



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
GOVERNING BOARD

MEETING OF THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2008 AT 2:00 PM

**Chairman**

Bruno A. Barreiro

**Vice Chairwoman**

Barbara J. Jordan

**Voting Members**

Lynda Bell  
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  
Dorrin D. Rolle  
Marc D. Sarnoff  
Natacha Seijas  
Katy Sorenson  
Rebeca Sosa  
Javier D. Souto

**Non-Voting Members**

(FDOT District VI)  
Gus Pego, P.E.  
Gary L. Donn, P.E.

**County Mayor**

Carlos Alvarez

**County Manager**

George M. Burgess

**Assistant County  
Manager**

Ysela Llort

**MPO Secretariat  
Director**

Jose Luis Mesa, Ph.D.

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STEPHEN P. CLARK CENTER  
111 NW FIRST STREET  
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33128  
COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS

**AGENDA**

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- October 23, 2008

**3. MPO COMMITTEES AND SPECIAL REPORTS**

**A. CITIZEN COMMITTEES**

1. COMMITTEES VACANCY LIST
2. FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FTAC)
3. TRANSPORTATION AESTHETICS REVIEW COMMITTEE (TARC)
4. BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)
5. CITIZENS TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CTAC)
  - resolutions

**B. MIAMI-DADE EXPRESSWAY AUTHORITY (MDX)**

1. Status Report

**4. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. PUBLIC HEARING ITEM**

**1. FY 2009 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM  
AMENDMENT: SR 5/US 1/BISCAYNE BOULEVARD**

RESOLUTION APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO THE FY 2009 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TO ADD \$5,000,000 FOR THE FLEXIBLE PAVEMENT RECONSTRUCTION AT BISCAYNE BOULEVARD FROM NE 15<sup>TH</sup> STREET TO NE 35<sup>TH</sup> TERRACE AND MOVING \$2,604,000 TO FY 2010 FOR THE SAME PROJECT (ROLL CALL REQUIRED)

**B. NON-PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS**

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**1. REQUEST BY MPO BOARD CHAIRMAN BRUNO A. BARREIRO**

RESOLUTION CHANGING THE MPO GOVERNING BOARD MEETING TO THE \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF EACH MONTH AT 2:00 PM

**2. AMENDMENT TO RULE 35H-1.08 – REGULAR MPO BOARD MEETINGS**

RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO RULE 35H-1.08 OF THE RULES OF THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TO EMPOWER THE MPO BOARD CHAIRPERSON TO RESCHEDULE MEETING DATES

**3. REQUEST BY MPO BOARD MEMBER DENNIS C. MOSS**

RESOLUTION AMENDING RULES OF THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TO CREATE RULE 35H-1.15 TO EMPOWER MPO CHAIRPERSON TO ESTABLISH COMMITTEE SYSTEM

\* Weekday pending survey results to be discussed at the MPO Board meeting.

- 4. FY 2010-2014 FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT VI & FLORIDA TURNPIKE ENTERPRISE TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAMS**  
RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE FY 2009/10-2013/14 FDOT AND FLORIDA TURNPIKE ENTERPRISE TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAMS
- 5. INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT: 2009 MPO ANNUAL NEWSLETTER**  
RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) AND THE FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (FIU) METROPOLITAN CENTER FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE 2009 MPO ANNUAL NEWSLETTER
- 6. INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT: COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS PROGRAM**  
RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MIAMI-DADE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) AND FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (FIU) TO COMPLETE WORK ON THE MPO'S COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS PROJECT FOR FY 2009
- 7. MPOAC LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES FOR FY 08/09**  
RESOLUTION APPROVING \$500 TO BE PROVIDED TO THE STATEWIDE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MPOAC) FOR THEIR LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES
- 8. REQUEST BY MPO BOARD MEMBER DENNIS C. MOSS**  
RESOLUTION DIRECTING STAFF TO PREPARE A SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR A STUDY TO EVALUATE ALTERNATIVES TO ALLEVIATE TRAFFIC IN THE DADELAND AREA

## **5. INFORMATION ITEM**

## **6. REPORTS**

- A. MPO BOARD MEMBERS
- B. COUNTY MANAGER
- C. COUNTY ATTORNEY
- D. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DISTRICT VI)
  1. FDOT District VI ITS Annual Report (FY 2007/2008): "Embracing Change"
- E. MPO SECRETARIAT
  1. MPOAC Weekend Institute
  2. MPO Studies Completed in FY 2007-2008
  3. MPO October Meeting Follow-up Report

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

*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.*



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

**SUMMARY MINUTES**

**MEETING OF THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2008 AT 2:00 P.M.**

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

The following members were present for the meeting of the Miami-Dade County Metropolitan Planning Organization on December 18, 2008:

Board Member Lynda Bell	Board Member Julio Robaina
Board Member Matti Herrera Bower	Board Member Dorrin D. Rolle
Board Member Kevin A. Burns	Board Member Marc D. Sarnoff
Board Member Jose “Pepe” Diaz	Board Member Natacha Seijas
Board Member Carlos A. Gimenez	Board Member Katy Sorenson
Board Member Perla T. Hantman	Board Member Javier D. Souto
Board Member Dennis C. Moss	Vice Chairwoman Barbara J. Jordan
Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro	

Non-voting members present: Mr. Gus Pego, FDOT District VI Secretary and Mr. Gary Donn, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

The following staff members were present: Jose Luis Mesa, Director, MPO Secretariat; Gerald Sanchez, Assistant County Attorney and Zainab Salim, MPO Board Clerk.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro called the meeting to order at 2:28 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Chairman Barreiro asked Mrs. Salim to call the roll.

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

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

Mrs. Salim announced quorum was attained.

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Board Member Bell moved for approval of the agenda. Board Member Moss seconded the motion. The agenda was approved.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Board Member Bell moved for approval of the October 23, 2008 minutes. Board Member Sorenson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

**3. MPO COMMITTEES AND SPECIAL REPORTS**

**A. CITIZEN COMMITTEES**

**1. COMMITTEES VACANCY LIST**

Board Member Gimenez reappointed Mr. Lee Karlinsky to FTAC and Mr. Lee Marks to BPAC.

Board Member Bell appointed Mr. Ken Groce to BPAC.

Chairman Barreiro reappointed Brett Bibeau to BPAC and Jason Greene to TARC.

Board Member Bower reappointed Ms. Gabrielle Redfern to BPAC and Mr. Alan Fishman to CTAC.

Board Member Kerdyk appointed Ms. Megan McClaughlin to TARC. *(This appointment was read by Chairman Barreiro).*

Board Member Moss moved the acceptance of the appointments. Board Member Diaz seconded the motion. The appointments were accepted.

**2. FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FTAC)**

Mr. Doug Tannehill, FTAC member, provided the Board with an update of FTAC activities. He stated that FTAC expressed concern with FDOT's decision to remove the Port Tunnel and the second phase of the 25<sup>th</sup> Street Viaduct project. He then stated that FTAC encourages the MPO Board to reconsider resurrecting the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Slip Ramp to I-95 project. He concluded by requesting the Board to urge FDOT to keep the funds for the Tunnel project in Miami-Dade County to support the freight community. *(Contact the MPO Board Clerk for a copy of the distributed resolutions).*

**3. TRANSPORTATION AESTHETIC REVIEW COMMITTEE (TARC)**

*No report provided under this item.*

**4. BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)**

Mr. Bret Bibeau, BPAC Chair, provided the Board with an update on BPAC activities. He stated that BPAC reviewed the Department of Planning and Zoning's proposed changes to the bicycle parking ordinance which would create incentives for new developments to add showers and lockers for employees that bike to work. He then stated that BPAC reviewed two new developments next to Metrorail that have requested new driveways. He further stated that BPAC expressed concern with private driveways crossing the M-Path. He concluded by informing the Board that the Public Works Department will be holding a ribbon-cutting event for the bike lane improvements to the Rickenbacker Causeway on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

**5. CITIZENS TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CTAC)**

Dr. Claudius Carnegie, CTAC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, provided the Board with a brief update of CTAC activities. He informed the Board of the resolutions passed by CTAC at their previous meeting. (*Contact the MPO Board Clerk for a copy of CTAC resolutions*).

**B. MIAMI DADE EXPRESSWAY AUTHORITY (MDX)**

**1. MDX Status Report**

*No discussion under this item.*

**4. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS**

**1. FY 2009 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENT: SR 5/US 1/BISCAYNE BOULEVARD**

*RESOLUTION APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO THE FY 2009 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TO ADD \$5,000,000 FOR THE FLEXIBLE PAVEMENT RECONSTRUCTION AT BISCAYNE BOULEVARD FROM NE 15<sup>TH</sup> STREET TO NE 35<sup>TH</sup> TERRACE AND MOVING \$2,604,000 TO FY 2010 FOR THE SAME PROJECT*

Chairman Barreiro opened the public hearing. Chairman Barreiro closed the public hearing.

Board Member Bell moved for approval of the resolution. Board Member Moss seconded the motion.

Chairman Barreiro requested that a roll call vote be taken.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

**Chairman** Bruno A. Barreiro-Aye  
**Vice Chairwoman** Barbara J. Jordan-Aye

Board Member Bell	-Aye	Board Member Martinez	-Absent
Board Member Bower	-Aye	Board Member Moss	-Aye
Board Member Burns	-Aye	Board Member Robaina	-Aye
Board Member Diaz	-Aye	Board Member Rolle	-Aye
Board Member Edmonson	-Absent	Board Member Sarnoff	-Aye
Board Member Gibson	-Absent	Board Member Seijas	-Aye
Board Member Gimenez	-Aye	Board Member Sorenson	-Aye
Board Member Hantman	-Aye	Board Member Sosa	-Absent
Board Member Heyman	-Absent	Board Member Souto	-Nay
Board Member Kerdyk	-Absent		

The resolution passed with one dissent (Board Member Souto).

**B. NON-PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS**

**1. REQUEST BY MPO BOARD CHAIRMAN BRUNO A. BARREIRO**

*RESOLUTION CHANGING THE MPO GOVERNING BOARD MEETING TO THE \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF EACH MONTH AT 2:00 PM*

Mr. Mesa informed the Board that the MPO Clerk could provide the specifics from the survey conducted. He then stated that the majority of the Board members preferred Thursdays to conduct MPO meetings. He also stated that during the months of July, November and December the last Thursdays would pose a scheduling conflict. He concluded by stating that the next resolution on the agenda would empower the Chairperson to change meeting dates and staff could work with the MPO Chair to obtain alternative meeting dates for those months with conflicts.

Board Member Burns stated that based on discussions from a previous meeting members were supportive of changing the day to Wednesdays. He further expressed concern with keeping the dates on Thursdays because of potential conflicts with the Board of County Commission meetings. He concluded by requesting the MPO Clerk to provide the specifics of the survey conducted.

Mrs. Salim stated that the results of the survey demonstrated the following votes: Thursday-9; Wednesday-7; Monday-4. She further stated that the survey asked the members what day presented the most scheduling conflict and Wednesday was ranked the highest. She concluded by confirming the 2009 meeting days for the non county commission members.

Chairman Barreiro explained to the Board that there was no meeting day that would satisfy everyone. He further stated that Thursdays appear to be the day with the least amount of conflict.

Board Member Burns suggested that flexibility be given to the Chairperson to schedule meetings one to two months in advance.

Mrs. Salim reminded the Board that the MPO bylaws require staff to advertise at least one year in advance the Board meeting dates.

Chairman Barreiro suggested that the Board approve something today and then provide the Chairperson with flexibility to reschedule the dates should conflict arise.

Board Member Bell moved for approval of the resolution the MPO Governing Board meetings to the last Thursday of each month. Board Member Moss seconded the motion. The resolution was approved with one dissent (Board Member Sarnoff).

**2. AMENDMENT TO RULE 35H-1.08-REGULAR MPO BOARD MEETINGS**

*RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO RULE 35H-1.08 OF THE RULES OF THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TO EMPOWER THE MPO BOARD CHAIRPERSON TO RESCHEDULE MEETING DATES*

Board Member Bower expressed concern with empowering the Chairperson with authority to reschedule meeting dates. She further clarified by stating that her experience with this type of authority has been negative.

Attorney Sanchez informed the Board that the MPO bylaws require advance notification of at least seven days before the rescheduled date.

Board Member Hantman moved for approval of the resolution. Board Member Bell seconded the motion. The resolution passed with one dissent (Board Member Bower).

Chairman Barreiro reminded the Board that the election process for the MPO Chairperson has changed and the BCC Chairperson is no longer automatically Chair of the MPO Board. He further stated that the elections of the MPO Chairperson will be held at the January meeting.

**3. REQUEST BY MPO BOARD MEMBER DENNIS C. MOSS**

*RESOLUTION AMENDING RULES OF THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TO CREATE RULE 35H-1.15 TO EMPOWER MPO CHAIRPERSON TO ESTABLISH COMMITTEE SYSTEM*

Board Member Moss stated that the purpose of the proposed resolution was to address concerns previously expressed by Board members regarding agenda items not being vetted properly. He then stated that a committee system would provide an opportunity for Board members to become more involved in the process and to allow agenda items to be discussed by committees before being recommended to the full Board.

Board Member Gimenez stated that he supports the item. He further stated that more attention should be given to some MPO items. He then stated that the responsibility to set policies is one of the most important duties of the MPO Board. However, because of distractions the meetings are rushed. He concluded by stating that the MPO Board needs to pay closer attention to what is being proposed from the administration, FDOT and MDX.

Board Member Seijas expressed concern with the amount of time necessary to participate in a committee system. She further stated that the Board of County Commissioners need outside employment in order to make a living because of their \$6,000 salary. She concluded by expressing concern that she would not be able to commit to this type of system because of current obligations.

Board Member Sorenson stated she supported the proposed resolution. She concluded by reminding the Board that the committees are based on volunteers and members with conflicts should not feel obligated to serve on a committee.

Board Member Burns requested clarity on whether the committee process allows for recommendations only and not empower the committee to prevent agenda items from moving forward to the full Board for consideration.

Board Member Sarnoff expressed further concern with a system that would empower the committees to hold agenda items from moving through the process.

Board Member Hantman stated the School Board has a committee system in which agenda items are discussed and the committee could either send the items with approval, rejection, or without recommendation. She further clarified by stating that the committees do not possess the authority to hold items up and that they only advise the Board.

Board Member Diaz expressed concern that his work schedule would make it impossible for him to participate in another committee system. He then reminded the Board that the MPO Chairperson has not yet been determined and their vision may differ from that of Board Member Moss.

Vice Chairwoman stated that she has mixed feelings concerning the item. She further stated that she supports the concept that committees would provide an opportunity to discuss items in greater detail before coming to the Board. She concluded by stating she needed clarity on whether this committee system would be standing, ad-hoc or voluntary.

Chairman Barreiro stated that his only issue would be that committees are not allowed to prevent items from moving forward to the full Board.

Board Member Moss stated that the intent of the committee system was not to prevent agenda items from moving forward through the process. He mentioned that the intent was to provide an opportunity for agenda items to be reviewed in greater detail. He further stated that the committee system should be structured whereas the Chairperson could take into consideration the Board members that are willing and able to serve on the committees. He then announced to the Board his intent to run for Chairman of the MPO and his vision is to have one committee that has the ability to look at MPO items and make recommendations to the full Board. He concluded by stating that he does not believe a committee should be allowed to stall items in the process.

Board Member Seijas stated that she would support the item if it is based on a volunteer system.

Vice Chairwoman Jordan suggested that a mechanism is put into place to safe guard parochialism within the committee structure.

Board Member Bower stated that the City of Miami Beach has a lot of committees and believes committees to be a double-edge sword. She further explained that she would feel more comfortable with the item if more description could be provided as to what the committee system would entail.

Board Member Burns requested clarity on whether the committee could still meet if quorum is not attained.

Board Member Hantman stated that the rules for the School Board committee system allows quorum to consist of two (2) people. She further stated that this system allows for alternate members to sit on the committees. She concluded by stating that this system has proven to be very useful to them.

At the request of Board Member Moss, Attorney Sanchez read the following language amending the proposed resolution:

- Establish standing and ad hoc MPO advisory committees composed of MPO members who volunteer to serve
- Standing and ad hoc committees shall be advisory and shall not be empowered to lay items on the table or delay items indefinitely

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

**4. FY 2010-2014 FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT VI & FLORIDA TURNPIKE  
ENTERPRISE TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAMS**  
*RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE FY 2009-10-2013/14 FDOT AND  
FLORIDA TURNPIKE ENTERPRISE TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAMS*

Board Member Gimenez expressed disappointment with the state's decision to discontinue the procurement process for the Port Tunnel project. He then stated that the information being disseminated regarding the vitality of the project is conflicting. He further expressed concern for the future of the funds allocated to the project. He then stated that Miami-Dade County has many projects, including 25<sup>th</sup> Street Viaduct, SR 836/826 Interchange and the 50 feet dredging at the Port of Miami, that are high priority and could benefit from these funds. He concluded by stating that the funds need to remain in Miami-Dade County to be invested in its infrastructure. He further concluded by reminding the Board that the county is a donor to the state and should receive its fair share.

Board Member Diaz stated that Miami-Dade County was aware of the challenges that the state faced during these economic times. He then requested clarity on why the state's procurement process did not allow negotiation with the 2<sup>nd</sup> bidder on the Port Tunnel project once it was decided that the 1<sup>st</sup> company defaulted. He further expressed that the Port of Miami dredging project could benefit from these funds. He stated that the port in northern Florida scheduled to be opened will compete against Port of Miami and Port Everglades. He concluded by asking the Florida Governor and Secretary to keep their word and support the Port Tunnel and the 25<sup>th</sup> Street Viaduct projects. He further concluded by stating that the trucks currently do not have anywhere else to travel and these projects will alleviate the congestion in and out of the port.

Board Member Moss commended Mr. Pego on his efforts and working with the community. He then stated that the information provided to the other elected officials throughout the state differ from what Miami-Dade officials have received as it relates to the future of the Port Tunnel project and the funds allocated to the project. He further stated that it appears that forces in other parts of Florida are looking to obtain the funds allocated to the Tunnel for other projects within the state. He then stated that the county should fight for these funds to be kept in Miami-Dade County. He concluded by stating that the community has already committed to bonds for this project and therefore the funding should remain here to provide an opportunity for further evaluation of the Port Tunnel project or another alternative that could assist in addressing the freight issue at the port.

Board Member Bower stated that there is a problem at the port and a solution is vital to its survival. She then requested clarity from the department on whether a Plan B existed in case the Port Tunnel project fell through. Mr. Pego responded that the department evaluated many solutions as it relates to addressing the freight traffic in and out of the port. He then stated that the MPO had recommended one of those alternatives, the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Slip Ramp to not be studied further. He then stated that FTAC is currently requesting that this alternative be reconsidered as a viable option to the Tunnel.

Chairman Barreiro added that the MPO Board acted on FDOT's recommendation to discontinue with the evaluation of the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Slip Ramp. He further stated that he did not support the motion because he believed that the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Slip Ramp project was an interim solution to the problem while the Port Tunnel was being constructed.

Board Member Bower continued by stating that the issue is whether the money for the tunnel project needs to remain in Miami-Dade County to address the issues at the Port of Miami. She then requested clarity on whether the municipalities have been briefed on the proposed project deferrals listed in the Work Program. Mr. Pego responded by stating that the department has met with staff from various levels of government to discuss the impacts within each respective municipality.

Board Member Souto stated that his issue with FDOT is regarding pedestrian safety. He also stated that it was unclear why the proposed Program does not have any safety projects scheduled for the Tropical Park area. He then distributed an article from the Miami Herald that states the amount of traffic traveling on Bird Road within the vicinity of Tropical Park poses a safety issue for pedestrians traveling to the park. (*Contact the MPO Board Clerk for a copy of the distributed article*). Mr. Pego responded that the proposed safety projects listed in the Program are a result of factual data that was conducted. He further stated that the increase amount of traffic that currently exists near Tropical Park is a result of the Santa Enchanted Forest activities.

Board Member Souto added that the estimate provided to him concerning the pedestrian traffic came from the Miami-Dade Parks Department. He further stated that he does not object to widening Bird Road as long as the project includes mechanisms to address the safety issues in the area. Mr. Pego responded that FDOT at the request of Board Member Souto has evaluated the pedestrian safety in the area. He further stated that the department is committed to working with the Public Works Department (PWD) to address the issues. He then stated that although FDOT disagrees with Board Member Souto on whether there is an eminent safety issue in the corridor, the Department will be incorporating a safety mechanism within the current project to address issues that may arise in the near future. He concluded by stating that FDOT has already committed to discontinuing the construction for the project in the area until after March 2009. He further concluded by agreeing to meet with Board Member Souto to discuss the issue further.

Board Member Sorenson stated that the Port Tunnel project was viewed as a partnership between the county and the state. She further stated that the decision by the state to discontinue the project feels like a violation of trust. She then reminded the Board that this is a time in history that more investments in infrastructures need to be made. She further reminded the Board that the county needs a stimulus package for the future of its communities. She stated that during this time of recession the country is shifting from a consumer society to a period of public investment. She then stated that FDOT should be looking at all its assets that have been neglected over the years and rebuild them as well as

provide for the needs of the future. She further stated that the Port Tunnel provides for those future needs. She reminded the Board that by having trucks idling on the roads has an adverse impact on the environment. She then explained that Florida has one of the worse tax structures in the country including \$16 billion in loopholes that need to be revisited. She concluded by stating that she hopes the Governor understands that Miami-Dade County is not willing to give up the funding for the Port Tunnel project without a fight.

Chairman Barreiro stated that the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Street Ramp should have continued as scheduled. He further reminded the Board that FDOT insisted that the project be removed so it would not compete with the Port Tunnel project. He then stated that since FDOT has decided to discontinue with the Port Tunnel project the community is left hanging. He concurred with other Board members belief that there were forces within the state that do not want the Port of Miami to be competitive. He concluded by stating that the Port Tunnel project should continue and that FDOT needs to reevaluate its financing system to consider bonding and other alternatives that will assist in getting more projects completed.

Board Member Bell stated that her concerns are similar to Board Member Moss. She concluded by stating that other funding options should be considered.

Board Member Rolle stated that as Chairman of the Transit Committee no report was given to the committee by FDOT regarding the Port Tunnel project being in danger. He requested clarity from FDOT staff on when notification was provided to them that the project was in danger. Mr. Pego responded that the decision concerning the Port Tunnel project was deliberated on Friday and it was decided then to cease the procurement process for the project.

Board Member Rolle stated that the participating stakeholders held up to their part of the agreement. He further stated that everyone involved believed this was a partnership. However, the decision to stop the project without consultation from the stakeholders does not appear to be a partnership. He concluded by stating that he fears FDOT is not looking at their decision concerning the Port Tunnel through the eyes of this community and therefore can not see its importance.

Board Member Sarnoff stated that much of the confusion would be sorted out if the contractors/equity holders are present at the next Board meeting. He further stated that the City of Miami was assured that the money for the project would be held in Trust once they acted. He further explained that the assurance stated that the money would never be used towards the I-4 corridor which is what the City of Miami was told would happen if they did not commit to the project by December 18, 2007. He then stated that the City of Miami took a letter of credit which caused the taxpayers \$175,000. He also argued that the Port Tunnel project needs to be constructed in the City of Miami as promised. He reminded the Board that when projects are completed it's a result of tax dollars that comes from jobs. He further argued that if the Port of

Miami loses its competitive-edge it would have detrimental consequences to the jobs and tax dollars collected in Miami-Dade County. He then stated that neighboring ports are investing billions to improve their operations while Miami-Dade County sits around and does nothing. He reminded the Board that the current lifestyle of Miami-Dade County is a result of the Port of Miami. He concluded by stating that it is time for government to step-up and start rebuilding the infrastructure at the Port of Miami.

Board Member Burns stated that the Board can not accept the option that the Port Tunnel is not a viable project. He then stated that this community has invested too many resources in this project to give it up without a fight. He expressed concern with the department's decision to hold a meeting deciding the future of the project without inviting the stakeholders. He then stated that it is the responsibility of the vendor to find replacement for the money. He further added that other funding options exist that could be considered before the project is shelved. He expressed that the community of Miami-Dade County has been hoodwinked and taken advantage of. He further stated that he believed the Governor and Secretary have been misleading the people of South Florida by not telling the truth as it relates to this project. He then stated that he fears that the funding for this project is already headed to the I-4 project. He further clarified by stating that whenever legislators start making plans on how to reallocate the funds to various projects it is not a good sign. He concluded by stating that he does not understand why FDOT would stop the Port Tunnel project during a time period that the new administration in Washington is currently looking for projects like the Port Tunnel to be part of its stimulus package.

Board Member Hantman expressed extreme disappointment with FDOT's decision to discontinue the Port Tunnel project. She stated that as a long time MPO Board member it sadden her to read the news in the paper. She then stated that the project would have provided much needed jobs to South Florida. She further stated that she sincerely hopes that the decision concerning the Port Tunnel is revisited. She also acknowledged FDOT for funding the Safe Route to Schools Infrastructure and Improvement projects through the year 2013. She then requested clarity on whether the program will be reauthorized in the next transportation bill. She further explained that this program is of extreme importance to the school district. She also stated that FDOT has funded improvement projects for over thirty schools located within the high risk area for pedestrian related accidents. She further stated that the School Board's goal is to incorporate a "Safe Route to School" program at every elementary and middle school within the district. Mr. Pego praised the partnership between FDOT, School Board and PWD in delivering a successful program. Mr. Donn added that FDOT at this point has not received any information to whether the program will be reauthorized or not. He then stated that the department believes it is an excellent program and hopes it continues to be funded.

Board Member Seijas stated that the county is not just a donor community but also a willing community that has been forgotten. She

stated that she voted against the Tunnel but since the majority of the Board members voted in favor of the project she is obligated to support it. She then stated that the funding for the Port Tunnel should remain in Miami-Dade County. She further stated that the process surrounding the decision on the Port Tunnel project was very sudden and leaves room for suspicion. She further stated that she wondered if this decision had anything to do with the Bullet Train project or the acquisition of the sugar lands in Florida. She reminded the Board that last year the county had issued a \$100 million bond on the Tunnel project. She further stated that she felt the decision by the state was a slap in the face to the community of Miami-Dade County. She concluded by requesting clarity on if the MPO voted to approve the Work program as provided in the agenda package does it include the Port Tunnel project. Attorney Sanchez responded that the Work Program provided in the agenda package does include the Port Tunnel project and the funding strategy.

Board Member Robaina stated that a commitment was made to this community and because of these commitments government can not say one thing and then do another. He further stated that this type of behavior results in lack of public confidence in government. He then stated that the issue is about competition with the I-4 project, the city of Jacksonville and which area becomes the hub that freight will utilize the most. He then stated that he hopes the decision concerning the Port Tunnel is reconsidered and the money remains here to address the issues of the port today. He further stated that the only way to fix the economy locally and throughout the state is to put jobs in the hands of the workers that would be building on these infrastructure projects. He then explained that these would be the people that go out and buy things and pay taxes resulting in additional tax revenues within the state and locally in the county. He concluded by requesting clarity on the project SR823 @ NW 57 Avenue located on page 13 section A of the Work Program. He further explained that this project will only succeed and has the intended impact to move traffic within the community if the entire project receives a financial commitment from the Department. He further argued that by completing one section of the project will not deliver the intended impact to the corridor. Mr. Pego stated that the department has been working hard to provide continuity with this project so that the construction on NW 57 Avenue can be finalized. Mrs. Alice Bravo, FDOT, added that the W 49<sup>th</sup> Street segment has been advanced in the Program and the department has added several components of the 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue project to the state's list of projects eligible to compete for federal funding as part of a stimulus package being considered by Congress. Mr. Pego added that the Department will continue to list the 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue project as a priority.

Vice Chairwoman Jordan expressed that the decision by the state concerning the Port Tunnel project demonstrated a level of great disrespect to the residents of Miami-Dade County. She further expressed concern that FDOT would hold a Friday meeting on such an important project to this community and not include any of its partners or extend a professional courteousness to the stakeholders notifying them that major issues developed with the project. She further explained

that the MPO Board should have been warned at its last meeting that issues regarding the financial plan exist with the project. She concluded by reading the following statement from a letter by the MAT team refuting the claim by the state concerning their financial stability:

“Notwithstanding the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, MAT is providing a debt solution within the affordability limit set by FDOT in March 2007 and has provided FDOT with evidence of MAT’s ability to do so.”

She further concluded by stating that she believes the MAT team should be present at the January MPO meeting to address concerns expressed by the Board.

Chairman Barreiro stated that he met with the company when he visited France during a Beacon Council trip. He then stated he believed this company to be financially sound. He further stated that the Tunnel project is relatively small compared to the projects within their portfolio. He concluded by stating the real issue is the commitment from the state on whether to do this project or not.

Mr. Pego stated that the decision regarding the Port Tunnel project was not an issue of funding or financing. He stated that the proposals by the concessionaires were prepared over two years ago and since that time the department has experienced a price hike with the commodities. He then stated that the best valued proposal was awarded in May 2007 with negotiations ongoing to get the project within the affordability range. He further stated that in July the Department became aware that the 90% equity partner in this venture was on shaky ground and therefore decided to ask tough questions like “show us the money that is going to back this project”. Mr. Pego stated that the deadlines would pass and no commitments would be provided. He then stated that staff became concerned with the future of the partnership and how it would survive thirty-five years if the equity partners could not achieve a commitment. He stated that once the company moved to substitute Babcock & Brown with Meridian Infrastructure (who FDOT had not yet vetted), the MPO Board and the Mayors of Miami-Dade County and City of Miami requested that the Department takes the time to provide a more detailed look to make sure the right decision regarding the project was being made. He then informed the Board that he was not sure what the next steps entailed. He explained that the funding for this project originated from the Strategic Intermodal System funds because the Port Tunnel was considered a number one priority for the state. He clarified by stating that the latest events do not mean the Port Tunnel is not still a priority for the state. He further clarified by stating that there are issues with the procurement process for the project and the Department is currently looking at them. He concluded by explaining that the reason the second bidder was not considered was because their dollar value was beyond the department’s affordability. He further concluded by stating that too much time has past and the second bidder was no longer an option.

Board Gimenez requested clarity on why the Port Tunnel was not placed on the state's financial stimulus package since it was considered a high priority for the state. He further stated that the Port Tunnel project proved to be a priority for the previous administration but not sure about the current administration. He concluded by requesting FDOT to provide the Board with a plan B that include the funding strategy on how to address the issues at the Port of Miami should the final decision concerning the future of the Port Tunnel project returns negative.

Board Member Diaz informed the Board that he recently visited the country of Panama on airport business as a representative of Miami-Dade County. He then stated on the trip he visited the Panama Canal and received a presentation on its projected future. He then stated that the presentation highlighted a project track from the Panama Port to a port in Panama City, Florida. He further stated that the presenter acknowledged in his presentation that the State of Florida was working closely with the Panama Canal officials to make this track a reality. He expressed concern that if the state places all of its resources on helping making this Port in Panama City the new cargo port then the jobs in Miami-Dade County would be lost. He concluded by requesting that FDOT provide a report on the Panama Canal to Panama City Ports project and how much the state is involved in this project.

Chairman Barreiro requested clarity on whether the commuter rail project along the I-4 corridor had been axed as well. Mr. Pego responded that the project was still moving forward.

Board Member Moss moved for approval of the resolution. Board Member Sarnoff seconded the motion.

Board Member Robaina requested clarity on what would happen to the Work Program should the funding for the Port Tunnel project is removed and what are the rights of the MPO during this process. Attorney Sanchez suggested the Board add the following language to the resolution to protect against expressed concerns:

That the MPO Governing Board endorses the FY 2009/10-2013/14 Florida Department of Transportation District VI and Florida Turnpike Enterprise Tentative Work Program ("Transportation Plan") contingent upon the continued inclusion in the Tentative Work Program of funding for the Port of Miami Tunnel as provided for on page 8 Section A of the Transportation Plan.

Board Member Moss accepted the amendment and the resolution passed with one dissent (Board Member Souto).

Board Member Souto stated that he voted against the endorsement of the Work Program because the issues concerning the pedestrian safety for the patrons of Tropical Park have not been addressed by FDOT. He further stated that he has never been a supporter of the Port Tunnel project. He then reminded the Board that he notified the Port of Miami officials back in October about the Panama to Panama project. He then

stated that the project already has a brochure circulating and officials for the project are planning a meeting in Panama during the 1<sup>st</sup> week of January 2009. He then concluded by stating that no one really knows who is behind this project but it is backed by a group called the Great Northwest which is a public/private partnership developed by the State of Florida including the northern counties. He further concluded by stating that the project includes a port with an international airport next door.

Mr. Pego requested that the MPO Board consider endorsing the distributed variance report and maps along with the Work Program. He stated that the report did not remove the Tunnel project. Mr. Donn added that the variance report demonstrates the changes between the Work Program document and last week when the department was forced to move projects around due to the additional budget cuts. (*Contact the MPO Board Clerk for a copy of the distributed documents*).

Mr. Mesa and Mr. Sanchez concurred that the variance report and maps did not address the Port Tunnel project.

Board Member Sarnoff moved to reconsider the previous motion and Board Member Rolle seconded the motion.

Board Member Diaz expressed that the variance report deferred the 25<sup>th</sup> Street Viaduct project and removed \$46 million of the funding for the project out of the program. He concluded by stating he could not support the variance report if the 25<sup>th</sup> Street Viaduct project would be negatively impacted. Mr. Pego responded that the department needed to take this action because of budget constraints.

Board Member Sarnoff withdrew the motion to reconsider.

Board Member Moss moved for the MPO Board to reaffirm its support of the Port Tunnel project and respectfully requested that the following individuals appear at the next MPO meeting to discuss the project's future:

- Florida Governor
- State Secretary of Transportation
- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Bidder on the Project

The motion was seconded by Board Member Sarnoff and passed with one dissent (Souto).

Board Member Bower expressed concern on whether the legislature could get involved in this issue.

Chairman Barreiro stated that the Board can invite the chairman of the Delegation and members of the substantive committees to the MPO January meeting as well.

Board Member Moss requested that a copy of this motion be circulated to the delegation.

Board Member Seijas stated that the cities represented on the MPO and also through the Dade League of Cities all have their own lobbyist. She further stated that the MPO members should make a commitment to consistently have their respective lobbyists list this issue as one of their priorities so the issue can be delivered to those that need to hear it.

Board Member Burns made a motion urging the Miami-Dade League of Cities and Miami-Dade Delegation to pass a resolution supporting the Port Tunnel project including the funding committed by the state in the endorsed Tentative Work Program. Board Member Bower seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Board Member Burns directed the MPO staff to contact the offices of the Governor and Secretary letting them know that an official letter will be forwarded to them requesting their attendance at the January MPO meeting to discuss the Port Tunnel project.

**5. INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT: 2009 MPO ANNUAL NEWSLETTER**

*RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) AND THE FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (FIU) METROPOLITAN CENTER FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE 2009 MPO ANNUAL NEWSLETTER*

Board Member Bell moved for approval of the resolution. Board Member Souto seconded the motion. The resolution passed unanimously.

**6. INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT: COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTIC PROGRAM**

*RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MIAMI-DADE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) AND FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (FIU) TO COMPLETE WORK ON THE MPO'S COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS PROJECT FOR FY 2009*

Board Member Bell moved for approval of the resolution. Board Member Moss seconded the motion. The resolution passed unanimously.

**7. MPOAC LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES FOR FY 08/09**

*RESOLUTION APPROVING \$500 TO BE PROVIDED TO THE STATEWIDE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MPOAC) FOR THEIR LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES*

Board Member Burns expressed that the requested amount of funds were not enough to address the legislative advocacy needs. Mr. Mesa responded by stating that the minimum amount requested for each MPO is optional and the Board could choose to send more.

Board Member Bell moved for approval of the resolution. Board Member Moss seconded the motion. The resolution passed unanimously.

**8. REQUEST BY MPO BOARD MEMBER DENNIS C. MOSS**  
*RESOLUTION DIRECTING STAFF TO PREPARE A SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR A STUDY TO EVALUATE ALTERNATIVES TO ALLEVIATE TRAFFIC IN THE DADELAND AREA*

Board Member Moss expressed concern with the amount of time it takes to travel from the Dadeland South to Dadeland North. He further stated that the purpose of this study would be to evaluate alternatives to alleviate the congestion in the area.

Board Member Sorenson expressed concern on whether this study would duplicate efforts from the Kendall charrette as it relates to the Dadeland area. Mr. Mesa responded that staff would include any additional work that has been done in the area as part of its scope for the study.

Board Member Moss moved for approval of the resolution. Board Member Souto seconded the motion. The resolution passed unanimously.

**5. REPORTS**

**A. MPO BOARD MEMBERS**

Board Member Souto requested that staff prepare a scope of work and budget to evaluate alternatives to improve pedestrian safety around major parks in Miami-Dade County.

**B. COUNTY MANAGER**

**C. COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**D. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DISTRICT VI)**

1. FDOT District VI ITS Annual Report (FY 2007/2008): "Embracing Change"

*No discussion under this item.*

**E. MPO SECRETARIAT**

1. MPOAC Weekend Institute

Board Member Hantman requested that this item return in January when a quorum is present to allow Board members interested an opportunity to discuss attending.

2. MPO Studies Completed in FY 2007-2008
3. MPO October Meeting Follow-up Report

**7. ADJOURNMENT** The meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM