

THANK YOU, YSELA, FOR YOUR KIND INTRODUCTION.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK AND RECOGNIZE SENATOR JAVIER SOUTO FOR WORKING WITH DIRECTOR LLORT AND MY ADMINISTRATION ON THE PROJECT WE ARE HERE TO INAUGURATE.

GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE. THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE.

I AM PLEASED TO JOIN YOU THIS MORNING FOR THE RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY OF THE WESTCHESTER CIRCULATOR, ALSO KNOWN AS *'EL PASEITO DE WESTCHESTER.'*

THIS TROLLEY-STYLE SERVICE WILL PROVIDE GREATER CONNECTIVITY FOR STUDENTS, VISITORS AND THE APPROXIMATELY 30,000 RESIDENTS WHO CALL WESTCHESTER HOME.

THE WESTCHESTER CIRCULATOR WILL RUN WEEKDAYS, SERVING KEY LOCATION AREAS IN WESTCHESTER, SUCH AS:

- **THE FIU MODESTO A. MAIDIQUE CAMPUS,**
- **THIS LIBRARY, WHICH BY THE WAY, LAST YEAR, HAD APPROXIMATELY 372,000 VISITORS – MAKING IT ONE OF OUR BUSIEST LIBRARIES IN THE COUNTY,**
- **AS WELL AS LOCAL SHOPPING CENTERS,**
- **AND THE POPULAR TROPICAL PARK.**

WITH A FARE OF ONLY 25 CENTS EACH WAY, I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT WITHIN A FEW WEEKS, WE WILL SEE MANY RESIDENTS USING THIS NEW SERVICE TO GET AROUND THE WESTCHESTER AREA.

TO THE RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS OWNERS IN WESTCHESTER: WE KNOW YOU HAVE MANY TRANSIT NEEDS, AND WE HOPE THAT THIS WILL HELP IMPROVE CONNECTIVITY IN YOUR AREA. THIS IS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, BUT CERTAINLY NOT THE ONLY ONE WE ARE TAKING.

IN FACT, LATER THIS AFTERNOON, I WILL FORMALLY INTRODUCE OUR NEW MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT DIRECTOR WHO WILL HIT THE GROUND RUNNING TO ADDRESS OUR COMMUNITY'S TRANSIT AND MOBILITY NEEDS.

BUT RIGHT NOW WE ARE HERE TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE YET ANOTHER MILESTONE TOWARD OUR COMMON GOAL OF SERVING THE RESIDENTS AND VISITORS OF OUR WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITY.

SENATOR SOUTO, I AM PLEASED MY ADMINISTRATION WAS ABLE TO WORK WITH YOU TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN FOR YOUR CONSTITUENTS.

TO DIRECTOR LLORT AND HER STAFF: I WANT TO RECOGNIZE YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS IN MAKING THIS HAPPEN.

DIRECTOR LLORT, I ALSO WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RECOGNIZE YOU FOR ALL THE EXCELLENT WORK YOU HAVE DONE AS TRANSIT DIRECTOR DURING PAST FOUR YEARS.

UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP, MDT HAS BEEN ABLE TO NOT ONLY DELIVER THIS PROJECT, BUT ALSO:

- OPEN THE METRORAIL ORANGE LINE TO THE AIRPORT – ON TIME AND ON BUDGET,**
- IT IS MODERNIZING ITS METRORAIL AND METROMOVER FACILITIES,**
- AND NEXT YEAR, WE WILL SEE THE NEW RAIL CARS COMING IN TO SERVICE,**
- MDT ALSO WILL HAVE NEW BUS TECHNOLOGY THAT WILL PROVIDE ‘REAL-TIME’ BUS INFORMATION FOR OUR RESIDENTS.**

YOU CLEARLY WORKED HARD WITH YOUR STAFF AND THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE SURE THE FTA RESTORED MDT TO FULL CLEARING HOUSE STATUS, AND ENSURED THAT MDT PASSED WITH FLYING COLORS ITS TRI-ANNUAL REVIEW.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION AS A PUBLIC SERVANT, AND FOR YOUR PROFESSIONALISM THROUGHOUT THE YEARS.

LET'S ALL GIVE HER A WELL-DESERVED ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

THANK YOU ALL AGAIN FOR COMING TODAY!

MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND MAY CONTINUE TO BLESS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY!

