

GOOD MORNING EVERYONE!

THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE!

I WANT TO WELCOME AND THANK THE CONSUL GENERAL OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS, MRS. NATHALIE OLIJSLAGER (OH-LEE-SLAH-HER); AS WELL AS MR. ERIK TETTEROO (TAY-TOH-ROH) AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DUTCH CYCLING EMBASSY WHO ARE HERE TODAY.

I ALSO WANT TO THANK:

-MAYOR JIM CASON FROM THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES AND;

-MAYOR PHILIP STODDARD FROM THE CITY OF SOUTH MIAMI WHO JOIN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IN ITS VISION TO INCREASE CONNECTIVITY ACROSS OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH THE USE OF ALTERNATIVE MODES OF TRANSPORTATION.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

AS MAYOR OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND AS AN AVID CYCLIST, I BELIEVE CYCLING IS VERY IMPORTANT TO BUILD A HEALTHIER, MORE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BECAUSE IT PROMOTES HEALTHY LIVING WHILE HELPING TO PRESERVE OUR ENVIRONMENT.

THE PARKS, BIKE TRAILS, EVENTS, AND ATTRACTIONS THAT OUR COMMUNITY HAS TO OFFER ARE ALSO THE CATALYST FOR LIVING A HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE.

I UNDERTOOK THE INITIATIVE *BIKE305* TO ADDRESS THE NEED TO CREATE SAFE STREETS, TRAILS AND CONNECTORS FOR THE CYCLING POPULATION AND IT HAS NOW BECOME A MOVEMENT TO GET OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY HEALTHY AND STRENGTHEN NEIGHBORHOODS THROUGH CYCLING.

I AM PROUD TO SAY THAT WE CONTINUE TO WORK HARD TO BRING RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER THROUGH THE USE OF BIKE TRAILS.

OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PARKS DEPARTMENT, PUBLIC WORKS, AND THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION,

-WE HAVE COMPLETED BIKE PATHS AND TRAILWAYS ALONG OLD CUTLER ROAD SOUTH BOUND,

-THE FIRST PHASE OF THE SNAKE CREEK TRAIL IN THE NORTH END OF THE COUNTY,

-AS WELL AS THE FIRST SEGMENT OF THE BLACK CREEK TRAIL IN THE SOUTH END OF THE COUNTY,

-AND WE HAVE IMPROVED THE ROADWAYS AND BIKE TRAILS ALONG THE RICKENBACKER CAUSEWAY INTO KEY BISCAYNE, AMONG SEVERAL OTHER PROJECTS, AS PART OF THE PARKS' OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN.

IMPROVING CONNECTIVITY IS A PRIORITY FOR ME, AND OUR *PARKS AND GREENWAYS MASTER PLAN* IS HELPING TO ENCOURAGE THE MOVEMENT TOWARDS NEW MOBILITY ALTERNATIVES, AS WELL AS EXERCISE AND FITNESS.

ITS VISION INCLUDES FIVE HUNDRED MILES OF TRAILS THAT WILL IMPROVE THE WALKABILITY AND LIVE-ABILITY OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

THAT MAKES FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY, AND IT'S RIGHT IN LINE WITH THE COUNTY'S "HEALTHY COMMUNITIES" AND "SMART LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION" GOALS.

ONE OF OUR MOST IMPORTANT UNDERTAKINGS, WITH THE COLLABORATION OF OTHER MUNICIPALITIES AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS, WILL BE *THE UNDERLINE*:

-THE 10-MILE M-PATH BENEATH THE METRORAIL FROM THE MIAMI RIVER TO DADELAND SOUTH THAT WILL HELP CONNECT HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF MIAMI-DADE RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.

DURING THE WORKSHOP "*THINKBIKE 2015*" DUTCH AND AMERICAN EXPERTS WILL DESIGN A BLUEPRINT FOR ENHANCING BIKING AND WALKING OPTIONS TO IMPROVE MOBILITY, TRANSPORTATION, AND SUSTAINABILITY IN OUR REGION.

THEY WILL BE ALSO DISCUSSING CHALLENGES REGARDING NETWORK CONNECTIONS, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND DEVELOP BEST PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE AREA.

ONCE AGAIN, I WANT TO THANK THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS AND THE OFFICE OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL FOR SHARING THEIR INSIGHTS AND HELPING US CREATE A MORE DYNAMIC AND HEALTHY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS:

-MIAMI-DADE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION;

-FRIENDS OF THE UNDERLINE,

-THE DUTCH CYCLING EMBASSY,

-THE PARKS FOUNDATION OF MIAMI-DADE,

-CITIBANK,

-AND THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MUNICIPAL PARTNERS IN *THE UNDERLINE* FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION IN THE BIKE 305 PROJECT!

THANK YOU AND MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY!