

THANK YOU, ALINA, 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 CELEBRATE.

GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE! I AM PLEASED TO JOIN YOU TODAY FOR THE RIBBON-CUTTING AND RE-OPENING CEREMONY FOR THE MIAMI AVENUE BRIDGE!

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A MOMENT TO THANK AND RECOGNIZE COMMISSIONER BARREIRO FOR BEING HERE, AND ESPECIALLY FOR HIS SUPPORT OF THIS PROJECT -- WHICH WILL BENEFIT SO MANY RESIDENTS OF OUR COMMUNITY EACH DAY.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S RESIDENTS HAVE MANY TRANSPORTATION NEEDS, AND THE REHABILITATION AND RE-OPENING OF THE MIAMI AVENUE BRIDGE IS JUST ONE OF THE MANY WAYS WE ARE ENHANCING MOBILITY, PUBLIC SAFETY AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

THE MIAMI AVENUE BRIDGE PROJECT BEGAN LAST YEAR, AND WAS CONDUCTED IN THREE PHASES TO MINIMIZE THE IMPACT TO THE AREA AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

THIS BRIDGE IS A MAJOR ROADWAY -- CONNECTING DOWNTOWN TO BRICKELL. THE \$7.7 MILLION WE HAVE INVESTED IN THE REHABILITATION OF THE MIAMI AVENUE BRIDGE WILL EXTEND ITS LIFE SO WE CAN ALL ENJOY IT FOR YEARS TO COME.

WHILE THERE IS STILL MUCH WORK TO BE DONE TO OUR BRIDGES, REST ASSURED THAT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HAS BEEN WORKING DILIGENTLY TO ENHANCE OUR INFRASTRUCTURE.

OVER THE COURSE OF THE PAST 10 YEARS, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HAS COMPLETED NEARLY 30 BRIDGE PROJECTS. FOR EXAMPLE, IN 2014, WE COMPLETED THE RICKENBACKER WEST BRIDGE/BEAR CUT REHABILITATION THAT WILL EXTEND THE LIFE OF THE BRIDGES AND IMPROVE VEHICULAR, PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY.

THE COUNTY ALSO CONVERTED THE RICKENBACKER AND VENETIAN CAUSEWAYS TO ELECTRONIC TOLL COLLECTION, WHICH IS ALREADY ALLEVIATING TRAFFIC CONGESTION.

AS YOU'VE HEARD ME SAY MANY TIMES BEFORE, TRANSPORTATION IS A KEY ISSUE FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY -- AND RELIABLE, FUNCTIONING BRIDGES ARE CRITICAL COMPONENTS OF OUR COMMUNITY'S TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE.

DEPUTY MAYOR ALINA HUDAK HAS BEEN HEADING UP A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES THAT EXTENDED THE LIFE OF OUR BRIDGES AND IMPROVED SAFETY, AND TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR ALICE BRAVO WILL CONTINUE THAT MOMENTUM. THE MIAMI AVENUE BRIDGE REPRESENTS ONE OF THE MANY SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENTS IN OUR INFRASTRUCTURE THAT WILL GREATLY IMPROVE THE LIFESPAN, CONDITION AND USABILITY OF THE BRIDGE.

IN ADDITION TO THE REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE STRUCTURES AND ELECTRICAL COMPONENTS, MIAMI AVENUE BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE A NEW OPERATOR'S CONSOLE AND THE INSTALLATION OF NEW NAVIGATION LIGHTING.

AND BECAUSE THE SAFETY OF OUR COMMUNITY'S CYCLISTS IS A TOP PRIORITY, THE MIAMI AVENUE BRIDGE NOW FEATURES BIKE-FRIENDLY GRATING ON ITS DECK!

I AM PLEASED THAT, TODAY, WE CAN RE-OPEN THE MIAMI AVENUE BRIDGE -- WHICH IS MORE RELIABLE AND CYCLIST FRIENDLY THAN EVER.

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

DEPUTY MAYOR HUDAK, THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING THAT YOU AND YOUR STAFF DID TO ADDRESS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S PUBLIC WORKS, TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY NEEDS.

THE REHABILITATION AND RE-OPENING OF THE MIAMI AVENUE BRIDGE REPRESENTS 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!**

