THANK YOU, ALICE, FOR THAT KIND INTRODUCTION, AND MY THANKS TO YOU AND YOUR STAFF FOR ALL THE GREAT WORK YOU HAVE DONE ON THE PROJECT THAT WE ARE HERE TO INAUGURATE.

GOOD AFTERNOON, EVERYONE! I AM PLEASED TO JOIN YOU TODAY FOR THE RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S NEW FLEET OF DIESEL-ELECTRIC HYBRID 60-FOOT BUSES!

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A MOMENT TO THANK AND RECOGNIZE COMMISSIONERS LEVINE CAVA, BOVO AND BARREIRO FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THIS PROJECT -- WHICH WILL BENEFIT NEARLY 30,000 RESIDENTS OF OUR COMMUNITY EACH DAY.

WE KNOW THAT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S RESIDENTS HAVE MANY TRANSIT NEEDS, AND THIS NEW FLEET OF BUSES WILL HELP MEET THOSE NEEDS.

THESE NEW BUSES ARE "ARTICULATED," WHICH ALLOWS EACH BUS TO SPAN AN IMPRESSIVE 60 FEET AND ACCOMMODATE MORE PASSENGERS.

IN FACT, APPROXIMATELY 100 PASSENGERS CAN BE SEATED IN A SINGLE BUS! THESE 60-FOOT BUSES WILL CERTAINLY INCREASE OUR CAPACITY TO TRANSPORT MORE RIDERS, AND THE BENEFITS CAN ALREADY BE SEEN:

TWENTY-FOUR OF THESE NEW, ARTICULATED BUSES ARE CURRENTLY SERVING ON THE SOUTH MIAMI-DADE BUSWAY ON ROUTES 34 & 38, AND MANY PASSENGERS HAVE EXPRESSED POSITIVE FEEDBACK.

THIS NEW FLEET WILL ALSO ENHANCE BUS SERVICE ALONG SOME OF THE COUNTY'S MOST CONGESTED CORRIDORS, INCLUDING: BISCAYNE BOULEVARD AND N.W. 27<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE.

WE HAVE ENTERED A NEW ERA IN TRANSPORTATION HERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY!

THE ADDITION OF THESE NEW BUSES IS JUST ONE OF MANY STEPS WE'RE TAKING TOWARD IMPROVING AND ENHANCING MOBILITY THROUGHOUT MIAMI-DADE.

DIRECTOR BRAVO IS SPEARHEADING A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES THAT ALREADY SHOW AN IMPROVED TRANSIT SYSTEM. OUR BUSES ARE CLEANER, PROVIDE BETTER, RELIABLE SERVICE, AND OUR TRANSIT STAFF CONTINUES TO PROVIDE SAFE AND COURTEOUS SERVICE TO OUR CUSTOMERS.

WITH THE ADDITION OF 43 NEW, ARTICULATED BUSES, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY NOW HAS 116 DIESEL-ELECTRIC HYBRID BUSES IN OUR FLEET!

THE PURCHASE OF THESE ALTERNATIVE-FUEL VEHICLES GOES HAND-IN-HAND WITH OUR COUNTYWIDE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN, ALSO KNOWN AS "GREENPRINT."

IN TERMS OF TRANSIT, "GREENPRINT" FOCUSES ON SEEKING SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SOURCES FOR ALL OF OUR VEHICLES, INCLUDING OUR BUS FLEET.

TO ADDRESS FUTURE TRANSIT NEEDS, THE COUNTY IS IN THE PROCESS OF COMPLETING A SOLICITATION FOR COMPRESSED, NATURAL GAS VEHICLES. WE'RE ALSO EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF ACQUIRING "PURE" ELECTRIC BUSES.

I AM PLEASED THAT, TODAY, WE CAN INTRODUCE THESE VERY COMFORTABLE, HIGH-TECH, FUEL-EFFICIENT VEHICLES TO OUR BUS FLEET -- WHICH IS LOOKING AND PERFORMING BETTER THAN EVER.

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COMMISSIONER LEVINE CAVA, I AM PLEASED THAT MY ADMINISTRATION WAS ABLE TO WORK WITH YOU TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN FOR YOUR CONSTITUENTS.

DIRECTOR BRAVO, THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING THAT YOU AND YOUR STAFF ARE DOING TO ADDRESS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S TRANSIT AND MOBILITY NEEDS.

TODAY IS ANOTHER OCCASION TO CELEBRATE YET ANOTHER MILESTONE TOWARD OUR COMMON GOAL OF SERVING THE RESIDENTS AND VISITORS OF OUR WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY.

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