

# Memorandum



**Date:** July 17, 2013

**To:** Honorable Xavier L. Suarez  
Commissioner, District 7

**From:** Carlos A. Gimenez  
Mayor

**Subject:** Rickenbacker Causeway Toll Increases

Your correspondence dated May 13, 2013 regarding *Rickenbacker Causeway Toll Increases* was forwarded to the Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM) Department for review and response. At this time, it is too early to determine future impacts on each class of Causeway user. Only after the current rehabilitation project is complete, will we propose a long-term plan for a new Bear Cut bridge including any changes to the toll structure.

There are many current variables that will be clearer in the next few months. The effects of SunPass implementation of the Causeways will be fully realized within the next few months. The condition of the bridge pilings on both the West Bridge and the Bear Cut Bridge will be determined above and below the underwater soil line. The lateral strength of the Bear Cut Bridge will be enhanced through the addition of pilings on either side of the existing structure. The various analyses required as part of the bond sale will be complete and will demonstrate the financial strength of the Causeway system. Shortly thereafter a bond rating will be placed on the Causeway system.

Currently, residents pay \$24.00 per year for their annual plans for the unlimited use of the Rickenbacker Causeway. Last fiscal year, the 9,700 residents cumulatively paid \$233,000 of the total \$6.73 million generated on the Rickenbacker Causeway, or approximately 3.4 percent of the total revenues.

Any future financial plans would likely not include residents paying two thirds of the cost of a new bridge. But, I have not yet made decisions about what to present to the Board of County Commissioners or how the tolls would be structured should the County decide to build a new bridge at Bear Cut. Along these lines, I stated for the record at a prior Village of Key Biscayne Council meeting that a new bridge would likely require increases to all tolls, including annual plans.

Should you have any question or require further information, please contact PWWM Director Kathleen Woods-Richardson at 305-514-6628, or my office at 305-375-1880.

c: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa and Members, Board of County Commissioners  
R. A. Cuevas, Jr., County Attorney  
Alina T. Hudak, Deputy Mayor  
Kathleen Woods-Richardson, Director, Public Works and Waste Management Department  
Jennifer Moon, Director, Office of Management and Budget



MEMORANDUM  
COMMISSIONER XAVIER L. SUAREZ

111 NW First Street, Suite 220 Miami, Florida 33128 Tel. (305) 375-5680 Fax (305) 372-6103

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TO: Mayor Carlos Gimenez  
Miami-Dade County

DATE: May 13, 2013

CC: Deputy Mayor Alina Hudak  
Miami-Dade County

RE: Rickenbacker Causeway  
Toll Increases

FROM: Xavier L. Suarez  
Commissioner, District 7

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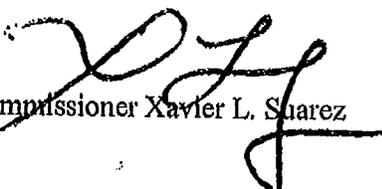
Mayor,

You had recently stated that a 25-cent increase in the Rickenbacker Causeway ("Causeway") toll to visitors (non-Key Biscayne residents) would generate enough revenues to fund the County Administration's \$31 million construction plan for Bear Cut Bridge, and approximately \$100 million for a bridge replacement should tolls also increase for village residents.

Assuming a new bridge would in fact cost approximately \$100 million, would (as a matter of clarification) the increase in the Causeway toll paid by residents amount to two-thirds of the total cost of a replacement bridge for Bear Cut?

If I am mistaken, I kindly request for a breakdown of the projected annual revenues that would/will be generated by residents and visitors.

Thank you always,

  
Commissioner Xavier L. Suarez