

**WEST KENDALL CORRIDOR CHARRETTE  
MEETING SUMMARY**

*October 8, 2013 • 7:00 P.M.  
West Kendall Regional Library  
10201 Hammocks Boulevard*

**Community Members Present**

See meeting attendance attached

**Elected Officials / Public Agency Staff Present**

District 11: Commissioner Juan C. Zapata, Bernardo Escobar, Ingrid Gonzalez, Alvaro Muniz  
Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources – Development Services: Eric Silva,  
Shailendra Singh, Jess Linn, Josh Rak

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Eric Silva began the meeting with introductions and welcomed everyone to the first meeting for the West Kendall Corridor Charrette. Jess Linn then gave a presentation which included a discussion on the county's area planning process, planning in general in the county, previous charrette planning efforts, an overview of the study area, some possible goals for this charrette, and a tentative timeline for the process. Following the presentation, questions were taken from the community in attendance.

A comment was made that the timeline shown in the presentation seemed very fast. Mr. Linn responded that the planning process will be guided by the community and that if additional meetings or events are desired, those can be scheduled. Moraima Morales then asked a question regarding the meaning of the term 'charrette.' Mr. Linn answered that the charrette can be considered both the entire planning process or more specifically a public workshop event where the community is invited to draw and discuss their ideas and suggestions for the study area. Ms. Morales then asked if there is any possibility for better transit service in the area. Mr. Linn responded that current and future transit service will be considered throughout the process.

A question then was asked whether both public and private property will be addressed. Mr. Linn responded that the study area is analyzed as a whole including public and private property and that one of the purposes of planning is to develop a framework so that future development reflects the desires of the community. A question was then asked if there is any possibility of an extension of the Metrorail along Kendall Drive; Mr. Linn responded that additional transportation service including Metrorail has been studied in the past by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), however it has remained only as a potential option for further implementation. Bernardo Escobar, Chief of Staff for Commission District 12 then

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suggested that each speaker stand up and identify themselves. Lilian Rivera then asked for a clarification of the boundaries of the study area. Mr. Linn described study area boundaries as one-half mile north and south of Kendall Drive from Southwest 137th to 177th Avenues; if there is a specific issue that that requires analysis beyond this area that could be included as well.

Shannen Davis then made a comment that future meetings should be conveniently scheduled in order to encourage a high level of participation. Martha Backer then commented that she has been hoping for a charrette in the area for ten years and that she was pleased to see the number of people in attendance at tonight's meeting. Ms. Backer continued by stating that she had participated in the East Kendall Charrette which she felt was very successful and the discussions and ideas developed during the charrette were very positive. Gary Held then asked what needs to occur for the charrette workshop event to take place; Mr. Linn responded that once the goals for the planning process become more clearly defined through the questions and comments expressed at the initial meetings the process may move forward to the charrette event. Mr. Held then asked about the scheduling for future meetings and events shown in the timeline. Mr. Linn answered that meetings will typically take place monthly. Ms. Morales then asked how the Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC) for West Kendall relates to the charrette. Mr. Linn responded that the MAC is an independent process and the area will likely be analyzed as a unincorporated area. A question was then asked regarding the notification of charrette events. Mr. Linn responded that the meetings will be advertised in the Miami Herald and notices will be mailed and e-mailed.

Commissioner Juan C. Zapata arrived and welcomed everyone to the first meeting. Mr. Zapata described some of the reasons he requested that a charrette be conducted for the West Kendall area and the importance of the community's input in the planning process; he emphasized the importance of Kendall Drive and its potential to transform into a destination for the region. Mr. Zapata then responded to a question regarding his level of participation in the planning process; he responded by stating that the charrette is intended to be a citizen-driven process and that the vision established should be the community's. Mr. Zapata continued by stating that he will share his thoughts regarding the planning outcomes, particularly regarding future development and the need to avoid more 'cookie-cutter' residential or commercial projects. A question was asked of Mr. Zapata regarding his priorities for the charrette; he responded that one priority is the area along Kendall Drive in the Urban Expansion Area which may provide an opportunity for future employment opportunities and offset the imbalance in rush-hour traffic flow; an additional priority is the extension of the 836 expressway to the Kendall Area to relieve east-west traffic demand on existing roads. Mr. Zapata then suggested that a government center and other uses should be developed to create additional employment opportunities in West Kendall and that an economic development plan should be developed for the area; he further stated that FIU, Tamiami Airport, and West Kendall Baptist Hospital are three major assets in the area that can be catalysts for further development.

A question was then raised regarding the Expressway Authority and the addition of new tolls; an extended discussion occurred concerning express lanes, the Florida Turnpike, the MPO, and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Ms. Morales then asked a question

regarding the Kendall Town Center; Mr. Zapata responded that the ‘town center’ should be an iconic destination for the Kendall area. Mr. Zapata then thanked everyone for their questions and participation. Mr. Linn then asked everyone that in order to be notified of future meetings to provide their contact information on the attendance record forms.

The meeting was adjourned.

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*Next Meeting:  
November 12, 2013 • 7:00 P.M.  
West Kendall Regional Library  
10201 Hammocks Boulevard*

## OCTOBER 8, 2013 MEETING ATTENDANCE

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Albert Firebaugh  
Alfredo Camacho  
Alvaro Lucia  
Andrew Frey  
Antonio Puello  
Antonio Roveo  
Bianca Caviglia  
Bill Galga  
C.S. Rionda  
Camila Puello  
Carlos Manrique  
Carolina Blanco  
Carolyn Eskau  
Christian Perez  
Dario Restrepo  
David Brown  
Don Stiller  
Enrique Lucio  
Francisco Pines

Frank Irizarry  
Frank Cabrera  
Gary Held  
Gloria Velazquez  
Greg Fitchett  
Harry Hoffman  
Ileana Vazquez  
Irma Yaffar  
Jay Reichbaum  
Jeffrey Bercow  
Jose Rodriguez  
Joseph Goldstein  
Libby Perez  
Lilian Rivera  
Linda Cornejo  
Linda Hoffman  
Lucy Gonzalez  
Margery Phipps  
Maria Linares

Maria Luisa Castellanos  
Martha Backer  
Michael Jones  
Michael Gisbert  
Moraima Lugo Morales  
Ory Dawes  
Ray Perez  
Robert Shapiro  
Roberto Paredes  
Rocio Yaffar  
Rosa Llaguna  
Roy Bustillo  
Ruben Morales  
S. Donna Palmer  
Shannen Davis  
Tom Eskau  
Tracy Slavens  
William Delgado