



X-Plan for Trails

There is no lack of big ideas for a more walkable, livable community, but when it comes to funding, the county always falls short. In January, **I made the following proposal to State Senator and Dade-County Delegation Chair Anitere Flores:**

I wish to dovetail on the recently enacted County Commission “Complete Streets” Resolution by saying that the time has come to make Miami-Dade pedestrian- and bike-friendly.

In view of that goal, I propose that 5% of the total capital costs of any future transportation project be committed to the “Complete Streets” program, which would include bike and pedestrian trails.

Last year, the Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved **Commissioner Pepe Diaz’s resolution** to create a **Complete Streets program** in the county:

WHEREAS, the term “Complete Streets” refers to roadways, rights-of-way, and transportation corridors that are designed and operated **to enable safe access for all users** (including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders of all ages and abilities)...

We need a dedicated funding source to make this possible, and must ensure that pedestrian and bicycle accessibility grows along with our roadways. **The guaranteed allocation of 5% of all new transportation projects** could finance not only long-proposed and much-needed trails such as the Ludlam Trail, The Underline and the Little River Greenway but also **fund an extensive network of connected paths** and greenways stretching from the farthest corners of the county.

Most importantly, it would allow Miami-Dade County to **create safe routes for student commutes**. I worry about the kids that have to walk under the I95 Overtown underpass to get to Booker T. Washington High School — they should be able to ride their bicycles to and from school along a well-lit, protected bike lane. Across the county, hardworking parents deserve this peace of mind. And students deserve the opportunity to participate in after-schools activities without fearing the trip home.

We have an opportunity to turn the trend of unruly, congested growth on its head and realize a healthier, safer Miami-Dade County. With every new road, should come a new path.