

GOOD MORNING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

WELCOME TO THE 2015 CITIZENS INDEPENDENT TRANSPORTATION TRUST SUMMIT!

I WANT TO THANK THE CITIZENS' INDEPENDENT TRANSPORTATION TRUST, MIAMI-DADE COLLEGE, THE MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT DEPARTMENT, THE GREATER MIAMI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES, OUR COUNTY STAFF AND EVERYONE WHO HAS WORKED DILIGENTLY IN PREPARING TODAY'S SUMMIT.

I ALSO WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME COUNTY COMMISSIONER DENNIS MOSS, CITY CHAIRMAN PAUL SCHWIEP, AND DENVER'S REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO, MR. PHILLIP WASHINGTON WHO IS ALSO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION.

THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE TODAY AND FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE NOT FROM HERE, WELCOME TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY!

I FIRST RAN FOR MAYOR OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY NEARLY FOUR YEARS AGO BECAUSE I HAD A VISION OF WHAT OUR COMMUNITY COULD BE. I

WANTED TO LEAVE MY THREE CHILDREN AND FIVE GRANDCHILDREN WITH A BETTER MIAMI-DADE COUNTY - A WORLD CLASS COMMUNITY THAT WE CAN ALL BE PROUD OF.

ALTHOUGH WE STILL HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE ARE WELL ON OUR WAY. I TRULY BELIEVE THAT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IS REPRESENTATIVE OF WHAT OTHER MAJOR METROPOLITAN AREAS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES WILL LOOK AND FEEL LIKE OVER THE NEXT DECADE.

A BIG PART OF OUR WORK TO CONTINUE THIS TRANSFORMATION IS THE IMPROVING AND EXPANDING OF OUR PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM, AS WELL AS OFFERING MORE AND BETTER MOBILITY OPTIONS.

IN FACT, OUR PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ESTIMATES THAT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HAS \$1.2 BILLION OF CURRENTLY UNFUNDED NEEDS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE. \$1.2 BILLION! - THIS IN ADDITION TO A TRANSIT SYSTEM THAT REQUIRES BOTH REHABILITATION AND EXPANSION.

SO WHILE WE ARE ALL HERE TO INTERACT AND GENERATE IDEAS TO ADDRESS OUR CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS, IN ADDITION TO GREAT IDEAS

FRANKLY, WHAT WE REALLY NEED IS ADDITIONAL FUNDING.

WITHOUT THAT, OUR VISION WILL NEVER BECOME REALITY.

OUR STATE PARTNERS HAVE BEEN HELPFUL, BUT AS FLORIDA'S LARGEST AND MOST POPULOUS COUNTY, WE COULD USE ADDITIONAL SUPPORTERS AND THEIR WALLETS.

FINANCING IS ANOTHER ISSUE THAT WE MUST ADDRESS. PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS NEED TO BE AN INCREASING PART OF WHAT WE EXAMINE. A GOOD EXAMPLE OF A P3 IS THE PORTMIAMI TUNNEL WHICH WAS OPENED ON TIME AND WITHIN BUDGET.

THIS PROJECT WAS SO SUCCESSFUL, THAT I WAS INVITED BY THE WASHINGTON POST TO SPEAK ABOUT IT IN FRONT OF A LIVE AUDIENCE IN THE FALL OF LAST YEAR.

IN OTHER WORDS OUR WORK HERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL. WE SHOULD ALL BE PROUD OF THAT!

OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS, WE'VE SEEN TREMENDOUS GROWTH THROUGHOUT OUR COUNTY, BUT IN PARTICULAR, IN OUR URBAN AREAS.

THE LANDSCAPE OF OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY WHETHER YOU LOOK AT DOWNTOWN MIAMI OR BRICKELL, KENDALL OR DORAL, HOMESTEAD OR HIALEAH, IS MUCH DIFFERENT THAN IT WAS AS LITTLE AS 10 YEARS AGO.

TRANSFORMATIONAL PROJECTS, SUCH AS BRICKELL CITY CENTRE, CONTINUE TO RESHAPE OUR COMMUNITY, BRINGING IN MORE BUSINESSES, RESIDENCES, AND SUBSEQUENTLY, AS WE ALL AWARE, MORE TRAFFIC - WHICH RESULTS IN A GREATER NEED FOR MORE TRANSPORTATION.

WE ARE HERE TODAY TO ENVISION WHERE WE WANT TRANSIT AND MOBILITY IN OUR COMMUNITY TO BE TEN, OR EVEN TWENTY YEARS FROM NOW.

AS WE WORK THROUGH THIS SUMMIT, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE IDENTIFY SOLUTIONS THAT WILL NOT ONLY SUPPORT THIS CONTINUING GROWTH, BUT IDENTIFY WAYS TO MAINTAIN IT.

AMONG THE AREAS WHERE WE EXPECT THE BIGGEST GROWTH IN THE NEXT TEN YEARS ARE THE CITIES OF MIAMI AND MIAMI BEACH, AS WELL AS OUR LARGEST "CITY" - THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF THE COUNTY - HOME TO APPROXIMATELY 1.1 MILLION OF OUR RESIDENTS.

THOSE AREAS ALSO NEED CRITICAL ATTENTION BECAUSE OUR RESIDENTS ARE INCREASINGLY SITTING IN A GRID-LOCK DUE TO HEAVILY CONGESTED ROADWAYS DURING RUSH HOURS.

I CURRENTLY CHAIR THE BEACH CORRIDOR TRANSIT CONNECTION COMMITTEE, WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF CITY OF MIAMI MAYOR TOMAS REGALADO AND CITY OF MIAMI BEACH MAYOR PHILIP LEVINE, AS WELL AS SOME OF OUR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. THE COMMITTEE AIMS TO DEVELOP A LIGHT-RAIL CONNECTION BETWEEN DOWNTOWN MIAMI AND MIAMI BEACH FORMERLY KNOWN AS BAY LINK.

TO DATE, WE HAVE SHARED THE COST OF THE PLAN ALONG WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - A GOOD START TO AN ON-GOING PARTNERSHIP.

THERE IS A LOT OF WORK THAT STILL NEEDS TO BE DONE BEFORE WE CAN EVEN BREAK GROUND ON THIS PROJECT. ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING STUDIES MUST BE COMPLETED.

ADDITIONALLY, WE NEED TO IDENTIFY MECHANISMS TO FUND THIS INITIATIVE WHICH IS ALWAYS A CHALLENGE.

HOWEVER, WHAT WE CANNOT DO IS STAND STILL.

OUR COMMUNITY - ALL 1,965 SQUARE MILES OF IT - CONTINUES TO EXPERIENCE GROWTH. MORE PEOPLE ARE MOVING INTO OUR COUNTY. WHILE WE WELCOME THEM ALL AND HOPE THEY BUILD LIVES, START BUSINESSES AND RAISE FAMILIES HERE, OUR GOVERNMENT HAS TO IDENTIFY WAYS TO IMPROVE OUR EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE AND INTRODUCE NEW MOBILITY OPTIONS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR GROWING COMMUNITY.

I AM SURE WE WILL GAIN PLENTY OF VALUABLE KNOWLEDGE FROM THE DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS MAKING INSIGHTFUL PRESENTATIONS TODAY.

WE ALSO WANT TO HEAR YOUR IDEAS, AND WE WANT TO GAIN PERSPECTIVE FROM YOUR EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE.

WE HAVE ALREADY TAKEN BIG STEPS IN PROVIDING BETTER CONNECTIONS AND MORE RELIABLE SERVICE FOR OUR TRANSIT RIDERS.

JUST THIS YEAR, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY UPGRADED OUR METRORAIL CENTRAL CONTROL SYSTEM, IMPROVING RAIL COMMUNICATION AND TRAIN CONTROL FEATURES.

AND WE ARE USING, AND FURTHER DEVELOPING, THE LATEST AVAILABLE TRANSIT TECHNOLOGY, SUCH AS *NEXTBUS*, TO PROVIDE OUR RIDERS WITH REAL-TIME ARRIVAL INFORMATION TO BETTER PLAN THEIR TRIPS AND HAVE A BETTER TRANSIT EXPERIENCE.

WE ARE ALSO MOVING FORWARD IN EVALUATING PROPOSALS ON BUSES THAT WOULD USE ALTERNATIVE, CLEANER AND AMERICAN-MADE FUELS, SUCH AS COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS.

FURTHER, MORE THAN EVER, WE ARE WORKING WITH MULTIPLE MUNICIPALITIES, COUNTY GOVERNMENTS, STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES, AND TRANSPORTATION STAKEHOLDERS IN

CREATING A BROAD SPECTRUM OF JURISDICTIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS THAT WILL FURTHER OUR VISION OF A TRANSPORTATION NETWORK THAT PROVIDES OUR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS SEAMLESS AND EFFICIENT CONNECTIONS ACROSS MULTIPLE MODES OF TRANSPORTATION.

AS A FORMER COUNTY COMMISSIONER AND CITY MANAGER, I HAVE AN APPRECIATION FOR WHEN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS WORK ACROSS JURISDICTIONS TO ADDRESS COMMUNITY NEEDS, AND THAT'S WHAT MY ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN DOING - WORKING WITH OUR CITIES AND LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS TO PROVIDE SOLUTIONS!

WE HAVE ENHANCED OUR BUS SERVICE ALONG SOME OF THE COUNTY'S BUSIEST CORRIDORS, SUCH AS KENDALL DRIVE AND ALONG NW 27TH AVE.

THIS HAS HELPED TO ALLEVIATE CONGESTION IN THESE HEAVILY-TRAVELED PARTS OF OUR COMMUNITY.

AND WE ARE CONTINUING THE DEVELOPMENT OF BUS RAPID TRANSIT, SUCH AS THE EAST-WEST CORRIDOR ALONG STATE ROAD 836 AND THE LONG-AWAITED NORTH CORRIDOR.

WE MUST CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON FINDING CORRIDORS AS WE EXPLORE CREATIVE FINANCING, PARTNERSHIPS, AND TECHNOLOGIES.

AND AS WE IDENTIFY MOBILITY SOLUTIONS THAT CAN ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF OUR RESIDENTS, WE MUST ENSURE THAT THEY REMAIN COMPATIBLE WITH OUR LONG-TERM GOALS OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

IN 2012, WE OPENED OUR METRORAIL EXTENSION TO OUR AIRPORT, MIA. ON AN AVERAGE WEEKDAY, WE SEE APPROXIMATELY 2,500 PEOPLE WHO USE THIS CONNECTION TO GO TO AND FROM MIA DAILY.

THE BUILDING OF OUR NEW METRORAIL CARS IS ALSO PROGRESSING. IN APPROXIMATELY TWO YEARS, WE'LL SEE THE FIRST SIX PROTOTYPE CARS BEING TESTED AND PLACED INTO SERVICE.

AS I MENTIONED EARLIER GOVERNMENTS CAN'T DO IT ALONE. THAT'S WHY WE NEED STRONG PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS THAT CAN HELP US DEVELOP COST-EFFECTIVE TRANSIT PROJECTS.

I AM COMMITTED TO PARTNERING WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN CREATING TRANSIT-ORIENTED

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS THAT HELP CREATE WALKABLE, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES.

THE PRIVATE SECTOR CAN PROVIDE NEEDED PROJECTS THAT STIMULATE URBAN REDEVELOPMENT.

A GREAT EXAMPLE IS THE ALL ABOARD FLORIDA INTERCITY RAIL SERVICES AND THE ACCOMPANYING DOWNTOWN STATION AND DEVELOPMENT. WE ENTHUSIASTICALLY LOOK FORWARD TO OUR NEW DOWNTOWN.

A GOOD AND IMPORTANT GOAL NEEDS TO BE GETTING PEOPLE OUT OF CARS AND AT THE SAME TIME ENCOURAGING A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE - THESE ARE GREAT WAYS TO INCREASE THE LIVABILITY OF OUR HOMETOWN.

A GREAT EXAMPLE THAT I SUPPORT IS THE FINE WORK OCCURRING ON THE *UNDERLINE* - A TRANSFORMATIONAL AND AMBITIOUS PROJECT IN THE METRORAIL CORRIDOR.

IN ADDITION TO CONVENTIONAL MODES OF MASS TRANSIT, WE MUST CONTINUE TO INCORPORATE SMART DEVELOPMENT POLICIES THAT PROMOTE

BIKING AND WALKING INTO OUR ZONING CODES AND COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN.

AND THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS OF MODERNIZING OUR TRANSIT AND MOBILITY OPTIONS, WE MUST ALSO INCORPORATE APP-BASED SERVICES SUCH AS UBER.

MY ADMINISTRATION HAS ADVOCATED FOR THIS TYPE OF SERVICE BECAUSE IN ADDITION TO IMPROVING PUBLIC TRANSIT, REGULATED APP-BASED TRANSIT OPTIONS WILL PROVIDE ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR RESIDENTS TO MOVE AROUND.

AS YOU ALL KNOW THERE IS NO SILVER BULLET TO ADDRESSING THESE NEEDS, CLEARLY IN SUCH A LARGE AND DIVERSE COMMUNITY LIKE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY EVERYONE – LOCAL GOVERNMENT, THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND GROUPS LIKE CITT MUST WORK TOGETHER!

AND THAT'S WHAT THIS SUMMIT IS SO IMPORTANT NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE DISTINGUISHED GROUP THAT HAS GATHERED HERE BUT ALSO BECAUSE IT IS CRUCIAL FOR THE FUTURE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY!

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO JOIN US TODAY AND I WANT TO THANK THE MANY TALENTED AND HARDWORKING TRANSIT PROFESSIONALS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY THAT WORK IN PURSUIT OF A BETTER FUTURE.

YOUR WORK DOES NOT GO UNNOTICED! THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO!

I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU IN FURTHER DEVELOPING OUR TRANSPORTATION VISION.

I AM SURE THAT TOGETHER WE CAN COME UP WITH CREATIVE SOLUTIONS TO OUR MOBILITY NEEDS, WHILE EXPANDING OUR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND CREATING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES.

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