



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
GOVERNING BOARD

MEETING OF THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2007 AT 2:00 PM

Chairman

Bruno A. Barreiro

Vice Chairwoman

Barbara J. Jordan

Voting Members

Ruben D. Almaguer
Kevin A. Burns
Jose "Pepe" Diaz
Audrey M. Edmonson
Shirley M. Gibson
Carlos A. Gimenez
Perla T. Hantman
Sally A. Heyman
William H. Kerdyk
Joe A. Martinez
Dennis C. Moss
Julio Robaina
Dorrian D. Rolle
Marc D. Sarnoff
Natacha Seijas
Darryl K. Sharpton
Katy Sorenson
Rebeca Sosa
Javier D. Souto
Richard L. Steinberg

Non-Voting Members

(FDOT District VI)
John Martinez, P.E.
Gary L. Donn, P.E.

County Mayor

Carlos Alvarez

County Manager

George M. Burgess

Assistant County

Manager

Alex Munoz

MPO Secretariat

Director

Jose Luis Mesa, Ph.D.

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STEPHEN P. CLARK CENTER
111 NW FIRST STREET
COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS

REVISED AGENDA

1. **MPO 30TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY: RECOGNITION CEREMONY**
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - February 22, 2007
4. **MPO COMMITTEES AND SPECIAL REPORTS**
 - A. **CITIZEN COMMITTEES**
 1. COMMITTEES VACANCY LIST
 2. CITIZENS TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CTAC)
 3. TRANSPORTATION AESTHETICS REVIEW COMMITTEE (TARC)
 4. BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)
 5. FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FTAC)
 - B. **MIAMI-DADE EXPRESSWAY AUTHORITY (MDX)**
5. **ACTION ITEMS**
 - A. **NON-PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS**
 1. **REQUEST BY MPO BOARD MEMBER JAVIER D. SOUTO**
RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR
THE WESTCHESTER TRAFFIC IMPACT STUDY
 2. **REVISIONS TO THE FY 2008 FDOT TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM**
RESOLUTION ENDORSING REVISIONS TO THE FY 2008-2012 FDOT
DISTRICT 6 TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM
6. **INFORMATION ITEM**
 - A. **KENDALL CORRIDOR ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS**
7. **REPORTS**
 - A. **MPO BOARD MEMBERS**
 1. Request by MPO Board Member Katy Sorenson: Citizen Presentation on the
Kendall Corridor Alternatives Analysis
 2. Request by MPO Board Member Joe A. Martinez: Citizen Presentation from the
Miccosukee Indian Tribe
 - B. **COUNTY MANAGER**
 - C. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**
 - D. **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DISTRICT VI)**
 - E. **MPO SECRETARIAT**
 1. Water Transit Services
 2. Transit System Review/Long Range Transportation Plan Update*
8. **CORRESPONDENCE AND MISCELLANEOUS**

* **ADD-ON**

It is the policy of Miami-Dade County to comply with all of the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The facility for this meeting is accessible. For sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or materials in accessible format, please call 305-375-4507 at least five business days in advance.

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
FOR THE MIAMI URBANIZED AREA
GOVERNING BOARD**

MEETING OF THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2007 AT 2:00 P.M.

**STEPHEN P. CLARK CENTER
111 NW FIRST STREET
COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

SUMMARY MINUTES

The following members were present for the regular meeting of the Miami-Dade County Metropolitan Planning Organization on February 22, 2007:

Board Member Kevin A. Burns	Board Member Julio Robaina
Board Member Jose “Pepe” Diaz	Board Member Dorrin D. Rolle
Board Member Audrey M. Edmonson	Board Member Natacha Seijas
Board Member Shirley M. Gibson	Board Member Darryl K. Sharpton
Board Member Carlos A. Gimenez	Board Member Katy Sorenson
Board Member Perla T. Hantman	Board Member Rebeca Sosa
Board Member Sally A. Heyman	Board Member Javier D. Souto
Board Member William H. Kerdyk	Board Member Richard L. Steinberg
Board Member Joe A. Martinez	Vice Chairwoman Barbara J. Jordan
Board Member Dennis C. Moss	Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro

Non-voting members present: Mr. Gary L. Donn, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

The following staff members were present: Jose-Luis Mesa, Director, MPO Secretariat; Mrs. Ysela Llort, Assistant County Manager, and Robert Cuevas, Assistant County Attorney.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro called the meeting to order at 2:25 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Barreiro asked Mrs. Zainab Salim, MPO Staff, to call the roll.

Board Member Almaguer	-Absent	Board Member Moss	-Present
Board Member Burns	-Absent	Board Member Robaina	-Present
Board Member Diaz	-Absent	Board Member Rolle	-Present
Board Member Edmonson	-Present	Board Member Sarnoff	-Absent
Board Member Gibson	-Absent	Board Member Seijas	-Present
Board Member Gimenez	-Present	Board Member Sharpton	-Present
Board Member Hantman	-Present	Board Member Sorenson	-Present
Board Member Heyman	-Present	Board Member Sosa	-Present
Board Member Kerdyk	-Absent	Board Member Souto	-Absent
Board Member Martinez	-Present	Board Member Steinberg	-Present

Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro-Present
Vice Chairwoman Barbara J. Jordan-Present

Mrs. Salim announced quorum was attained.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Board Member Sharpton moved for approval of the agenda. Board Member Rolle seconded the motion. The agenda was approved.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Member Moss moved for approval of the December 7, 2006 minutes. Board Member Steinberg seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Mr. Mesa introduced the Board to the new Assistant County Manager for Transportation, Mrs. Ysela Llorca. Mrs. Llorca informed the Board that she was very pleased to be joining the Miami-Dade County and look forward to assisting the MPO in addressing the transportation issues of the county.

4. MPO COMMITTEES AND SPECIAL REPORTS

A. CITIZEN COMMITTEES

1. COMMITTEES VACANCY LIST

2. CITIZENS' TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CTAC)

Mr. Norman Wartman, CTAC Chair, provided the Board with a brief update on CTAC activities. He informed the Board that the CTAC adopted a resolution respectfully requesting the Governing Board to coordinate with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to develop a system to enable Miami-Dade Public Works Department to repair sidewalks immediately following a national disaster. He further stated that CTAC passed a resolution adopting the SW 120th Street Study's recommendation to not widen the roadway to six lanes. He concluded by informing the Board that CTAC recognized former Miami-Dade Transit Director, Roosevelt Bradley, for his dedication and cooperative demeanor in handling CTAC issues during his tenure. *(A copy of CTAC resolutions is available at the MPO Secretariat).*

3. TRANSPORTATION AESTHETIC REVIEW COMMITTEE (TARC)

No report provided on this item.

4. BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)

Mr. Ted Silver, BPAC Chair, provided the Board with a brief update on BPAC activities. He informed the Board that BPAC passed a resolution supporting the inclusion of the Krome Trail in the

Preliminary Design and Environmental review of FDOT's widening of Krome Avenue between SW 296th Street and SW 136th Street. He also stated that BPAC received a presentation on the Master Plan for improvements to the M-Path trail that runs beneath Metrorail from the Miami River to SW 67 Avenue. He further stated that BPAC received the draft of the non-motorized section of the 2008 Transportation Improvement Program for review. He concluded by stating that BPAC will be co-hosting the MPO's annual televised TIP Interactive meeting on Tuesday March 27, at 5:30 pm to give the public a chance to learn about planned transportation improvements.

Board Member Souto stated that he would like to organize lectures in communities and organizations within his district to educate the public on bicycle and pedestrian safety. He requested that staff contact his office to coordinate these events. Mr. Mesa responded that the MPO staff would work with his office on this request.

5. FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FTAC)

Mrs. Silvia Bernstein, FTAC Chair, informed the Board of FTAC activities. She stated that FTAC have worked with the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce to get a resolution passed to support the construction of the 6th Street/I-95 Slip Ramp. She further stated that FTAC has worked with the MPO staff to complete the Port of Miami Rail Access Study. She then stated that FTAC is working with MPO staff on the Truck Route Study for Miami-Dade County. She concluded by informing the Board of the FTAC resolution passed. (A copy of the distributed FTAC resolution is available at the MPO Secretariat).

B. MIAMI DADE EXPRESSWAY AUTHORITY (MDX)

1. MDX Status Report

Board Member Sharpton introduced the new MDX Executive Director Mr. Javier Rodriguez, who provided the Board with a brief update on the projects included in the MDX Status Report, in addition to marketing efforts by MDX. *(A copy of this report is available at the MPO Secretariat).*

Board Member Martinez informed the Board that there is ongoing discussion in Tallahassee regarding privatizing roads and expressways in Florida. He then asked Mr. Rodriguez the impact this legislation will have on MDX and the MPO Board. Mr. Rodriguez responded that he believed the proposed legislation would have a positive impact on MDX because it provides an opportunity for MDX to look at public/private partnership as a viable tool to implement projects sooner. He further stated that the private sector could be looked as a mechanism to advance and finance projects. He

then stated that MDX was researching the option of a public/private partnership option for new projects. He concluded by stating that he didn't believe that it was the proper time to discuss relinquishing authority to the private sector. He further concluded that he did not personally believe it to be a good practice to enter into a lease agreement with the private sector that would last for ninety-nine (99) years.

Board Member Martinez expressed concern with the proposed privatization legislation. He stated that from his research there were no restrictions as it relates to the number of tolls allowed on an expressway. He further stated that the bill is complicated on purpose so that the average person wouldn't understand it. He concluded by further expressing to the Board the severity of the issue.

Mr. Rodriguez informed the Board that the practice throughout the country is to prearrange the number of tolls prior to the private sectors bidding on the project. He further clarified by stating that the toll schedule is usually already laid out so the private sector know exactly what they are buying. He then stated that there have been some examples in this country and other countries whereas it was in the best interest of the private sector to raise the tolls. He further stated that in those cases the public sector had to step in and take over those roadways.

Board Member Martinez asked if the legislation would pass will the option for the public sector to step in be allowed. Mr. Rodriguez responded that he was not sure if the proposed bill addressed this issue and would have to research the language further.

Board Member Martinez continued the discussion by stating that the Board needs to have a handle on this issue prior to Miami-Dade County officials travel to Tallahassee. He then stated that under the proposed legislation the tolls will automatically be raised through the CPI or whatever method they feel like establishing. He then stated that this would be mandated. He further stated that based on his research of the legislation language he could not clearly determine which agency/entity would be responsible for maintaining the roadways. He concluded by stating that this bill would have a huge impact on Miami-Dade County.

Board Member Souto reminded the Board that the privatization of expressways is an old issue. He then stated that the MPO Board needs a complete presentation from MDX on this issue as soon as possible. He also informed the Board that the embankments on the expressways are great opportunity for private/public partnership for beautification and enhancement projects. He clarified by stating that in some South American countries they have privatized these types of improvements. He further clarified by stating that they have partnered with major companies to allow them to advertise their

logos using landscaping. He concluded by stating that beautification is necessary on the roadways.

Board Member Sorenson requested that the Miami-Dade legislative team review this bill and provide a report to the Board at the next meeting.

Board Member Sosa requested that MDX continue to monitor SR 836 at 57th Avenue westbound ramp to limit the amount of garbage being disposed at this exit. She further requested that the status report includes a timeline when the projects for SR 836 and SR 826 will continue.

5. ACTION ITEMS

A. NON-PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

1. REQUEST BY MPO BOARD MEMBER JAVIER D. SOUTO *RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR THE WESTCHESTER TRAFFIC IMPACT STUDY*

Mr. Mesa informed the Board that the attached scope of work needs to be amended to reflect the new study limits as:

Between Palmetto Expressway to the east, Krome Avenue to the west, SR 836 to the north, and SW 56th Street to the south.

Board Member Sosa requested that staff notify her when any study is being conducted within District 6 limits. She further requested specific areas within District 6 that will be researched for the proposed study. She concluded by requesting to be kept updated on this study.

Board Member Hantman stated that approximately seventeen (17) public schools maybe impacted by these roadway improvements. She requested that the study be coordinated with the School Board staff to avoid any negative impacts to those schools.

Board Member Souto moved for approval of the resolution as amended. Board Member Martinez seconded the motion. The resolution as amended passed unanimously.

2. REVISIONS TO THE FY 2008 FDOT TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM *RESOLUTION ENDORSING REVISIONS TO THE FY 2008-2012 FDOT DISTRICT 6 TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM*

Mr. Mesa informed the Board that the distributed yellow document is replaces the item in the agenda package.

Mr. Donn informed the Board that these revisions were based on the March 5th Revenue Estimate Conference which estimated a statewide shortfall of \$400 million. He then stated this shortfall negatively impacts District 6 Work Program about \$17.6 million. He further stated that the District was able to protect the first and second years of the Program. He concluded by stating that the Department was instructed not to impact projects from the transportation or SIS programs.

Board Member Edmonson requested clarity on how these revisions would impact the Venetian Causeway. She concluded by requesting the new completion date for the project. Mr. Donn responded that he didn't believe the revisions would have an impact on the project schedule. He further stated that the project will be funded over three years as previously requested by the Miami-Dade Public Works Department. Ms. Esther Calas, PWD Director, concurred that the project was requested to be funded over three years and would maintain its same completion schedule.

Board Member Sorenson expressed discontent with the deferment of the City of Homestead project to the FY 2012 in the FDOT Work Program. She requested that the Department meet with her to address how to advance this project. Mr. Donn stated that the current Work Program is locked and the Department won't be able to address the City's concern until July when the next Work Program cycle begins. He concluded by stating staff will work her.

Board Member Seijas expressed concern with the unfunding of the landscape project at the Palmetto Expressway from the FEC to W. 41st Street. She further stated that the City of Hialeah have already provided landscaping on the east side of the corridor. Mr. Donn responded that the projects that were deferred would be revisited as a priority during the next Work Program cycle. She further requested that FDOT staff meet with her prior to the development of the next Work Program to address this issue further.

Board Member Sosa stated she has noticed a trend of deferring enhancement projects surrounding or near the Miami International Airport (MIA). She further stated that this practice is a mistake. She further stated that not only does the MIA bring money to the County it is also an area that the County is trying to allure more businesses to invest in. She concluded by stating that she will not oppose the unfunded items proposed but requested that staff look at the balance in the future so that not all cuts are in the same area. Mr. Donn responded by stating that the Department had its hands tied because of the limited types of projects they were allowed to impact. He concluded that this was not the intent of the Department.

Chairman Barreiro requested that the FDOT staff work with the Florida Power & Light (FPL) to address placing the utilities underground for the Venetian Causeway corridor.

6. INFORMATION ITEM

A. KENDALL CORRIDOR ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

This item was discussed as part of item 7.A.1.

7. REPORTS

A. MPO BOARD MEMBERS

1. Request by MPO Board Member Katy Sorenson: Citizen Presentation on the Kendall Corridor Alternatives Analysis

Board Member Sorenson introduced Dr. Eric Prince, citizen, who provided a PowerPoint presentation on the CSX Community Train Proposal. *(A copy of the PowerPoint is available at the MPO Secretariat).*

Mr. Mesa introduced study consultant Mr. Jeff Stiles of Edwards and Kelcey, who provided the Board with a brief PowerPoint presentation on the Kendall Corridor Alternatives Analysis. *(A copy of this PowerPoint presentation is available at the MPO Secretariat).*

Board Member Martinez asked the citizens to provide suggestions of alternatives to be researched that will address the transportation issues in the Kendall Corridor. Mr. Roderick Moffet responded that the Kendall Corridor will be better served with a bus rapid transit system operating along 137th Avenue from SW 184th Street to SR 836. He further stated that this system can take the population of West Kendall to the second largest populated area, the City of Doral. He then stated that the proposed train alternative takes residents approximately nine miles away from the area. He also stated that 86% of the population that uses mass transit walk and the nine miles is a far distance to reach on foot. He concluded by stating that the BRT can run on the median of 137th Avenue at a fraction of the cost to implement the train alternative.

Board Member Martinez stated that the Kendall Study has several alternatives that are being researched besides the CSX alternative. He further stated that the citizen presentation assumes that every crossing will be at grade. He then stated that the study is not complete therefore that information is not available. He further stated that he did not believe that the Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) was the perfect alternative but it does not require eminent domain because of the existing CSX tracks. He concluded by urging the Board not to discard the study before it is completed. He further stated he understands why the residents that live along these tracks are concern about the study.

Mr. Moffett expressed concern with the level of advertisement and public outreach associated with this study.

Board Member Sosa stated that she did not have a problem with the Study continuing as long as the Commissioners who reside in the impacted districts are included in the decision making process. She further stated that she will not support a project that will negative impact residents in her district. She concluded by requesting that staff conduct public hearings in District 6 and those districts impacted by the study prior to any decisions being made.

Board Member Gimenez stated that several community organizations contacted him concerning the CSX line because a lot of it goes through District 7. He then stated that he wanted to make sure that each alternative in the study include ridership numbers and travel time for each route proposed. He further stated that the ridership numbers are very important to him because a ridership of 3500 is not worth the hassle or the money. He also stated that he did not want the study to be skewed in anyway. He then stated that when the final numbers come in he would take into account the alternative that provides the most benefits to Miami-Dade County. Board Member Gimenez stated that he shared Board Member Martinez concerns about the current Metrorail system. He stated that the operating costs are incredibly high and at this rate the County does not have the funds to continue with this type of system. He further stated that he is a strong supporter of researching different alternatives like the BRT which appears to be a more reasonable approach. He concluded by stating that the public notices needs to be put in a way that the residents are informed and allowed an opportunity to provide input.

Pursuant to Board Member Gimenez comments, Board Member Martinez responded that the original cost for the CSX alternative was estimated at \$180 million. He further stated that he did not know if the new figure of \$300 million includes at grade crossing or not. He then requested that staff defer coming to the May meeting for selection of a locally preferred alternative (LPA) until public hearings are provided in the communities impacted by the study and the CSX alternative identify the at grade crossings.

Board Member Sorenson stated that she concurred with Board Member Martinez with extending the selection of the LPA to allow more opportunity for public awareness and input. She then commended the citizen presentation which she felt was very informative. She further stated that she would like get staff results on the study to compare numbers before making a decision. She concluded by requesting clarity on how many public hearings staff held for this study. Mr. Stiles responded that four (4) public hearings were held and two more are scheduled for April. He further stated that consultant team has sent out press releases to the community papers in

addition to providing e-mailed notices through their existing database. He concluded by stating that he has been in contact with Mr. Moffett to discuss ways to expand the study's public outreach.

Board Member Sorenson requested clarity on whether staff could look into Mr. Moffett's suggestion of operating a BRT on 137th Avenue. Mr. Stiles responded that the study team was informed of this suggestion two weeks ago and have incorporated it into the study for further review.

Mr. Barry White, citizen and board member of CANT, informed the Board that the CANT organization is willing to work with the MPO to get the word out regarding the Kendall Study. He further stated that CANT has provided similar assistance to Board Member Sharpton and MDX for the 874 project by organizing town hall meetings etc.

Board Member Diaz stated that nobody wants a train going through their backyards. He then stated that the MPO is going to have to be either very innovative or acquire a lot of money to fix the traffic issues in this County. He further stated that in the case of the East/West project the train that goes from Sweetwater to FIU will not work. He concluded by urging staff to look at different alternatives and technologies when conducting these studies.

Board Member Moss stated that he supports the study being conducted. He then stated that he noticed that the discussions concerning this corridor and the East/West have focused heavily on community outcry of not wanting a train operating thru their backyard. He further stated that this was not the case for the South Corridor which was killed or the North Corridor. He then stated that this type of system was welcomed by the communities in these corridors. He also reminded the Board that as the County goes through the Watershed Study and the discussion continues to center around developing heavily concentrated residential areas known as urban centers along the South Corridor, the discussion of transportation system is needed. He concluded by stating that the South Corridor will need metrorail not BRT or light rail to address the discussed future growth. He further concluded by stating that he believed that Miami-Dade County should have a rail system along certain corridors.

Board Member Souto reminded the Board that this issue has been recycled from twelve years ago. He then stated that it is very sad that after so many years the lesson still has not been learned. He further stated that Miami-Dade County needs to invest in a system that works.

Chairman Barreiro stated that he supports the study continuing and encourage staff to expand its public outreach to allow greater public input opportunities. He then stated that he shared the concern of Board Member Moss. He further stated that he believes in a unified transportation system used throughout the County. He also stated that

although the system requires an initial cost, it should be understood that the system is to be built to last a hundred (100) years. He concluded by reminding the Board that New York understood this concept when they made the investment one hundred (100) years ago which was expensive but the only option that could move the then population of one (1) million.

2. Request by MPO Board Member Joe A. Martinez: Citizen Presentation from the Miccosukee Indian Tribe

Mr. Julio Martinez, representative of the Miccosukee Indian Tribe distributed a letter from the chairman of the tribe which expresses their feelings regarding the Skyway Project. He also distributed a letter from the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. He concluded by introducing Mr. Terry Rice who provided the Board with a brief presentation on the concerns the Miccosukee Tribe have with the Skyway project. *(Copy of these letters is available at the MPO Secretariat).*

Board Member Martinez requested clarity from the tribe on the impact the Skyway Bridge will have on the tribal camps. Mr. Rice responded that the tribe is concerned that the Skyway Bridge which has not been analyzed may adversely impact two Indian camps in the area.

Board Member Diaz stated that the issue of whether the berms will be dismantled has not been decided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He further stated that he doesn't believe the bridge will work unless the berms are removed. He concluded by stating that the MPO Board was very adamant that the Skyway Bridge will only be supported if it did not negatively impact the Miccosukee Indian Tribe.

Board Member Sorenson suggested that the Skyway Coalition and the Miccosukee Indian Tribe have some dialogue to reach a compromise on this issue.

Board Member Rolle requested that the citizen presentation on the closure of NW 17th Avenue Ramp be deferred until the next agenda.

- B. COUNTY MANAGER**
- C. COUNTY ATTORNEY**
- D. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (District VI)**
 - 1. Port Tunnel Status Report

Mr. Donn informed the Board that three proposal regarding the Port Tunnel project were submitted. He concluded by stating that the Department will keep the Board abreast on the project. *(A copy of the distributed report is available at the MPO Secretariat).*

- F. MPO SECRETARIAT**
 - 1. Water Transit Services

Board member Gimenez requested clarity on the ridership numbers for the proposed Water Transit Services. Mr. Mesa stated tht the ridership estimate is two hundred thousand (200,000) per year only during the workdays which calculates to about 800-900 riders on a given weekday.

Board Member Heyman requested that MPO Director come back with information regarding respecting the no wake zones and the protection of manatees. She further requested staff investigate the possibility of reducing the travel time.

2. Transit System Review/ Long Range Transportation Plan Update

Mr. Mesa informed the Board that this item was placed on the agenda for information only.

The MPO Board agreed to accept the report provided.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

No discussion under this item.

7. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.