

## CITY OF CORAL GABLES

### - MEMORANDUM -

**TO:** Carmen Olazabal  
City Manager

**DATE:** July 31, 2014

**FROM:** Glenn Kephart   
Public Works Director

**SUBJECT:** Trolley Facility

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Staff has been considering options for the relocation of the city's existing trolley maintenance and storage facility. At this time, the site that currently houses Fire Station 2 is the only site that has been identified as feasible for the construction of a new facility. Staff consulted with AECOM engineering to evaluate the feasibility of siting a trolley facility at this location. The results of this investigation are as described below.

The proposed site is located just east of Riviera Drive between US 1 and the Metro Rail. Currently, located on this site is Fire Station 2, including a fire training area and a fueling station. The desired size of a new facility would include 12 maintenance and storage bays and space for 3 additional vehicles to be stored near the exterior of the facility. AECOM developed a site plan to accomplish this ideal size at an estimated cost of approximately \$ 5.1 million dollars; however, it requires the relocation of either the existing fueling facility or a modification of the Fire training area. Modification of the fire training area may include relocation of the existing concrete vertical training structure.

In order to accommodate a trolley facility on this site, without modification of the other existing facilities, the new facility would be limited to approximately four to five maintenance and storage bays. Exterior parking for additional trolleys could be accomplished to meet the City's needs. While it is most desirable to store trolley vehicles inside, it is common practice to park them outside. Currently, four of our trolley vehicles are parked outside at this site.

If a new trolley maintenance and storage facility is built at this site, it may be necessary to arrange for temporary maintenance and storage to gap the time between vacation of the existing facility and completion of the new facility. It is estimated that approximately 14-18 months would be needed to design and build the new facility on a fast track. If we vacate our existing facility in 6-8 months then the gap of time needed for a temporary solution would be approximately 10-12 months.

Temporary options considered include contracting with existing trolley service provider (LSF) to provide storage, light maintenance, and dispatch. Under this option, City trolleys would dispatch out of the contractors facility at 2766 NW 38th Street or their NW 62<sup>nd</sup> Street facility. LSF would provide light maintenance to assure the trolleys are in a safe start-up condition each morning. Heavier maintenance, predictive maintenance activities, and routine preventative maintenance would be performed by existing City trolley mechanics staff at our 72nd Ave facility. It is estimated that this option will add approximately \$360,000 to \$ 410,000 per year to operating costs. Staff is confident that this option could be implemented. LSF has indicated that they could also provide heavier maintenance activities if needed.

Other temporary options under consideration include, partnering with Miami Dade School District; continued evaluation of private vendor options; and consideration of moving the storage and maintenance to the Public Works 72nd Avenue facility.

Staff also has been in contact with Miami Dade Transit and the University of Miami to discuss possible partnering opportunities. These initial discussions did not produce alternatives that appear to be feasible.