



NEAT STREETS MIAMI/
FORMERLY THE COMMUNITY IMAGE ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING SUMMARY
September 30, 2015
DRAFT

NSM Members Present

William Anderson, Greater Miami
Convention & Visitors Bureau
Lina Blanco, City of Miami
David Cardenas, MDPROS
Dr. Claudius A. Carnegie, (CTAC)
Marcus L. Dixon, MDC, District 2
Juan Carlos Garrido, Designee,
MDC Commission, District 7
Patricia Harris, Private Citizen
Ramiro Inguanzo, MDC
Rick Johnson, MDX
Jack Kardys, MDPROS Director
Jennifer Korth, City of South Miami
Gianni Lodi, MDC Planning & Zoning
Penny Lambeth, Town of Miami Lakes
Robert McClellan, MDT
Commissioner Dennis C. Moss,
MDC District 9
Susan Schrieber, MPO
Phyllis Smith, Councilwoman, City of North
Miami Beach
Peter Trupia, Designee/
MDC Commission, District 3
Lynda Westin, South Florida
Regional Transportation Authority
Rick Vasquez, FPL, MDC Designee, District 5

Participants Present

Linda Bell, Civil Works
Ginny Gutierrez, GMCVB
Diana C. Perez, Miami-Dade County,
District 9
Kirk Hoosac, FDOT
Juan David Rey, NSM
Eric Reil, Downtown
Development Authority
Patrice Gillespie Smith, NSM
Bill Talbert, GMCVB
Adriana Manzanares, FDOT
Aida Curtis, FDOT
Alex Gorgas, FDOT
Charles Alfaro, FDOT
Martin Marquez, FDOT
Alejandro Uribe, FDOT
Linda Bell, FDOT
Juan Kuryla, Port Miami
Richard deVilliers, Port Miami

1. Welcome and Intro

- a. Chairman Moss welcomed everyone and had the members and guests introduce themselves.
- b. Mr. Anderson provided an update on the hospitality industry. Occupancy rate for the first 8 months of 2015 is 79.7%, down 0.2% from a year ago. Primary cause is the increase of about 3.6% more rooms than a year ago, meaning we actually sold 3.4% more rooms. Room rate \$200.99, up 6.7%, 4th highest in top 25 markets. REVPAR so far \$160.35, up 6.5%, 4th highest amongst top 25. In the month of August 7,900 jobs were added in the leisure and hospitality industry.

2. Action Items

a. Approval of July Minutes

Dr. Carnegie motioned to approve the minutes. They were seconded by Chairman Moss. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Reports

a. Upcoming Port Miami Improvements

Chairman Moss expressed support for Port Miami and the great leadership shown by Juan Kuryla. Director Kuryla expressed gratitude to his staff. He said the Port has had a terrific year in regards to completing projects on time and within budget. PortMiami has also experienced growth in both cruise and cargo traffic. However, the Panama Canal construction is having a bit of a delay in completion due to a leak in the wall. Once this issue is fixed, a definitive completion date will be known. We hope to have the canal open by April 2016.

Then Director Kuryla showed a recently released video about Port Miami (this can be see online)

He then offered the following highlights:

- PortMiami is self-funded
- Generated \$27 billion in economic impact to county in 2012
- 2014: 4.7 million passengers, estimated to finish 2015 with 4.95 million passengers--a world record
- 12th busiest container port in U.S.
- In 2012, created 200,000 jobs directly or indirectly
- Estimated to move 980,000 TEUs this year, hoping to move 1 million, will be first time since 2005
- On dock rail: Allows containers to be placed on train directly from ship and will be able to move 200,000 containers a year compared to 45,000 currently
- Cruise terminal A: New terminal for Royal Caribbean, P3 partnership
- Great labor relations
- PortMiami is ahead of the game thanks to its deep water port
- PortMiami boasts 15 cruise brands with 34 total ships
- Completed Projects: Tunnel, Rail, Dredge, Cranes
- Port customers contribute over \$70 million a year
-

At the conclusion of the presentation Chairman Moss urged Director Kuryla to make sure our facilities are spectacular. Aesthetics need to have a place in the process.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Dr. Carnegie asked if the trains have an impact on downtown traffic? Director Kuryla responded that Port held 32 outreach sessions with surrounding community to minimize impacts of trains. As we become more successful placing containers on trains we will have to use 3 trains in and 3 out every day. Each train crossing is about 2 to 2.5 minutes -- close to the wait of an average red light. Cargo trains are limited to 3000 feet, unlike the 10,000 feet trains leaving the Hialeah yard. We have been talking to design and midtown districts. The most trains leaving the Port will be 4 in and 4 out for a total of 8 going

through Biscayne Boulevard. Once All Aboard Florida begins there will be about 58-62 crossings a day, making the Port a small piece of that.

Mr. Talbert asked when can we expect the first Panamax vessel? Director Kuryla responded we have one today! Once Panama Canal is finished we should see a big bump from service coming from Asia through the Panama Canal in April or May 2016.

Councilwoman Smith asked if PortMiami tenants are encouraged to focus on the aesthetics of the side facing the causeway? Director Kuryla responded that indeed Port Miami has had a discussion with Royal regarding the view of Port from causeway. Their design and signage has to be pleasing to view from the causeway. Chairman Moss requested a presentation as that project advances. As people go across the Causeway and they see the new terminals that is a signature opportunity for Miami-Dade County. Councilwoman Smith added that for many visitors the Causeway is how you come to South Beach.

Ms. Gillespie Smith commented that Neat Streets Miami enjoys working with Elizabeth and Felix on your staff. We have discussed working with your Wayfinding consultant on one of our gateways-- 5th Street, from I-95 into your entrance. There are opportunities to beautify that area and also brand it for the Port. Director Kuryla responded that he would report back with the status of that contract. Chairman Moss requested a meeting with all of the partners to identify an interim solution to the I-395 problem while we are awaiting the construction of the Signature Bridge.

b. Flagler Street/SW 1st Reconstruction Project

Ms. Manzanares provided an overview of the upcoming reconstruction of Flagler and SW 1st Street. The project is a mix of operational and safety improvements to two major corridors. The limit is from 27th Avenue to NW 2nd Avenue. Total construction cost is estimated to be around \$28-30 million dollars. The focus of the project is to improve operations for all modes of transit, pedestrians and bicycles included. We are trying to accommodate a lot more parking and added bike lanes whenever possible. It is going to be delivered in four segments-- each will be about \$6-8 million. Construction will be done in phases to minimize impact to the residents and business owners. We will also have a public involvement person assigned to communicating with the public.

Ms. Aida provided an overview of the landscaping components. The Western portion of 1st street, will be reduced from 4 to 3 lanes with parking; sidewalks will be getting wider because of this change. Wider sidewalks allow us the opportunity to put in large trees, primarily Oaks, interspersed with flower trees. To overcome the issue of utility and tight urban conditions a new technology called Silva cells are being used. It gets placed underneath pavement, provides structural support for sidewalks, allows drainage for trees with space for roots to grow, and prevents tree roots from growing upward. On the Flagler corridor, FDOT will be add a bike lane, but maintaining 3 lanes with parking on both sides. Sidewalks are going to be 7 to 8 feet in width, which limits the space for trees. In this case we will be following the theme that currently exists, Sable palms, but closer together to increase the shaded area.

Questions

At the conclusion of the presentation, Chairman Moss asked are you creating a Complete Street

on SW 1st Street? Ms. Manzanares responded that FDOT will reduce the western half from 4 lanes to 3 lanes so that 3 lanes can be maintained throughout the whole project area.

Ms. Harris asked about the historic building implications. The consultant responded that no historic buildings will be impacted.

Dr. Carnegie asked about the outreach efforts to educate people about the Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plans, during construction. The consultant replied that the team is working to minimize construction impacts. We are trying to maintain traffic as much as possible. In certain areas we will have to reroute traffic. As for outreach, the team has had public workshops and reached out to residents and businesses to inform them of the construction. Additionally, during construction FDOT has a fulltime public involvement person (PIO) on site that will notify residents of any construction impacts. Dr. Carnegie asked about media outreach. The consultant replied that the PIO issues notices to media as well as to commissioners in the area. Throughout almost all phases at least 2 lanes will be open.

Mr. Johnson asked about education of property owners and retailers about the new trees. The consultant replied that the team conducted a photographic inventory of the street so trees would not block business entrances or signage.

Mr. Johnson asked about the maintenance of the trees. The consultant responded that trees, palms, and grass will be maintained by FDOT. Contractor will have to establish, maintain and warranty the landscaping for two years. FDOT now holds back 24% of the contractor's funds and pays out 1% for next two years if they perform, if they do not, they forfeit funds.

Mr. Johnson asked about the ground vegetation. The consultant replied that cutouts are larger than normal so grass will be the cover. At the completion of construction, the tree can be placed in tree cells that were constructed under the sidewalks.

Dr. Carnegie stated that the project is in a walkable neighborhood and asked about the crosswalks. The consultant responded that there will be one at every corner and several mid-block crossings. Dr. Carnegie cautioned that people still tend to speed through areas with flashing crosswalk signs. The consultant responded that the speed limit will be maintained as is, 35-40 mph. The lanes have also been reduced to 10 ft. to encourage slower speeds.

Ms. Gillespie Smith stated that The Health Foundation is investing a lot of money in Little Havana. This is an area that is one of the worst for pedestrian and bike accidents. Two things that could really help: more curb bulbs to assist older pedestrians crossing the street. The other piece is slowing people down. You can create a built environment encouraging motorists to slow down.

Mr. Garrido asked about coordination with the water and sewer construction project? The consultant responded that FDOT is coordinated with WASD so that construction can happen simultaneously.

Chairman Moss asked about the new tree cell technology. The consultant replied that this is a modular tree crate system that provides the structural support for the sidewalks and allows enough space for lots of soil to encourage healthy urban trees. The technology is significantly more expensive.

Chairman Moss indicated he may pursue legislation requiring this technology in roadway reconstruction projects because of the long-term savings on tree maintenance and replacements.

Dr. Carnegie asked if anything will be installed to heighten the visibility of the crosswalk? The consultant said that the crosswalks will have striping.

4. Closing Remarks

- Chairman Moss announced that due to time constraints we will forego the updates and also the retreat follow up. He offered the following highlights:
As a result of our advocacy, next year's County budget includes: increased mowing cycles on county roads; increased litter pickup; \$500,000 for street trees; \$50,000 for a tree grant matching program where we work with non-profits who are planting trees in the community and \$100,000 was allocated for the tree canopy study.
- Neat Streets Miami will pursue matching grant funds from the Knight Foundation to try to establish a \$150,000 tree match program so that we can continue to plant trees in the area.
- The WASD aesthetics ordinance has been well received with no feedback.
- He will introduce a resolution on Art in Public Places. The idea is to create a documentary that highlights the art in public spaces program.
- He is pursuing a resolution to consider creating a public arts lighting piece for the Venetian Causeway.
- Neat Streets Miami is helping the WHEELS people to design and install signage. (Ms. Gillespie Smith thanked Mr. Kardys for the funds).
- Chairman Moss touted The Mayors Complete Streets Initiative. Ms. Gillespie Smith said that several of Neat Streets members are serving on that initiative. Florida is worst state for pedestrian fatalities and Miami-Dade is the worst county. The Local Action Team for Safer People, Safer Streets understand the gravity of the situation and have already offered some amazing ideas.
- Chairman Moss said Neat Streets Miami is working with FDOT on some overgrown areas on expressway embankments. Can TARC help us come up with a plan to address the dark dreary, messy areas under our bridges? Ms. Schreiber responded that there was a CIAB presentation a couple years ago on that topic. We might be able to get that and ask other committee members for ideas Chairman Moss added that we would like to take a look at what other folks are doing in other communities, this is where residents and visitors travel every day.

Ms. Gillespie Smith announced the following upcoming events:

- 10/3 thanks to FPL, Million Trees Miami will plant pine seedlings in a pine rock land restoration at Camp Matecumbe.
- 10/10 UPS will sponsor a tree planting at the Amelia Earhart dog park
- 10/14 American Forest and Bank of America will sponsor the planting of 100 trees in Liberty City. Special thanks Latonda James for the outreach and Mr. C ardenas and his crew for helping with the placement of the trees. Furthermore, ISD is letting us plant in their vacant parcels.
- 10/4 Is the last day of Adopt-A Tree in A.D. Barnes Park.
- Special thank you to the City of Miami for Little Havana planting on August 1st, we had state representatives there; that was paid for through a grant from the Health Foundation

of South Florida and Partners for Places. Neat Streets Miami joined the Parks Department in applying for a Highway Beautification grant for A1A adjacent to Haulover Park. This is the last piece of unincorporated A1A.

- Between now and November 1, there is a Complete Streets competition for anyone who is doing bold Complete Streets improvements in your community you could win up to \$10,000 from the Miami Foundation.
- It is the ten year anniversary of 3-1-1; please remember to call 3-1-1 if you see anything problematic. She thanked Chairman Moss for launching this successful service.

Mr. Talbert commented that the funding Commissioner Moss just mentioned is the most robust funding Neat Streets Miami has had in a long time. That money only gets here because of one person, Chairman Moss. Chairman Moss expressed his gratitude.

Councilwoman Smith shared that later this month, North Miami Beach will host a ribbon cutting for the east side of Biscayne Boulevard on 826, which is going to be all re-landscaped.

TREEmendous shared that they will be working out of Virginia Key beach this Saturday, with a large group from the University of Miami, continuing its seven year restoration where the invasive trees are taken out.

Mr. Johnson shared that MDX will have their ground breaking event for SR 836. We are going to see a lot of trees going away from 836 but they are actually be relocated.

Mr. Talbert shared that what is currently an asphalt parking lot to the west of current Miami Beach Convention Center is going to be converted to a world class park for the community. Parking will be moved into the building.

Chairman Moss closed the meeting with a reminder to members, that we have impact and influence on a lot of things that get done in this community. Are we where we want to be? No, but we are heading in the right direction because of your belief. It is because you are involved that these things continue to happen. Good things will continue to happen!

The meeting was adjourned at 12 p.m.