



NEAT STREETS MIAMI  
MEETING SUMMARY  
May 25, 2016  
FINAL

**NSM Members Present**

William Anderson, GMCVB  
Lina Blanco, City of Miami  
Dr. Claudius Carnegie, CTAC  
Aneisha Daniel, DSWM  
Jeffrey Dawson, Miami Dade Aviation  
Tabitha Fazzino, MDC Public Schools  
Patricia Harris, Private Citizen  
Ramiro Inguanzo, Miami Dade College  
Rick Johnson, MDX  
Jack Kardys, MDPROS  
Gianni Lodi, MDC Planning & Zoning Department  
Maria Mitchell, Designee/MDC Commission,  
District 6  
Commissioner Dennis C. Moss, MDC Dist. 9  
Teresa Olczyk, UF /IFAS, MDC Cooperation  
Extension  
Alyce Robertson, Miami DDA  
Councilwoman Phyllis Smith, City of North  
Miami Beach  
Ricky Smith, Designee/MDC Commission, Dist. 1  
Peter Trupia, Designee/MDC Commission, Dist. 3  
Rick Vasquez, FPL, MDC Designee, Dist. 5  
Lynda Kompelien Westin, South Florida  
Regional Transportation Authority  
Mark Williams, City of Miami Beach

**Participants Present**

Diana Amaya, District 9  
Gloria Antia, City of Miami Parks  
Tessa Boudreaux, YMCA  
Marcus Dixon, SEIU  
Patrice Gillespie Smith, NSM  
Jose Gonzalez, City of Miami Beach  
Ginny Gutiérrez, GMCVB  
Benjamin Ibarra, DBI  
Jennifer Korth Llorente, NSM  
Eric Reil, Miami DDA  
Ken Stapleton, Stapleton & Associates  
Wanda Torres, NSM  
Britany Ziems, Citizens for A Better South  
Florida

**Welcome and Introduction**

Chairman Moss opened the meeting. He asked everyone to introduce themselves. He thanked the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau for hosting the Neat Streets Miami Board meeting.

Mr. Bill Anderson announced that we have secured Super Bowl 2020 and also noted that it will be the NFL's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Commissioner Moss congratulated GMCVB for all of its hard work. Mr. Anderson reported:

- Hotel Occupancy was 82.5%--#2 amongst the top 25 markets in the nation
- Room rates - \$235.24—the highest in the nation

- RevPar - \$194.13—the highest in the nation
- In the first four months, jobs are up 1.7%--122,000 jobs in accommodations and food service

## **II. Action Item – Approval of 04/27/16 Minutes**

Chairman Moss asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Carnegie motioned to approve the minutes and the Chair seconded the motion. Minutes were unanimously approved.

### **Action Item – Special Recognition of Neat Streets Miami Board Members**

Marcus Dixon, Jeffrey Dawson and Gloria Antia all received Certificates of Appreciation for their service on the Neat Streets Miami Board. All three members announced they will no longer be on the NSM Board and were thanked for their service.

## **III. Reports**

### **a. Miami Beach Innovation Transportation Strategies – Jose Gonzalez, PE**

Mr. Gonzalez presented the City of Miami Beach new transportation vision. A Copy of Mr. Gonzalez's presentation can be found on the Neat Streets Miami website.

Miami Beach recently updated its Transportation Master Plan to include:

- Transit
  - Trolley (North Beach, Collins Link, Middle Beach), Short-Term Beach Corridor Transit Connection
  - Miami Beach Light Rail/ Modern Streetcar (projected service by 2020). The City of Miami Beach is now working on an environmental study
  - Miami Beach has partnered with the County to replace the South Beach local service with a Trolley service.
  - Water Taxi (Bayfront and Miami Beach)
- Parking
  - Freight Loading Zone Program (Permit program with a fine structure) to minimize traffic with regulated parking spaces during the day but making them regular spaces after hours
  - New parking garages (Collins Avenue and Washington Avenue)
  - Centralized valet
- Traffic
  - Traffic Monitoring and Management (30 cameras throughout the City of Miami Beach for strategic interaction monitoring traffic congestion which will alert management
  - Modal hierarchy putting the pedestrian first

- Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) a state-of-the-art technology on a permanent basis to monitor traffic

Ms. Lina Blanco asked will there be trolley service to Mid Beach? Mr. Gonzalez responded Mid Beach will connect to North Beach and South Beach starting in September 2016. Ms. Blanco asked is there a better way to get to I-95? Mr. Gonzalez responded that the City is working on adding smart signals, which will improve the efficiency of the transportation system. Ms. Blanco expressed concerns about the traffic during Memorial Day weekend.

Ms. Maria Mitchell shared that she and her friends used to go restaurants and other events on Miami Beach. Now, due to traffic, this is no longer an option. Mr. Gonzalez responded that the City of Miami Beach is pursuing Light Rail. It can't be extended across the Causeway. Ms. Mitchell asked about creating remote parking areas and taking transit over to the Beach. Mr. Gonzalez responded the City of Miami Beach is in partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to build an intercept garage on the Miami side entering the Julia Tuttle Causeway. People will be able to park and take transit into the Beach.

Ms. Patty Harris mentioned she would like water taxis to be considered all over Miami. Mr. Gonzalez responded the concession isn't there yet. Ms. Harris asked for the name of the taxi company. Mr. Gonzalez responded, Water Taxi Miami.

**b. Biscayne Green – Eric Reil**

Ms. Alyce Robertson mentioned the Miami-Dade Downtown Authority has been developing plans to transform Biscayne Boulevard. Instead of having parking lots we should create usable space at the front door to Downtown Miami. The DDA applied for a Knight Foundation Grant for the Biscayne Green project. They were one of forty-five winners out of 4,500 applicants.

Mr. Eric Reil presented an overview of Biscayne Green. A copy of his presentation is on the Neat Streets Miami website.

Mr. Reil reported that the walkability ranking in Miami is 24, but future ranking will be 4 with all the initiatives that are going on with Miami-Dade County, the City of Miami and the City of Miami Beach

- Pedestrian Danger Index:
  - Miami is ranked #4

Mr. Reil said, the 2009 Downtown Master Plan created a vision of Miami's grand pedestrian promenade, including a green median with open spaces, well designed roadways, a greenway that will be a network of shaded trees. These improvements will calm automobile traffic, improved enhance bicycle and pedestrian safety.

Mr. Reil mentioned the Pedestrian Priority Zone has been approved by the County and City. However, DDA is experiencing some challenges with implementation. Biscayne Green supports a lot of these pedestrian issues. Biscayne Green is bound by Southeast 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to American Airlines Arena.

In line with the DDA's vision, they explored parking, sidewalks, and traffic study and storm water management.

Alternatives for Biscayne Boulevard parking were developed. The DDA Board selected alternatives that remove all the spaces in the median and provided some on-street parking.

The DDA's idea is to create an urban boulevard linear park for daytime population and visitors of all ages.

Mr. Reil mentioned lighting is a key component. With the advances of LED lighting, designs will have lots of flexibility.

Some ideas include outdoor seating, monumental landscaping, art installation, open air markets, passive and active recreation and alternatives addressing the removal of parking (below grade parking).

Mr. Reil mentioned that the DDA received support from the media; the State, Congresswoman Wilson, County Mayor, City Mayor and the City of Miami have sent letters of support. In 2015 the DDA applied for a FDOT grant to do a preliminary design. FDOT requested a lane reduction study. They were unable to secure the grant, but will be reapplying this year.

The DDA received a \$145,000 Knight Cities Challenge Grant to do a temporary park and Urban Forest Demonstration Project. This project will create three areas: Escape, Play and Entertainment.

Chairman Moss said he was happy to see this project move forward. We would love to see something happen on Biscayne Boulevard.

Mr. Rick Johnson asked who the DDA utilized for the vision of lighting. Mr. Reil responded they were internal. Mr. Johnson said this adds a very attractive element to Downtown.

Ms. Lynda Westin asked, when will this project start? Mr. Reil responded probably during the winter. However, there are some scheduling related challenges. There are many events going on in the winter. This will be an event for everyone--City and County.

### **Action Item**

Ms. Robertson asked to be put on June's agenda to discuss the advancement of Bay Walk

Ms. Robertson mentioned that the population has doubled in Downtown Miami and there are 10,000 more condos under construction.

Chairman Moss mentioned we have to focus on workforce housing and Millennial housing. We need to make them more attractive and affordable for the younger generation.

Councilwoman Phyllis Smith encouraged action in time for the Super Bowl.

Chairman Moss responded, “2020 is a great goal to complete this iconic project.” This is a good incentive to make things happen. Neat Streets Miami will play a role when Art Basel comes to town. We will see what needs to be improved.

Mr. Ramiro Inguanzo asked when the Flagler project will break ground. Mr. Reil responded Flagler Street broke ground in January. It's behind schedule about sixty days. It's about a 2 1/2 year contract. Because the road is approximately 100 years old, whenever they dig, they find old utilities.

Dr. Carnegie asked Ms. Robertson where does the City of Miami Parking stand with this and does the DDA have buy-in from the City. Ms. Robertson responded that initially they were opposed to the idea, but that they are warming up to it. The DDA is looking into other alternatives.

Chairman Moss said there are two issues; parking revenue and road diet. He mentioned he likes the City of Miami Beach's proposed idea about taking a lane and creating another opportunity for traffic flow. Ms. Robertson responded that road diets aren't complicated on Biscayne because there is a pinch point at the Arena where it narrows to six lanes anyways. She mentioned that the traffic on Biscayne Boulevard is always a Level of Service A (meaning there is little congestion).

Mr. Johnson asked if the DDA is integrating more of the waterfront in these types of projects-- even if it's temporary docks for Super Bowl. Ms. Robertson mentioned that the DDA has formed a Waterfront Dock Task Force. Mr. Jack Kardys asked if Spencer Crowley was working with them on this project. Ms. Robertson responded, that he was. Mr. Kardys responded that the County is discussing a waterfront access plan. Representative Jose Felix Diaz had secured \$300,000 in funding, but it was vetoed last year. Mr. Kardys said what the DDA has created is the Rose Kennedy Parkway in Boston. He said it works perfectly. Mr. Kardys commended the DDA on their vision.

### **c. Lighting up our streets – Ken Stapleton**

Ms. Gillespie Smith shared with everyone that she had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Stapleton present six month ago. She said his presentation was applicable to Commissioner Moss' vision of a city of lights.

*Due to copyrights concerns, Mr. Stapleton presentation cannot be shared online.*

Mr. Stapleton kicked off his presentation saying his company focuses on complete streets and mode shifts.

Why do you need to pay attention to what's happening after dark?

- lots of walks happen after dark
- people feel less safe
- commuter trips run after dark
- pedestrian deaths

The last and first mile is about much more than distance.

We have to think about when we want people to walk the distance. Our private cars are armored weapons. When we think about our personal safety, we feel protected in our cars.

Why don't we walk anymore?

- Do we feel safe enough?
- We're afraid of getting hit by a bus or car
- Afraid of kids getting bullied
- Homeless/Pan Handlers
- Afraid of getting shot

There's a question about --Traffic Safety vs. Personal Security when it comes to the Mode Shift choices and Place Avoidance Behavior.

The Sunlight Chart (for South Florida) shows a lot of our travel happens in the morning time when going to school or coming home from work in the dark.

Do we pay attention to accident prevention or personal safety? A report in West Palm Beach suggests we worry more about accident prevention than about personal safety. We need to be concerned about both. If we do not feel personal safety, then we're not going. The key concept is varying safety thresholds. Based on Mr. Stapleton's Safety Threshold chart, each individual has a different threshold. He said it's not about the environment being safe, but about if the individual feels safe. It's based on age and gender. The second concept is the Total Travel Path. You have to pay attention to your surroundings. If it's not safe, you get back in your car. What do we do about this?

PhotoMetric Analysis shows the lack of lighting in an area outside of the road (sidewalks, transit stations and bus stops). We need to think about who we want to walk there. Mr. Stapleton mentioned we have to get specific about the Complete Street Policy. We have to think of the safety threshold.

Mr. Stapleton asked members and participants, "How many of you require or provide an after dark rendering for construction projects?" You want to think about the places you're creating. He said, "If they're not thinking about it, they're not going to give you a good solution."

Mr. Stapleton mentioned perception leads to reality. Places become safer when people think they're safer.

Chairman Moss said this is why Neat Streets Miami Community Advisory Board was formed—to improve our landscaping and making streets safer. It provides a sense of safety. Chairman Moss agreed we don't focus on what happens after dark.

Ms. Robertson said with the additional maintenance, we have to figure out who owns the street lights. She mentioned the DDA asked the City of Miami to provide a Night-time Inspector for Downtown.

#### **IV. Update**

**a. Office of Neat Streets Miami – Patrice Gillespie Smith:**

- Thanked the GMCVB for providing prizes for the winners in the Clean Up and Green Up Poster/Video Contest
- Thanked the Street Tree Matching Grant Review Committee and Ms. Aneisha Daniel and Mr. Rick Johnson for giving more than two hours to review all the applications
- Thanked TD Bank, FPL, Citizens for A Better South Florida, the Optimist Club and Commissioner Moss' office for partnering together to make SW 168<sup>th</sup> Street Planting a success
- Announced tree planting with Bacardi at Amelia Earhart on June 10<sup>th</sup>
- Local Action Team will meet on June 20<sup>th</sup>
- Tree Trust Fund will be introduced into legislation June 7<sup>th</sup> and hopefully the Safer People, Safer Streets Plan as well
- Million Trees Miami will embark on a Strategic Planning exercise with a small group of leaders
- Miami Gardens will be installing ninety signs at their trolley stops to encourage people to live more actively
- Adopt-A-Road is accepting applications
- Maria Mitchell is retiring from Miami-Dade County – she will have a retirement lunch today
- Board members are invited to meet at the Vizcaya MetroRail Station's fountain for refreshments and punch to recognize Jeff Dawson's investment in the fountain area and tenure on the board
- Thanked DBI for the upgrade to LED lighting under I-395 and credited Commissioner Moss' leadership for securing resources in this area
- Announced the retreat will be July 27. More information will be sent out as soon the venue has been verified

Ms. Patti Harris shared a photo of the Miami Line on the MetroRail Bridge.

**b. Marketing and Education – Lina Blanco**

Chairman Moss thanked everyone who helped with the Clean Up and Green Up Poster/Video Contest.

- Announced, with over 2500 entries, 14 local student artists of the 2016 Clean Up and Green Up Poster Contest were recognized for their creative contributions on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Board of County Commissioners
- Neat Streets Miami was in the Herald in the beginning of the month

- Neat Streets Miami was in Miami Today this past week
- If you have a tree planting or any other beautification project, please send them our way
- Do you have something interesting you want Neat Streets Miami or Million Trees Miami to share? If so, we can help promote it.

**b. Street Tree Subcommittee – Rick Johnson:**

- Announced, SW 168<sup>th</sup> Street Tree Planting was a success with over 40 participants from Neat Streets Miami Commissioners Moss’ office (community outreach), TD Bank (grantor), FPL (advisor on “Right Tree, Right Place”), Citizens for a Better South Florida (community outreach and education), Optimist Club (local community organization) and IFAS/UF (education). The group planted 28 street trees under powerlines on the south side of SW 168<sup>th</sup> Street from the Busway to 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Street Tree Matching Grant – Neat Streets received an overwhelming amount of applications, totaling \$463,000 in grant funding requests. A selection committee ranked the top proposals, allowing Neat Streets Miami to fund a little over 20% of all requests.
- Ms. Jennifer Korth Llorente explained how the winners of the grant were selected, since it was such a competitive grant.

**c. Gateway/Corridor Subcommittee – Dr. Claudius Carnegie:**

- Announced NSM continues to beautify under I-395 and have improved lighting
- David Cardenas reported SW 3rd Street landscape will commence soon at the Metro Mover Station
- Mentioned Commissioner Moss shortly will be introducing the Safer People, Safer Streets Action Plan legislation.
- Announced the MPO has a new Executive Director, Aileen Bouclé. She will be a guest speaker at the next Board Meeting to introduce some of her new ideas and approaches for transportation. He announced the new Secretary of FDOT, District 6 is Jim Wolfe. He was previously Secretary of District 4. Dr. Carnegie requested his presence at a Board meeting. Ms. Gillespie Smith said she will follow up.

Chairman Moss thanked the School Board for helping with the Clean-Up and Green-Up Poster Contest.



### **Action Item**

Chairman Moss asked the School Board to provide a report of their capital bond build out and renovation plan, including possible construction, maintenance and landscaping.

Ms. Gillespie Smith announced Meg Daly included a flyer for an upcoming Underline event.

Ms. Harris announced Adopt-A-Tree 2016 will start in North Miami on June 26<sup>th</sup>, Kendall on August 27<sup>th</sup> and Doral on September 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Ramiro Inganzo announced Miami Dade College has entered into an agreement with the GSA on the David Dyer Courthouse.

Dr. Carnegie asked Ms. Robertson about education in Downtown. She responded we need more schools in Downtown and referenced a recent panel. The DDA facilitated about education needs for downtown residents.

### **V. Recap of Action Items 05/25/16 Meeting**

Due to time constraints, no Action Items were recapped.

### **VI. Closing Remarks**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:58am