

VINCE, THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTRODUCTION...

MAYOR REGALADO, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS...

I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR BEING HERE THIS MORNING FOR THE UNVEILING OF ALL ABOARD FLORIDA'S DOWNTOWN MIAMI STATION.

AS WE LOOK AROUND DOWNTOWN MIAMI TODAY, WE CAN'T HELP BUT SEE THE TREMENDOUS GROWTH THAT HAS TAKEN PLACE IN THE LAST 10 YEARS.

IN THE YEAR 2000, THE POPULATION OF GREATER DOWNTOWN MIAMI WAS LESS THAN 40,000.

TODAY, DOWNTOWN MIAMI HAS OVER 74,000 RESIDENTS, AND GROWING.

IN FACT, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S POPULATION IS ALSO GROWING...

AND I CAN TELL YOU, IT'S ONLY A START OF WHAT'S TO COME.

IN ORDER TO SUPPORT THIS GROWTH IN A WAY THAT IS SUSTAINABLE...

WE NEED EFFECTIVE MOBILITY SOLUTIONS THAT WILL PROVIDE GREATER CONNECTIVITY THROUGHOUT OUR COMMUNITY, AND BEYOND.

WE ALSO NEED TRANSIT OPTIONS THAT WILL GET PEOPLE OUT OF THEIR CARS, AND OUT OF TRAFFIC.

IN ORDER TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN, WE CANNOT WAIT ON THE FEDERAL OR STATE GOVERNMENT TO HELP US...

WE NEED TO BE SELF-SUFFICIENT IF WE ARE TO HAVE THE RANGE OF MOBILITY OPTIONS THAT OUR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS EXPECT AND DESERVE.

AND, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE PRIVATE SECTOR BE INVOLVED.

THIS IS WHERE ALL ABOARD FLORIDA FITS RIGHT IN.

ALL ABOARD WILL CONNECT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TO ORLANDO...

BRINGING TOGETHER FLORIDA'S TWO MOST IMPORTANT CENTERS FOR COMMERCE AND ENTERTAINMENT.

ALL ABOARD ALSO INCREASES OUR CONNECTIVITY TO FORT LAUDERDALE, AND WEST PALM BEACH.

THIS WILL CREATE A TRANSIT CORRIDOR THAT ALLOWS US TO HARNESS THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF A REGION THAT EXTENDS FROM SOUTH TO CENTRAL FLORIDA.

IN COMBINING THESE TWO REGIONS, WE BRING NEARLY 9 MILLION PEOPLE CLOSER TOGETHER, AND SERVE THE OTHER MILLIONS WHO VISIT SOUTH AND CENTRAL FLORIDA EACH YEAR.

IN A FEW MINUTES, WE WILL LOOK AT THE RENDERINGS OF THE STATION PLANNED FOR DOWNTOWN MIAMI...

AND WE WILL SEE HOW ALL ABOARD WILL FURTHER ENHANCE OUR URBAN CORE, AND SPUR FURTHER TRANSIT BASED DEVELOPMENT AROUND THE STATION.

ADDITIONALLY, ACCORDING TO A RECENT STUDY...

THE SYSTEM WILL CREATE THOUSANDS OF CONSTRUCTION JOBS AND CONTRIBUTE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN ECONOMIC IMPACT.

FINALLY, ALL ABOARD FLORIDA WILL BECOME PART OF THE TRANSPORTATION BACKBONE FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY...

JOINING OUR EXISTING METRORAIL AND METROMOVER SYSTEMS, AND FUTURE SYSTEMS LIKE BAY LINK.

THESE TRANSIT OPTIONS WILL ALL WORK TOWARD A FUTURE WHERE SOMEONE CAN GET FROM MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT OR PORT MIAMI TO DOWNTOWN MIAMI AND SOUTH BEACH...

AND THEN GO ON TO DOWNTOWN FORT LAUDERDALE, WEST PALM BEACH, AND ALL THE WAY TO ORLANDO, ALL WITHOUT NEEDING A CAR.

LET ME CONGRATULATE ALL ABOARD FLORIDA FOR THIS ANNOUNCEMENT...

AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THEM TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY AND OUR STATE MOVING FORWARD.

THANK YOU!