

GOOD AFTERNOON, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I'D LIKE TO BEGIN BY THANKING THE MEMBERS OF THE M.P.O. FOR ALLOWING ME THE TIME TO SPEAK ON THE ISSUE CURRENTLY BEFORE YOU - I PROMISE TO BE BRIEF.

AS YOU KNOW BETTER THAN MOST, THE IDEA OF CREATING A MASS TRANSIT CONNECTION BETWEEN OUR GROWING URBAN CORE AND MIAMI BEACH HAS BEEN AROUND FOR SOME TIME NOW.

AND ALTHOUGH THE STARS DIDN'T ALIGN THE LAST TIME THAT THIS ISSUE WAS SERIOUSLY LOOKED AT, THE TIME IS NOW RIGHT TO PURSUE THIS VITAL MOBILITY SOLUTION.

AS I STATED DURING MY STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS IN EARLY 2013 - AND AS I STATED AT THE TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT THAT WAS HELD IN THE SUMMER -

THE TIME HAS COME TO LINK OUR NEIGHBORS IN MIAMI BEACH WITH OUR FAST-GROWING URBAN CORE.

MOVING THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN A PRIORITY FOR ME SINCE I TOOK OFFICE OVER TWO YEARS AGO, AND I KNOW THAT IT'S A PRIORITY FOR YOU, TOO.

THE CONDITIONS ARE CERTAINLY RIGHT:

- THE PACE OF DEVELOPMENT AND POPULATION GROWTH ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BAY HAS ONLY PICKED UP SPEED SINCE 2004, WITH MORE PEOPLE NOW LIVING IN DOWNTOWN MIAMI THAN EVER BEFORE
- AND WITH OUR AIRPORT NOW DIRECTLY LINKED TO DOWNTOWN VIA THE METRORAIL, WE HAVE EVEN MORE REASON TO MAKE THIS CONNECTION ACROSS BISCAYNE BAY

SO CLEARLY, IT'S TIME TO GET THE BALL ROLLING ON THIS!

AND I'M EXCITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCESS AS *THE BEACH CORRIDOR TRANSIT CONNECTION STUDY* WILL GET US MOVING TOWARDS OUR SHARED GOAL

THIS STUDY WILL GIVE ALL OF US A CLEAR ROADMAP FOR EXECUTING A SIGNATURE PROJECT THAT WILL BENEFIT OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY WELL INTO THE FUTURE.

BEFORE I WRAP UP, I'D LIKE TO THANK ALL OF THE PARTNERS WHO HAVE COMMITTED FUNDING FOR THIS AND WHO ARE ENGAGED IN THIS IMPORTANT STUDY:

- THE MIAMI-DADE M.P.O.
- MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT
- THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
- THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
- THE CITY OF MIAMI
- AND THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH

THANK YOU ALL AND KNOW THAT YOU CAN COUNT ON ME AND MY ADMINISTRATION TO MOVE THIS EFFORT FORWARD.

THANK YOU!

