

**THANK YOU FOR THAT INTRODUCTION, MANNY.**

**GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE! HOW'S EVERYBODY DOING TODAY?**

**COMMISSIONER EDMONSON, THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE WITH US AS WE CONTINUE TO ADDRESS THE TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY NEEDS OF RESIDENTS ALONG THIS IMPORTANT CORRIDOR IN OUR COMMUNITY.**

**PROJECTS OF THIS SIGNIFICANCE TAKE MANY PARTNERS WORKING TOGETHER COLLABORATIVELY, SO I WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE PEOPLE HERE TODAY WHO HAVE PLAYED A ROLE IN MOVING THIS ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FORWARD ...**

**OUR FRIENDS FROM THE CITY OF MIAMI ...**

**DR. ANNA WARD FROM THE CITIZENS INDEPENDENT TRANSPORTATION TRUST ... AND JORGE GOYANES FROM J.V.A. ENGINEERING CONTRACTORS.**

**LAST BUT NOT LEAST, I WANT TO THANK DIRECTOR ALICE BRAVO AND HER TEAM FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS. UNFORTUNATELY, ALICE COULDN'T BE**

**WITH US TODAY BECAUSE SHE'S IN WASHINGTON, D.C. MEETING WITH TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY FOXX TO DISCUSS THE SMART PLAN.**

**THE SMART PLAN IS ANOTHER WAY WE'RE WORKING TO ADDRESS THE MOBILITY NEEDS OF RESIDENTS IN MIAMI-DADE BY LOOKING AT SIX DIFFERENT CORRIDORS.**

**AND WE'LL CONTINUE OUR WORK ON THAT...**

**BUT TODAY, WE ARE HERE TO CELEBRATE THE WORK WE'RE DOING TO IMPROVE NORTHEAST SECOND AVENUE FOR OUR RESIDENTS.**

**THIS IS AN IMPORTANT PROJECT BECAUSE IT REPRESENTS THE CONTINUATION OF A CORRIDOR THAT WILL ENHANCE AND PROVIDE BETTER ACCESS FOR MOTORISTS, CYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS ALIKE THROUGH THE HEART OF OUR URBAN CORE.**

**THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE AND WORK ALONG THIS SECTION OF ROAD – FROM NORTHEAST 69<sup>TH</sup> STREET TO 77<sup>TH</sup> STREET – HAVE BEEN WAITING A LONG TIME FOR THESE IMPROVEMENTS.**

**AND WE'RE KEEPING THE PROMISE WE MADE TO MAKE THIS ROADWAY BETTER.**

**THIS \$10.3 MILLION PROJECT IS THE SECOND-TO-LAST PHASE OF THE WORK WE'RE DOING TO IMPROVE THE ENTIRE NORTHEAST SECOND AVENUE CORRIDOR – FROM NORTHEAST 20<sup>TH</sup> STREET TO NORTHEAST 91ST STREET.**

**THAT'S A 4.4-MILE SPAN.**

**AND LIKE MANY OF THOSE SECTIONS ALONG THAT ROADWAY, THE AREA WE'RE BREAKING GROUND ON THIS MORNING HAS EXPERIENCED A LOT OF GROWTH.**

**WE NEED TO RESPOND TO THAT GROWTH ACCORDINGLY.**

**BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT THIS GROWTH WILL ONLY CONTINUE AS LARGE COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS ARE BUILT ALONG THIS CORRIDOR AND ARE OCCUPIED.**

**THAT'S WHY IN ADDITION TO RECONSTRUCTING ROADWAYS AND IMPROVING SIDEWALKS AND ON-STREET PARKING, WE'RE ALSO IMPROVING SIGNAGE, LIGHTING AND SIGNALIZATION HERE.**

**WE'RE ALSO ADDING BIKE LANES, AND PROVIDING CONTINUOUS STORMWATER DRAINAGE.**

**ALL OF THESE IMPROVEMENTS WILL MAKE TRAVELING ALONG THIS NORTH-SOUTH CORRIDOR SMOOTHER AND SAFER FOR MOTORISTS, CYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS.**

**I ONCE HEARD THIS CORRIDOR REFERRED TO AS “THE ROAD THAT TIME FORGOT.”**

**WELL, I’M HERE THIS MORNING TO SHOW OUR RESIDENTS THAT YOUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT HAS NOT FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOU.**

**IT MAY HAVE TAKEN LONGER THAN I WOULD HAVE LIKED. BUT TODAY, WE’RE HERE TO BREAK GROUND.**

**AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER TO ADDRESS OUR RESIDENTS’ TRANSPORTATION NEEDS. WE WILL CONTINUE OUR WORK TO IMPROVE MOBILITY, AND QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL MIAMIANS.**

**THANK YOU AGAIN FOR BEING HERE THIS MORNING.**

**MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL, AND MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY!**