



X-Plan for the Rickenbacker Causeway

On Friday, February 6th, 2015, in my capacity as the county commissioner for District 7, I met with the Key Biscayne Village Council. After conferring with Mayor Peña Lindsay, the councilmen and residents, we summarized ideas for the Rickenbacker Causeway into three phases (short-term, interim, long-term):

Phase 1

My resolution calling for the physical separation between vehicle lanes and bicycle trails was forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners with a favorable recommendation by the Metropolitan Services Committee. The county administration is charged with identifying funds, and developing and beginning the implementation of a plan within 45 days. We also continue to support the Miami-Dade Public Works project set to begin in May that will moderately narrow the vehicle lanes and widen the bicycle path along Crandon.

Periodic DUI checkpoints on the Rickenbacker and MacArthur Causeways are a priority and we hope to begin enforcement as soon as possible with the support of State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle (see letter attached).

Phase 2

In the interim, I support the preliminary concept put forth by the Public Works department which shows the conversion of the third lane on Virginia Key into a buffered, shared lane for road bikes and cars, at a reduced speed limit. The advantage of this frontage lane would be two-fold: visitors to Virginia Key are funneled into a dedicated lane, freeing the main lanes for commuter traffic, and we are able to enforce a toll on cyclists that choose to use the lane instead of the pedestrian path.

This phase also calls for the implementation of an electronic enforcement system across the three jurisdictions responsible for the Causeway. I suggest remote traffic monitoring that supplies real-time video footage of speed infractions and license plate details to the nearest jurisdiction for enforcement.

Phase 3

We will conduct a national competition to select a world-class design that reimagines the Causeway to meet the needs of the millions of commuters, visitors, cyclists and pedestrians that enjoy the Rickenbacker and Key Biscayne each year.

We will also create an independent Rickenbacker Causeway Authority to enhance coordination between the three jurisdictions.

Phase 2 and Phase 3 could be compressed if we're able to move quickly on reaching a consensus about the scope and funding of the design competition. The future of the Rickenbacker Causeway is still in the planning process and I continue to encourage input from the community. However, on matters of public safety, we should remember that expediency is essential.



XAVIER L. SUAREZ
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT 7

February 2, 2015

The Honorable Katherine Fernandez Rundle
State Attorney
1350 NW 12th Avenue
4th Floor – North
Miami, Florida 33136-2111

Dear Madam State Attorney:

Thank you for outlining for me three very important initiatives that can help in our efforts to keep DUI drivers and reckless driving off of the Rickenbacker Causeway.

The first item is that we may be able to take advantage of funds forfeited under the "Back on Track" program to enable and increase the frequency of DUI checkpoints. I understand that, in rough numbers, we are talking \$5,000 - \$8,000 per one-hour checkpoint.

Secondly, electronic pole cameras, similar to those used in Miami Gardens, would monitor all traffic in and out of Key Biscayne.

Lastly, I would appreciate any feedback you could give us on the possible prosecution for reckless driving of drivers who exceed the speed limit by ten or 20 miles an hour, as detected by electronic surveillance equipment.

By copy hereof, I am advising the Mayor and the Director of Miami-Dade County Police of these initiatives.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "X. Suarez", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Xavier L. Suarez
Miami-Dade County Commissioner
District 7

Cc: Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez
Director of Police J. D. Patterson

Rough conceptual sketch for Rickenbacker Causeway

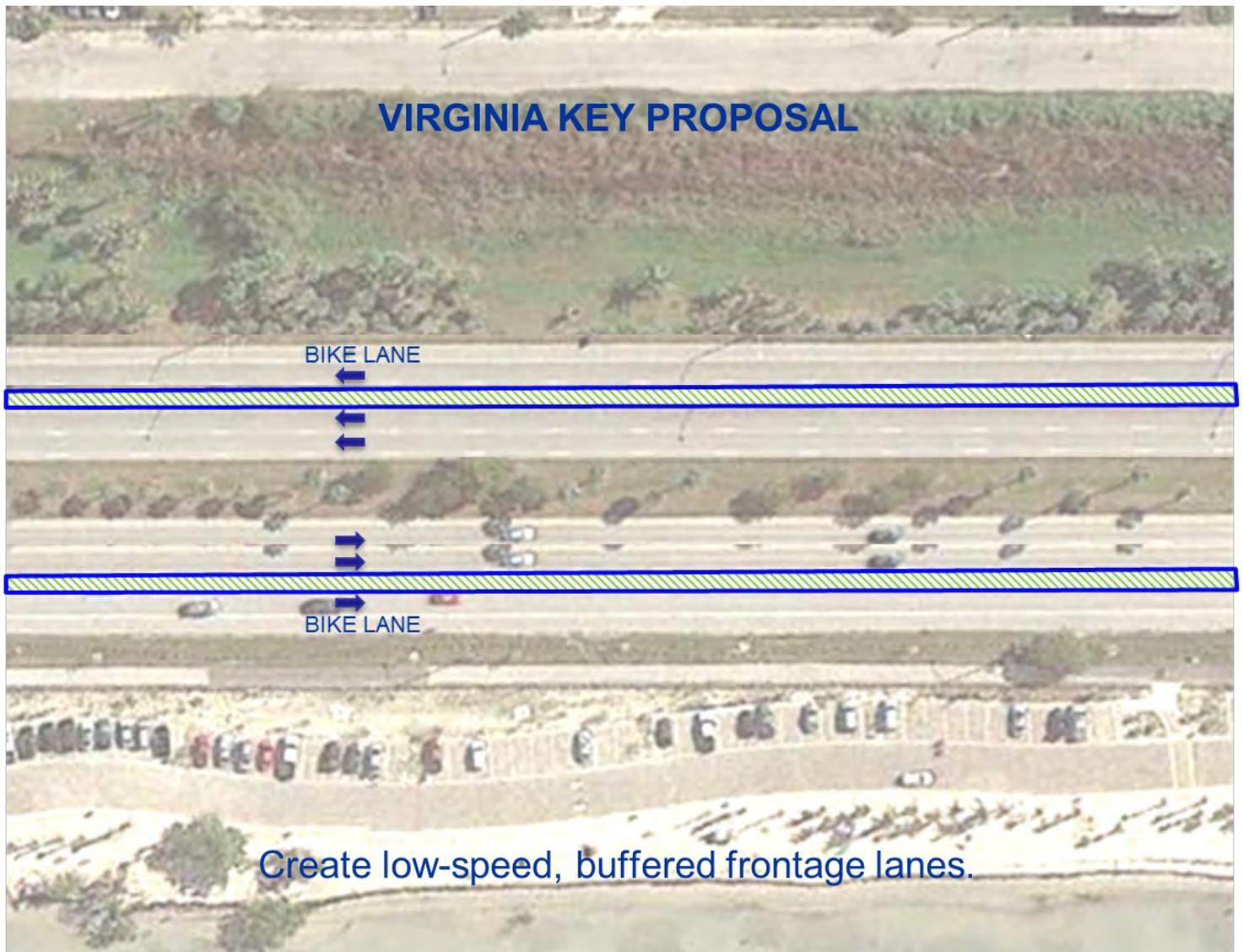
provided by Miami-Dade Department of Public Works

HOBIE ISLAND PROPOSAL



Provide curbed landscaping to create a safety buffer for bike lanes and construct an off-road path on north side of island.

VIRGINIA KEY PROPOSAL



Create low-speed, buffered frontage lanes.

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(10)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: March 3, 2015

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the County Mayor to, identify funding sources for and begin implementation of a plan to construct a physical barrier separating bicycle and pedestrian traffic from vehicular traffic along the Rickenbacker Causeway, if funding sources appropriated in Fiscal Year 2014-15 County budget are identified as available; further directing the County Mayor to submit a progress report to this Board

This item was amended at the February 11, 2015 Metropolitan Services Committee to remove the fourth "whereas" clause on the first page of the resolution concerning construction on the Rickenbacker Causeway and extend the time period in which the Mayor or Mayor's designee must begin implementation of the plan to as soon as feasible, following the identification of funding sources.

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Xavier L. Suarez and Co-Sponsor Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/Imp



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: March 3, 2015

FROM: 
R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(10)

Please note any items checked.

- "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- Budget required
- Statement of fiscal impact required
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- No committee review
- Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's _____, 3/5's _____, unanimous _____) to approve
- Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(10)
3-3-15

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO, WITHIN 45 DAYS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS RESOLUTION, IDENTIFY FUNDING SOURCES FOR, AND THEREAFTER BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION AS SOON AS FEASIBLE OF, A PLAN TO CONSTRUCT A PHYSICAL BARRIER SEPARATING BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC FROM VEHICULAR TRAFFIC ALONG THE RICKENBACKER CAUSEWAY, IF FUNDING SOURCES APPROPRIATED IN FISCAL YEAR 2014-15 COUNTY BUDGET ARE IDENTIFIED AS AVAILABLE TO FUND EXPENDITURES ANTICIPATED TO BE INCURRED IN FISCAL YEAR 2014-15 TO IMPLEMENT SUCH PLAN; FURTHER DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO SUBMIT A PROGRESS REPORT TO THIS BOARD AND TO CONSIDER AN INCREASE IN TOLLS ON THE RICKENBACKER CAUSEWAY AS A POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN

WHEREAS, this Board is committed to enhancing the quality of life of Miami-Dade County residents and visitors through the promotion of healthy activities such as bicycling, jogging and walking; and

WHEREAS, the Rickenbacker Causeway is one of the most scenic and well-established routes in Miami-Dade County, attracting motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians; and

WHEREAS, the Rickenbacker Causeway has a history of tragic accidents involving collisions between motor vehicles and bicyclists; and

~~[[**WHEREAS**, recent construction on the Rickenbacker Causeway has constricted traffic and forced vehicles to drive in even closer proximity to bicyclists and pedestrians; and]]¹~~

¹ Committee amendments are indicated as follows: Words stricken through and/or [[double bracketed are deleted, words underscored and/or >> double arrowed<< are added.

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2014, this Board adopted Resolution No. R-236-14, directing the Mayor to prepare a report outlining the feasibility of implementing safety measures for bicyclists and pedestrians along the Rickenbacker Causeway, among other locations; and

WHEREAS, on November 5, 2014, this Board adopted Resolution No. R-995-14, directing the Mayor to develop a plan for implementation of a "Complete Streets" program to provide safe access to transportation corridors, roadways and public rights-of-way for many types of travelers in the County, including bicyclists and pedestrians; and

WHEREAS, given the demonstrated safety concerns, it is imperative that this Board and this County implement prudent safety measures without delay; and

WHEREAS, this Board desires to ensure that the safest possible environment is provided to bicyclists and pedestrians using the Rickenbacker Causeway while still ensuring orderly traffic flow and necessary construction,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board:

Section 1. Directs the County Mayor or Mayor's designee to, within 45 days of the effective date of this resolution, identify funding sources for >>and thereafter begin implementation as soon as feasible of,<< ~~[[and begin implementation of]]~~ a plan to construct a physical barrier separating bicycle and pedestrian traffic from vehicular traffic along the Rickenbacker Causeway, if funding sources appropriated in the Fiscal Year 2014-15 County budget are identified as available to fund expenditures anticipated to be incurred in this fiscal year to implement the plan.

Section 2. Further directs the County Mayor or Mayor's designee to submit a progress report to this Board within 30 days of the effective date of this resolution and to place

the completed report on an agenda of the Board pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65. The report shall, at a minimum, describe the recommended plan to construct a physical barrier separating bicycle and pedestrian traffic from vehicular traffic along the Rickenbacker Causeway and detail the anticipated cost to fully implement the plan, a schedule for completion of all improvements, and the funding sources identified by the County Mayor or the Mayor's designee to fund implementation of the plan, including revenues appropriated in the County's fiscal year 2014-15 budget that are available to fund expenditures anticipated to be incurred in this fiscal year to implement the plan. The County Mayor or the Mayor's designee shall consider an increase in tolls on the Rickenbacker Causeway as a potential funding source for implementation of the plan.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Xavier L. Suarez and the Co-Sponsor is Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz. It was offered by Commissioner who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

	Jean Monestime, Chairman
	Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Vice Chairman
Bruno A. Barreiro	Daniella Levine Cava
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	Audrey M. Edmonson
Sally A. Heyman	Barbara J. Jordan
Dennis C. Moss	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	Xavier L. Suarez
Juan C. Zapata	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 3rd day of March, 2015. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this Resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

MP

Matthew Papkin