

RESOLUTION NO. 007/2024

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIAMI DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ("MIAMI DDA") OF THE CITY OF MIAMI, FLORIDA, DIRECTING MIAMI DDA STAFF TO: WORK WITH THE CITY OF MIAMI AND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TO (1) APPLY FOR AND OBTAIN CLASS 1 PERMITS AND/OR MARINE OPERATING PERMITS (MOPS) FOR WATER TAXI STOPS AT PREFERRED SITES (EXHIBIT A); (2) MONITOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (DERM) CHANGES TO THE MANATEE PROTECTION PLAN (MPP) TO ENSURE WATER TAXI STOPS ARE ALLOWED AT CERTAIN IMPORTANT AREAS; AND (3) DRAFT A MODEL ORDINANCE FOR REGULATION/CERTIFICATION OF WATER TAXI OPERATORS.

WHEREAS, one of the 2025 Downtown Miami Master Plan (adopted in 2009) goals is to "Develop Waterborne Transportation Systems linking Downtown to Major Waterfront Destinations"; and

WHEREAS, one of the 2025 Downtown Miami Master Plan (adopted in 2009) goals is to "Support Transit with Car Sharing Service, Bike Rentals, Pedicabs and Other Creative Mobility Solutions"; and

WHEREAS, in February 2003, the Miami-Dade County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) produced a comprehensive study titled "*Feasibility of Utilizing Miami-Dade Waterways for Urban Commuter Travel*," concluding that there is a potential waterway network on which commuter service could be provided; and

WHEREAS, in December 2004, the Miami-Dade County Metropolitan Planning Organization ("MPO") initiated the *Development of a Service Plan for Waterborne Transit Services in Miami-Dade County* to develop a water transit service plan that would describe a potential system intended to meet mobility goals; and

WHEREAS, on January 19 and February 7 of 2006, Murray A. Greenberg, County Attorney, sent a memo to Chairman Joe A. Martinez and Members of the Board of County Commissioners, outlining a Resolution directing the County Manager to explore the feasibility of introducing various waterborne transit routes; and

WHEREAS, on May 28, 2015, the Miami City Commission passed Resolution No. 15-0231 urging the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners to adopt a Resolution to authorize and approve the Establishment, Solicitation, and Award of Public Waterborne Transportation at Specified Locations within the City of Miami; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the Miami River Commission passed an Official Statement supporting Resolution No. 15-0231, approved by the City of Miami; and

WHEREAS, in April 2016, the Miami Beach City Commission approved a one-year water taxi pilot program servicing the Purdy Avenue Dock; and

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2016, Lee Hefty, Assistant Director, Miami-Dade County Division of Environmental Resource Management (DERM), sent a memo to Alice Bravo, Director, Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works, outlining DERM staff's "Environmental Review of Conceptual Locations to Accommodate Vessels for the Purpose of Providing Waterborne Transportation/Taxi Services Within Miami-Dade County, Florida," and proposed a "North/South and East/West Transit Oriented Routes linking Haulover Park, Miami Beach to Downtown"; proposed "Water Taxi Sites on the Miami River"; and "Proposed Courtesy Slips and a Water Taxi Slip in the Vicinity of Museum Park (FEC Slip, Museum Park Eastern Seawall)" (Exhibit A); and

WHEREAS, in July 2016, the Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation & Public Works (DTPW) presented a feasibility study of two Waterborne Transportation Initiatives (commuter-based service and on-demand service) to complement the existing Miami-Dade Transit Service and activate the Waterfront Public Spaces; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the Miami DDA created the Waterfront Task Force Committee, which then hired the lobbyist firm of Floridian Partners to meet with DERM staff, City and County Commissioners, Miami River Commission staff, and Bayfront Park Management (BPMT) staff to discuss waterborne transportation, adding water taxi service, and adding transient boat slips throughout the Downtown core; and

WHEREAS, the Waterfront Task Force, Floridian Partners, and Miami DDA staff created a map that proposed twelve (12) possible dock sites along Biscayne Bay and another twelve (12) "DERM Approved Sites" along the Miami River (Exhibit B); and

WHEREAS, on September 15, 2016, the Miami-Dade County Metropolitan Planning Organization ("MPO") passed Resolution #50-16 to develop a scope of work and budget to study the Feasibility of Waterborne Transportation between Black Point Marina and Downton Miami; and

WHEREAS, in late 2016, Miami River Commission staff looked at and photographed the eight (8) potential Water Taxi Stops along the Miami River; and

WHEREAS, on December 8, 2016, the Miami-Dade County Metropolitan Planning Organization ("MPO") passed Resolution #73-16, approving the scope of work and budget to study the feasibility of Waterborne Transportation between Black Point Maria and Downtown Miami; and

WHEREAS, on February 7, 2017, the Board of County Commissioners passed Resolution No. R-149-17 directing the County Mayor to update the previous feasibility study on Waterborne Transportation solutions as part of a comprehensive transportation network throughout Miami-Dade County and prepare an implementation plan for creating on-demand and fixed-route Waterborne Transportation; and

WHEREAS, in November 2017, the Miami DDA Board of Directors passed Resolution No. 044/2017, urging the City of Miami to prioritize rebuilding the docks at Fort Dallas Park, destroyed by Hurricane Irma, as quickly as possible to facilitate waterborne transportation; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2018, Carlos A. Gimenez, Mayor of Miami-Dade County, sent a memo to Chairman Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., and Members of the Board of County Commissioners outlining a report on Waterborne Transportation in response to Resolution No. R-149-17, which requested: (1) An update to the previous feasibility study on waterborne transportation solutions as part of a comprehensive transportation network through Miami-Dade County; and (2) Prepare an implementation plan for the creation of on-demand and fixed-route waterborne transportation; and

WHEREAS, on September 4, 2019, the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners approved Resolution No. R-958-19 directing the County Mayor to negotiate agreements as necessary to facilitate or implement fixed route waterborne transit services connecting the Downtown Miami and South Beach areas; authorizing the County Mayor to apply for grant funding related to such services; and requiring status reports to this Board; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2024, the Board of Directors of the Miami DDA directed the Executive Director to include the following three (3) sites as additional potential Water Taxi Stops along the Miami River: (1) Brickell Key, (2) River Park (South side), and (3) River Landing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIAMI DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF MIAMI, FLORIDA:

Section 1. The recitals and findings contained in the Preamble of this Resolution are adopted by reference and incorporated as if fully outlined in this Section.

Section 2. The Board of Directors of the Miami DDA approves a resolution of support directing the Miami DDA staff to work with the City of Miami and Miami-Dade County to: (1) Apply for and obtain class 1 Permits and/or Marine Operating Permits (MOPs) for water taxi stops at preferred sites (Exhibit B); (2) Monitor Miami Dade County's Division of Environmental Resource Management (DERM) changes to the Manatee Protection Plan (MPP) to ensure water taxi stops are allowed at certain important areas; and (3) Draft a model ordinance for regulation/certification of water taxi operators.

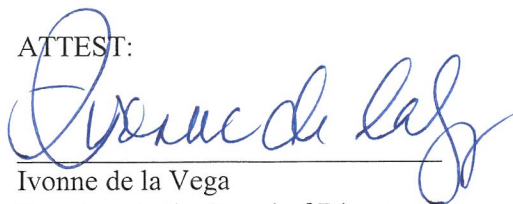
Section 3. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 22nd day of March, 2024.


Commissioner Manolo Reyes, Chairman


Christina Crespi, CEO & Executive Director

ATTEST:


Ivonne de la Vega
Secretary to the Board of Directors

Memorandum



Date: June 22, 2016

To: Alice Bravo, Director
Department of Transportation and Public Works

From:  Lee N. Hefty, Assistant Director - Division of Environmental Resources Management
Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources

Subject: DERM Staff Environmental Review of Conceptual Locations to Accommodate Vessels for the Purpose of Providing Waterborne Transportation/Taxi Services within Miami-Dade County, Florida

This memo follows our recent meeting regarding the feasibility of promoting waterborne transportation options and the associated environmental permitting of landings in various locations to support waterborne transportation routes. During the meeting we discussed the establishment of transit oriented routes linking Haulover Park with Sea Isle Marina, and linking Miami Beach with the mainland at Sea Isle Marina and downtown Miami at Chopin Plaza. We also discussed the establishment of several water taxi stops in the Miami River, and the establishment of a water taxi or transit landing at Museum Park, including the use of a barge to serve as a dock/landing. In addition, we discussed the establishment of courtesy slips in the FEC slip at Museum Park for general use.

A DERM Class I permit is generally required for the construction or installation of marine structures to create a slip for the mooring of vessels. In addition, a DERM Marine Facilities Operating (MOP) permit is required for the operation of all commercial boat docking facilities. The evaluation of a request for a Class I permit includes, but is not limited to, avoidance and minimization of adverse environmental impacts to benthic resources, compliance with State and County water quality standards, consistency with the County's minimum water depth requirement of 4 feet N.O.A.A. Mean Low Water datum (in addition to having adequate water depth for any individual vessel), and an evaluation of each site with respect to its historic use and the siting criteria recommendations in the Miami-Dade County Manatee Protection Plan (MDCMPP) among other evaluation factors in the Code. Please note that a completed Class I permit application will require authorization from both the upland property owner and evidence of ownership or a lease, and authorization for use of the submerged lands where the work will occur. In addition, State and Federal review and approval may be required for any change in the use of a marine facility, or for mooring a vessel in a location not currently authorized. A request for mooring of vessels over State-owned submerged lands generally includes a requirement to obtain authorization from the State, and early coordination with State regulatory staff is recommended. On the question of using a barge as a docking/landing structure, please note that the installation of a barge for such purposes would be evaluated the same as the installation of a permanent structure (i.e. using the same evaluation criteria as described above including evaluating resource impacts, water depth, and conformance with recommendations of the MDCMPP). As discussed, while a DERM Class I permit is required to create boat slips, existing facilities may be used consistent with existing authorizations. Therefore facilities that currently have approved transitory slips or water taxi slips may continue to use them without the need for further approval from DERM.

As part of evaluating the proposed sites discussed at the meeting, DERM staff reviewed our records including existing MOPs, reviewed historic uses of the proposed water taxi/transit oriented slip locations, and conducted inspections at some sites in order to provide preliminary feedback regarding the proposed use of the sites. For the purposes of this exercise, we focused on three

main fundamental questions: 1) can the proposed slips be created/used without adverse impacts to benthic resources; 2) is the proposed use consistent with recommendations of the MDCMPP; and 3) does the proposed slip contain adequate water depth for the mooring of the proposed vessels.

The following is a brief summary of our initial findings:

Proposed North/South and East/West Transit Oriented Routes linking Haulover Park and Miami Beach to Downtown:

The five (5) transit oriented sites linking Haulover Park and Miami Beach (Miami Beach Marina, Sunset Harbour Marina) with the mainland downtown at Sea Isle Marina and Chopin Plaza Park, as identified on page 7 of the submittal entitled, "WATERBORNE TRANSPORTATION MIAMI-DADE COUNTY" are proposed at existing facilities that currently have authorizations that allow transitory slip use. Therefore, provided there is adequate water depth for the proposed vessels to safely access the facilities, the facilities may be used for water taxi service provided the water taxis utilize existing permitted slips and operate in accordance with each facility's MOP. No further approval from DERM is required to use these facilities for waterborne transportation. Please note that a Class I permit from DERM would be required for any work in, over, or upon tidal waters at these locations if such work is necessary for mooring of subject vessels.

Proposed Water Taxi Sites on the Miami River:

During our meeting, we were provided with a list of seven (7) Miami-Dade County-owned properties on the Miami River as potential sites for private sector waterborne transportation providers to pick-up and drop-off passengers. Following our meeting, DERM received information on additional potential water taxi sites on the Miami River. A total of twelve (12) sites on the Miami River were evaluated and are listed in the spreadsheet (attached). As previously mentioned, DERM staff focused on three main factors during this evaluation. They include conformance with the County approved MDCMPP, potential for resource impacts, and whether the site has adequate water depth. The attachment provides a brief description of our initial findings regarding these three main factors at each site. In general, the use of these sites for water taxi operation is consistent with the MDCMPP as noted in the attached spreadsheet. Furthermore, creating slips in these locations are not expected to result in adverse impacts to benthic resources. Our preliminary assessment indicated that water depth may be a limiting factor in creating slips to access some of these sites. Since many of the sites do not currently have docking facilities or permitted slips, a Class I permit will likely be required in order to implement the proposed uses. Additional information such as the size, type and draft of water taxis proposed to operate at each facility would be needed to fully evaluate individual sites for adequate water depth. A MOP for each facility will also be required prior to operation.

Proposed Courtesy Slips and a Water Taxi Slip in the Vicinity of Museum Park (FEC Slip, Museum Park Eastern Seawall):

During our meeting we discussed the proposed siting of a transit-oriented slip or water taxi slip on the eastern shoreline of Museum Park to provide access to the Museum Park Metromover Station. During this discussion, DTPW staff asked about the feasibility of permitting the installation of a barge to serve as a docking/landing platform at this location. As noted above, the installation of a barge for this purpose would be reviewed the same as with the installation of a fixed structure. In addition, we also discussed the possibility of siting "courtesy" slips in the "FEC" slip area at Museum Park for general public use.

The shoreline along Museum Park including within the "FEC" slip is an area that is recommended for freight terminal and large vessel (>100 ft.) berthing per the MDCMPP. The creation of public general use courtesy slips or water taxi slips at this location is not recommended in the MDCMPP. Any such proposal would require an in depth evaluation of the potential impact to manatees, including a full evaluation of any proposed mitigating factors that serve to reduce or eliminate potential threats to manatees using this area.

Please note that the information provided in this memo and attachment are based on a cursory review of these sites for potential environmental concerns. DERM staff are available to meet to discuss any questions you may have to further assist with planning of waterborne transportation options.

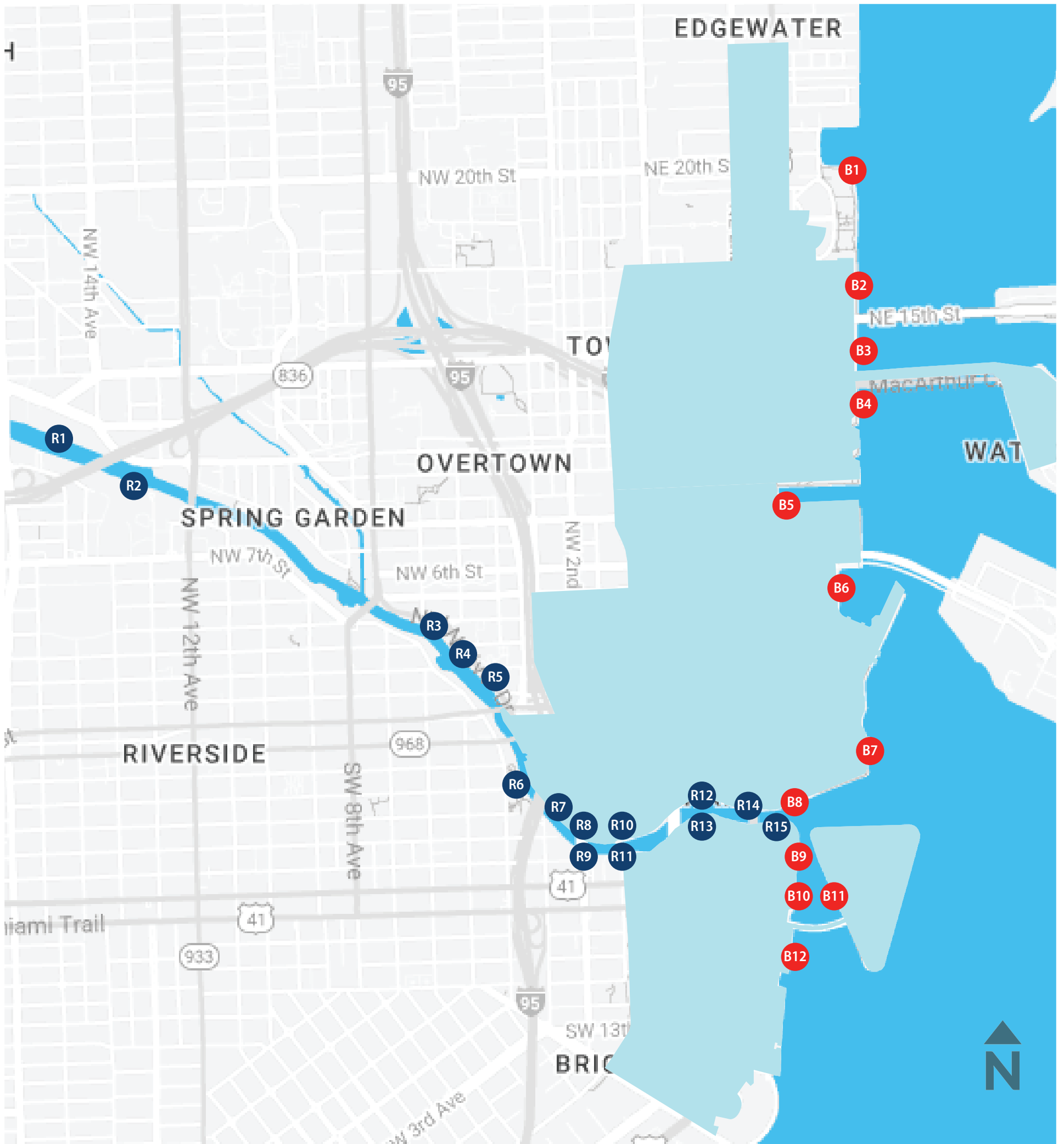
Attachment: Proposed Water Taxi Site Spreadsheet

c: Lourdes M. Gomez, Deputy Director, Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources
Irene Hegedus, Chief, Transportation Enhancements – DTPW
Julian Guevara, Municipal Manager – DTPW
Pamela Sweeney, Manager, Coastal and Wetlands Resources, RER-DERM

Proposed Water Taxi Site Spreadsheet

		Is Water Taxi Use Consistent with the MDCMPP?	Potential Water Depth Issues	Potential Benthic Resource Issues	Action needed for Water Taxi Use
	<u>MIAMI RIVER SITES</u>				
R1	WASD Pump Station No.1	Yes, if limited to 1 transitory slip at the property and no other mooring	TBD	Not Likely	*Obtain a Class I permit for mooring hardware/structures - vessel draft limitations and operational conditions may be implemented *Obtain an MOP
R2	Lummus Park	Yes - 15 historic slips permitted including 1 transitory and 1 law enforcement	3' max draft	Not Likely	Can be Authorized for Water Taxi Use upon MOP Issuance
R3	Jose Marti Park	Yes, if limited to 1 transitory slip at the property and no other mooring	TBD	Not Likely	*Obtain a Class I permit for mooring hardware/structures - vessel draft limitations and operational conditions may be implemented *Obtain an MOP
R4	Miami Riverside Center	Yes, if limited to 1 transitory slip at the property and no other mooring	No	Not Likely	Can be Authorized for Water Taxi Use upon MOP Issuance
R5	Beneath the 2nd Avenue Bridge, North Shore	Yes, if limited to 1 transitory slip at the property and no other mooring	Yes	Not Likely	*Obtain a Class I permit for mooring hardware/structures - vessel draft limitations and operational conditions may be implemented *Obtain an MOP
R6	Beneath the 2nd Avenue Bridge, South Shore	Yes, if limited to 1 transitory slip at the property and no other mooring	Not Likely	Not Likely	*Obtain a Class I permit for mooring hardware/structures - vessel draft limitations and operational conditions may be implemented *Obtain an MOP
R7	Metro-Rail North Shore	Yes, if limited to 1 transitory slip at the property and no other mooring	Yes	Not Likely	*Obtain a Class I permit for mooring hardware/structures - vessel draft limitations and operational conditions may be implemented *Obtain an MOP
R8	Metro-Rail South Shore	Yes, if limited to 1 transitory slip at the property and no other mooring	Not Likely	Not Likely	*Obtain a Class I permit for mooring hardware/structures - vessel draft limitations and operational conditions may be implemented *Obtain an MOP
R9	Riverwalk Metromover Station	Yes, if limited to 1 transitory slip at the property and no other mooring	Yes	Not Likely	*Obtain a Class I permit for mooring hardware/structures - vessel draft limitations and operational conditions may be implemented *Obtain an MOP
R10	5th Street Metromover Station	Yes, if limited to 1 transitory slip at the property and no other mooring	Not Likely	Not Likely	*Obtain a Class I permit for mooring hardware/structures - vessel draft limitations and operational conditions may be implemented *Obtain an MOP
R11	James L Knight Convention Center	Yes, if limited to 1 transitory slip at the property and no other mooring	TBD	Not Likely	*Obtain a Class I permit for mooring hardware/structures - vessel draft limitations and operational conditions may be implemented *MOP application pending response from applicant
R12	Miami Circle Park	Yes, if limited to 1 transitory slip at the property and no other mooring	Yes	TBD	*Obtain a Class I permit for mooring hardware/structures - vessel draft limitations and operational conditions may be implemented *Obtain an MOP

Possible Dockage Sites



Miami River

- R1 River Landing
- R2 River Park (South Side)
- R3 Garcia's Seafood
- R4 WASD Pump Station No.1
- R5 Lummus Parks
- R6 Jose Marti Park
- R7 Miami Riverside Center
- R8 Beneath the 2nd Ave Bridge - North Shore
- R9 Beneath the 2nd Ave Bridge - South Shore
- R10 Metrorail North Shore
- R11 Metrorail South Shore
- R12 Riverwalk Metromover Station
- R13 5th Street Metromover Station
- R14 James L. Knight Convention Center / Miami River Bridge
- R15 Miami Circle Park

Biscayne Bay

- B1 Margaret Pace Park
- B2 Sea Isle Marina
- B3 Genting
- B4 PAMM - Maurice Ferre Park
- B5 Kaseya Center - FEC Slip
- B6 Bayside Marketplace
- B7 Chopin Plaza / Bayfront
- B8 EPIC Marina
- B9 Viceroy / Icon Brickell
- B10 Brickell Park
- B11 Brickell Key
- B12 Four Ambassadors

Miami DDA District

