

SECRETARY PRASAD, THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTRODUCTION AND FOR YOUR WORK AT FDOT.

GOVERNOR SCOTT...

WE APPRECIATE YOUR LEADERSHIP IN MAKING THE INVESTMENTS THAT ARE KEEPING OUR STATE COMPETITIVE AND MOVING FORWARD.

SECRETARY FOX, MEMBERS OF OUR FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATIONS, MAYOR REGALADO, FELLOW ELECTED OFFICIALS...

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US ON THIS VERY SPECIAL DAY.

DEAR FRIENDS...

TODAY MARKS THE CULMINATION OF AN EFFORT THAT HAS TAKEN MANY YEARS, AND MANY PARTNERS TO COMPLETE.

THIS IS AN IDEA THAT BEGAN IN THE 1980S, AND IT BECOMES A REALITY TODAY.

THROUGH THE TENACITY AND HARD WORK OF ALL INVOLVED, OUR PORT TUNNEL IS FINALLY OPEN FOR BUSINESS.

THE PORT TUNNEL IS AN EXAMPLE OF STRATEGIC THINKING, AN INVESTMENT THAT ENHANCES OUR URBAN CORE, AND BOOSTS OUR COMPETITIVE BOTTOM LINE.

PORT MIAMI IS ONE OF OUR COMMUNITY'S MOST IMPORTANT ECONOMIC ENGINES...

CONTRIBUTING OVER \$27 BILLION ANNUALLY TO THE ECONOMY, AND SUPPORTS OVER 200,000 JOBS.

WE THEREFORE OWE IT TO ALL OUR RESIDENTS TO MAKE SURE THAT PORT MIAMI REMAINS COMPETITIVE AND AHEAD OF THE CURVE.

TODAY, WE TAKE A VERY IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD THAT.

TOGETHER WITH THE DEEP DREDGE AND MANY OTHER IMPROVEMENTS, PORT MIAMI IS BIG SHIP READY AND WELL POSITIONED TO COMPETE IN THE POST PANAMAX ERA.

I ALSO WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT THIS TUNNEL IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE TYPES OF PUBLIC PRIVATE

PARTNERSHIPS WE WANT TO HAVE MORE OF THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY.

AND IT SERVES AS A NATIONAL MODEL ON HOW FUTURE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS CAN BE BUILT.

THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR JOINED TOGETHER TO FINANCE, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT THIS TUNNEL.

AND, MIGHT I ADD ON TIME - ON BUDGET - AND WITHOUT TOLLS!

ON BEHALF OF THE RESIDENTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, LET ME GIVE A BIG "THANK YOU" TO ALL WHO MADE THIS DAY POSSIBLE...

TO ALL THE PEOPLE AT MIAMI ACCESS TUNNEL CONCESSIONAIRE.

TO THE DESIGNERS, ALL THE ENGINEERS, THE FINANCIERS, AND THE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS.

TO THE FOLKS AT FDOT, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, CITY OF MIAMI.

WE ALL MADE A GREAT TEAM!

AND LET ME ESPECIALLY RECOGNIZE MY
PREDECESSOR, MAYOR CARLOS ALVAREZ...

WHO DID NOT QUIT WHEN THE GOING GOT TOUGH,
AND WHO REFUSED TO LET THIS PROJECT DIE.

FINALLY, A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO THE OVER
6,700 LABORERS, MECHANICS AND CRAFT
WORKERS WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT.

YOU ALL DESERVE A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

NOW IT'S MY PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE THE
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF MIAMI, TOMAS REGALADO.

