MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(2)

TO:	Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss and Members, Board of County Commissioners	**DATE:**	June 2, 2009
FROM:	R. A. Cuevas, Jr. County Attorney	**SUBJECT:**	Resolution directing the Mayor to prepare a report and recommendations to convert Rickenbacker Causeway to open road and/or other modern tolling procedures

The resolution was amended by the Transit, Infrastructure and Roads Committee to correct the information concerning the outstanding debt still owed for the Rickenbacker Causeway.

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Carlos A. Gimenez.

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/up

MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: June 2, 2009

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(2)

Please note any items checked.

_____ **"4-Day Rule" ("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**

_____ **Bid waiver requiring County Mayor's written recommendation**

_____ **Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing**

_____ **Housekeeping item (no policy decision required)**

_____ **No committee review**

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(2)
6-2-09

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO PREPARE A REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONVERT RICKENBACKER CAUSEWAY TO OPEN ROAD AND/OR OTHER MODERN TOLLING PROCEDURES

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County has operated the Rickenbacker Causeway for more than sixty years as a toll facility; and

WHEREAS, the bonds which financed the Rickenbacker Causeway [[~~and all subsequent refinancings have been completely paid off~~]][1]>>have been completely paid off, an annual loan repayment of $478,000.00 to the Sunshine State Governmental Financing Commission over a twenty (20) year period remains<<; and

WHEREAS, toll collection methodologies have been modernized and upgraded over the years allowing for major improvements in vehicle through put per hour, reduction in cost of collection, increased opportunities for innovative pricing strategies and special rates as determined by this Board; and

WHEREAS, recent national studies have found that through put for a manned booth collecting cash average 400 vehicles per hour while Sunpass dedicated lanes are able to allow as many as 1200 cars per hour; and

WHEREAS, traffic congestion at the intersection of I-95, Bayshore Drive, Miami Avenue, Brickell (US-1) and the Rickenbacker Causeway continues to worsen; and

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[1] Words stricken through and/or [[double bracketed]] shall be deleted. Words underscored and/or >>double arrowed<< constitute the amendment proposed. Remaining provisions are now in effect and remain unchanged.

WHEREAS, the cost of collection for open road tolling lanes and/or other modern tolling lanes may be as low as 5-10 percent of collections; and

WHEREAS, the costs to operate the Rickenbacker Causeway as per the September 30, 2007, Comprehensive Annual Report for Miami-Dade County, place these costs at approximately 40 percent of collection; and

WHEREAS, the annual cost savings and revenue increase for the Rickenbacker Causeway operation from open road tolling and/or other modern tolling procedures may exceed $3.0 million per year; and

WHEREAS, the Miami Dade Expressway Authority has vast experience in innovative tolling procedures,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that the Mayor is directed to prepare a report and recommendations to convert the Rickenbacker Causeway to open road and/or other forms of modern tolling utilizing the Miami Dade Expressway Authority (MDX) as the managing entity for the installation and tolling operations of the Rickenbacker Causeway. Said report shall be presented to the Transit, Infrastructure and Roads Committee during its July meeting and shall include, among other relevant and related matters: (1) analysis of installation costs being financed by MDX, (2) continuing pricing programs for Key Biscayne residents and workers, (3) the potential for paying Crandon Park, Cape Florida and special events parking fees through Sun Pass, and (4) the manner in which toll collectors and related supervisory personnel will be offered other job opportunities.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Carlos A. Gimenez. 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:

Dennis C. Moss, Chairman
Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Vice-Chairman

Bruno A. Barreiro	Audrey M. Edmonson
Carlos A. Gimenez	Sally A. Heyman
Barbara J. Jordan	Joe A. Martinez
Dorrin D. Rolle	Natacha Seijas
Katy Sorenson	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 2nd day of June, 2009. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this 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.

Thomas Goldstein