

**MOTION**

**NO. M-24-500**

**CITY HALL: September 19, 2024**

**BY: COUNCILMEMBERS MORENO, HARRIS AND KING**

**WHEREAS**, on May 24, 2018, the City Council passed Motion M-18-200 directing the City Planning Commission to conduct a public hearing concerning previous studies and advisory reports regarding the improvement of Canal Street between Claiborne Avenue and the Mississippi River, and analyze news aspects of such; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result, the City Planning Commission released a report in October 2018 addressing M-18-200 entitled *Canal Street Study*; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council is aware of this study and would like the City Planning Commission to reexamine key recommendations, identify any ongoing or new gaps, ascertain what recommendations from the 2018 study – if any – have been implemented by the City of New Orleans or its partner agencies, analyze new aspects, and address any barriers to implementation of key recommendations to address and incorporate desired improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, specifically, the Council seeks updated direction and recommendations to revitalize Canal Street including but not limited to the following areas: retail attraction to the Canal Street corridor; any impediments to spurring upper floor occupancy; placemaking opportunities encouraging walkability, multi-modal forms of transportation, consistent landscaping, lighting, seating, public safety and wayfinding that preserves historic architecture and character; transportation considerations including pedestrian safety, bicycling, bus and street car lines, and transit centers; as well as organizational structure considerations (multiple

governmental entities tasked with managing and improving Canal Street, including the City of New Orleans, Downtown Development District, French Quarter Management District, and the Regional Transit Authority) and quality of life issues; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council understands that some of the requested research topics lie outside of the traditional expertise of the City Planning Commission and directs the City Planning Commission to consult with other agencies as needed, including but not limited to the Law Department, the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority, and the Downtown Development District; **NOW THEREFORE**

**BE IT MOVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS**, That the City Planning Commission is directed to conduct a public hearing and (1) compile and summarize previous studies executed as well as any advisory reports on the improvement of Canal Street between Claiborne Avenue and the Mississippi River to determine trends and key recommendations/findings, (2) highlight any recommendations from the 2018 City Planning Commission *Canal Street Study* that have been adopted or implemented to date including any works in progress, and 3) analyze and update new aspects of such, including, but not limited to:

- a. Identifying key recommendations as well as any barriers that have prevented recommendations from being implemented;
- b. Identifying gaps in knowledge, resources, and considerations relevant to restoring Canal Street as a key destination in the City and that address any quality of life issues;
- c. Identifying opportunity sites for commercial or residential use, strategies to spur upper floor occupancy, as well as any key recommendations regarding retail attraction to the Canal Street corridor;

- d. Explore placemaking opportunities encouraging walkability, multi-modal forms of transportation, consistent landscaping, lighting, seating, and wayfinding that preserves historic architecture and character;
- e. Study transportation considerations including pedestrian safety, bicycling, bus and street car lines, and transit centers;
- f. Provide recommendations for regulatory or policy initiatives – including to the City Code, building code, state legislation, and the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance – that could be implemented to best accomplish and implement key recommendations; and
- g. Identify strategies for revitalization of major corridors in other cities that could be utilized for Canal Street.

**BE IT FURTHER MOVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS,** That the City Planning Commission is directed to consult with governmental agencies, City departments, and private sector experts as needed to fulfill the full scope of the study contemplated in this motion.

**BE IT FURTHER MOVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS,** That in the process of conducting a public hearing and study as provided herein, the City Planning Commission and staff are directed and granted the flexibility to expand the scope of the study and make any and all legal and appropriate recommendations deemed necessary in light of study, review and public testimony resulting from this motion.

**THE FOREGOING MOTION WAS READ IN FULL, THE ROLL WAS CALLED ON THE ADOPTION THEREOF, AND RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:**

**YEAS:**

**NAYS:**

**ABSENT:**

**AND THE MOTION WAS ADOPTED.**