

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Wisler Pierre-Louis, P.E., Director, Public Works Department



Date: January 9, 2018

RE: Resolution urging FDOT to classify NE 125th ST in Downtown North Miami as an Urban Center

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the adoption of the attached resolution urging the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) classify NE 125th Street (State Road 922) from NE 4th Avenue to NE 10th Avenue as an Urban Center (C-5).

BACKGROUND

NE 125th Street from NE 4th Avenue to NE 10th Avenue has been considered the City of North Miami's primary downtown core by residents, business owners, property owners, and elected officials. Various resolutions and plans, including the Comprehensive Plan and CRA Redevelopment Plan specify this as the primary downtown corridor. It is the home to City Hall, the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), and numerous business built to the property edge, with on-street parking and open space used for multiple community events throughout the year. The goal for this corridor is to build on the existing framework to create a vibrant urban environment which is pedestrian, bicycle, and transit friendly. On the Land Use map it is designated as "Central Business Commercial," with high density residential and commercial uses encouraged up to 150 ft (Exhibit "A").

NE 125th Street is a State Road (SR 922) and any improvements must meet design criteria set by the FDOT. As of January 1, 2018, the FDOT adopted the Florida Design Manual (FDM), a document that has been in development since 2014 which implements the agency's vision for Complete Streets for certain roadways in their system (Exhibit "B"). The key to the FDM is "Context Classification," a significant change to how design decisions are made when plans are developed or reviewed on a State road. NE 125th ST is currently classified as "C4-Urban General," and this resolution urges the FDOT to classify it instead as "C5-Urban Center." Staff feels that NE 125th ST should qualify as an Urban Center based on existing roadway and surrounding use characteristics as well as adopted plans and regulations.

A "C5-Urban Center" classification will change the design criteria used to evaluate the City's proposed improvements to NE 125th ST, currently under review at FDOT as well as future improvements. It would set the speed limit range used in design from 25 mph to a maximum of 35 mph, instead of 40 mph, the existing design speed for this roadway. A lower design speed means greater flexibility in the type and location of landscaping and other key features needed to create the downtown.

Attachments

FDOT Complete Streets Brochure
Adopted City of North Miami Future Land Use Map
Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, URGING THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (“FDOT”) TO CLASSIFY THE PORTION OF 125TH STREET BETWEEN NE 4TH AVENUE AND NE 10TH AVENUE AS AN URBAN CENTER (C-5); PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND ALL OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, NE 125th Street from NE 4th Avenue to NE 10th Avenue is commonly referred to as the City of North Miami’s Downtown Corridor, consisting of a concentration of retail, art, commercial, and civic uses, including City Hall and the Museum of Contemporary Art, within a well-connected roadway network; and

WHEREAS, the residents, business owners, property owners and other stakeholders in the City of North Miami (“CITY”) have expressed their strong desire to make NE 125th Street in downtown North Miami a “complete street” to encourage pedestrian, bicycle, and transit uses to encourage economic development and a sense of place; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, the City installed decorative paver sidewalks and other amenities using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (“ARRA”) funds implemented through the Local Agency Program from FDOT on NE 125th Street from NE 4th Avenue to NE 10th Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the City has been selected and approved by the FDOT in 2014 to receive a Transportation Alternative Program (“TAP”) grant for the “Downtown North Miami Pedestrian Enhancements Project” to continue in its efforts to create a vibrant downtown; and

WHEREAS, City Council has adopted several plans, including the *Downtown and Major Corridor Master Plan* and the *Downtown Concept Plan* that identify downtown North Miami, including NE 125th Street from NE 4th Avenue to NE 10th Avenue, as the civic center for the City and encourages retail, artistic and high-density residential uses for the area; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 adopted Evaluation and Appraisal Report of the Comprehensive Plan and its Future Land Use Map designates the area surrounding NE 125th Street as the “Central Business District,” and includes land use categories that will “create a lively and productive downtown, concentrated around the Central Business District” with heights up to 150 feet; and

WHEREAS, the North Miami Community Redevelopment Agency (“CRA”) calls for a strategy to “create a sense of identity and purpose in the Central Business District with parks, plazas, pedestrian access, parking, and civic and cultural activities and establish high-density urban residential and mixed-use projects within the Central Business District;” and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Transportation (“FDOT”) adopted a Complete Streets policy in 2014, to develop a comprehensive procedures to plan, design, construct, and operate a context sensitive system of “Complete Streets,” while maintaining safety and mobility, to serve the transportation needs of transportation system users of all ages and abilities, including cyclists, motorists, pedestrians, transit riders; and

WHEREAS, on November 1, 2017, the FDOT announced the implementation of the Florida Design Manual (FDM) which establishes context based designations to be used when planning and designing roadway projects, including the “C-5 Urban Center” classification, based on the surrounding built environment with a mix of uses set within small blocks with a well-connected roadway network, concentrated around a few blocks and identified as part of the community, town, or city of a civic or economic center;” and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council are desirous of having NE 125th Street from NE 4th Avenue to NE 10th Avenue designated as a C-5 Urban Center;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA:

Section 1. **Mayor and City Council recommendation.** The Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami, Florida, hereby urge the Florida Department of Transportation to classify the portion of 125th Street between NE 4th Avenue and NE 10th Avenue as an Urban Center (C-5).

Section 2. **Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a _____ vote of the Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami, Florida, this ____ day of _____, 2018.

DR. SMITH JOSEPH
MAYOR

ATTEST:

MICHAEL A. ETIENNE, ESQ.
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

JEFF CAZEAU, ESQ.
CITY ATTORNEY

SPONSORED BY: CITY ADMINISTRATION

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Vote:

Mayor Smith Joseph, D.O., Pharm. D.
Vice Mayor Carol Keys, Esq.
Councilman Scott Galvin
Councilman Philippe Bien-Aime
Councilman Alix Desulme

_____ (Yes) _____ (No)
_____ (Yes) _____ (No)
_____ (Yes) _____ (No)
_____ (Yes) _____ (No)
_____ (Yes) _____ (No)