Miami Beach