

THANK YOU FOR THAT INTRODUCTION, ALICE.

GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE. THANK YOU FOR JOINING US FOR TODAY'S RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY FOR THE COUNTY'S VERY FIRST AIR-CONDITIONED BUS SHELTER.

I'M HAPPY TO BE HERE WITH COMMISSIONER REBECA SOSA, WHO I KNOW IS PLEASED THAT WE'RE TESTING OUT THE COUNTY'S FIRST AIR-CONDITIONED BUS SHELTER RIGHT HERE IN HIALEAH.

THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO FOR RESIDENTS HERE IN DISTRICT 6, COMMISSIONER.

BUENOS DÍAS A TODOS. GRACIAS POR ESTAR AQUÍ ESTA MAÑANA.

GRACIAS A LA COMISIONADA REBECA SOSA POR ACOMPAÑARNOS EN ESTA INAUGURACIÓN.

AND I KNOW THAT HIALEAH MAYOR CARLOS HERNANDEZ IS EQUALLY PLEASED THAT WE'RE MAKING THE BUS SHELTER AT HIALEAH

METRORAIL STATION MORE COMFORTABLE FOR PASSENGERS IN HIS CITY.

THANK YOU BEING HERE, MAYOR HERNANDEZ, AND FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS PROJECT.

I ALSO WANT TO TAKE A MINUTE TO RECOGNIZE BOB MCCLELLAN AND MARIO RODRIGUEZ IN FACILITY MAINTENANCE, AND JOSE LLERENA FROM TEQUESTA FOR THEIR WORK IN PREPPING THE SITE AND HELPING OUT WITH THE INSTALLATION OF THIS NEW SHELTER.

THANK YOU, ALL.

GRACIAS TAMBIÉN AL ALCALDE DE LA CIUDAD CARLOS HERNÁNDEZ Y EN GENERAL A TODOS LOS QUE TRABAJARON EN ESTE PROYECTO.

AND, LAST BUT NOT LEAST, I WANT TO RECOGNIZE MIAMI-DADE TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR ALICE BRAVO AND HER TEAM.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO WERE WITH US LAST FRIDAY, YOU KNOW THAT THIS IS OUR SECOND TRANSPORTATION RIBBON CUTTING IN LESS THAN A WEEK.

LAST WEEK, WE CUT THE RIBBON ON OUR RENOVATED TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT CENTER OVER ON N.W. 36TH STREET, AND TODAY WE'RE CELEBRATING EVEN MORE IMPROVEMENTS TO TRANSPORTATION IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

SO, ALICE, THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU AND YOUR TEAM ARE DOING TO IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS THROUGHOUT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

LE QUIERO DAR LAS GRACIAS TAMBIÉN A LA DIRECTORA DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE TRANSPORTE ALICE BRAVO Y A TODO SU EQUIPO.

GRACIAS POR LO QUE HACEN PARA MEJORAR EL TRANSPORTE Y LA MOVILIDAD EN EL CONDADO DE MIAMI-DADE.

LET'S GIVE ALICE AND HER TEAM A ROUND OF APPLAUSE.

WHEN WE THINK ABOUT THE QUALITIES OF A WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITY AND WHAT MAKES A COMMUNITY THE IDEAL PLACE TO LIVE, WORK

AND PLAY, I THINK MOBILITY -- AND THE ABILITY TO EASILY NAVIGATE -- ARE ON EVERYONE'S LIST.

IN ADDITION TO GOOD JOB OPPORTUNITIES, AFFORDABLE HOUSING, SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS AND THE VERY BEST IN ARTS, CULTURE AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING, WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITIES HAVE WORLD-CLASS ROADWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS.

AND THAT'S WHY MY ADMINISTRATION AND I HAVE MADE TRANSPORTATION ONE OF OUR TOP PRIORITIES.

I'M THE MAYOR OF ALL OF MIAMI-DADE, AND IT'S MY GOAL TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL MIAMIANS -- ESPECIALLY FOR OUR CHILDREN AND SENIOR RESIDENTS.

PARA MI Y MI ADMINISTRACIÓN, ES UNA PRIORIDAD MEJORAR NUESTRO SISTEMA DE TRANSPORTE Y MI META ES DEJARLE UN MEJOR MIAMI-DADE PARA ESTA GENERACION Y FUTURAS GENERACIONES.

AND THAT'S AN IMPORTANT POINT: THE ABILITY TO GET AROUND EASILY AND COMFORTABLY IS EXTRA IMPORTANT TO QUALITY OF LIFE FOR OUR SENIOR RESIDENTS.

SO, IN DECIDING WHERE TO TEST OUT OUR COUNTY'S VERY FIRST AIR-CONDITIONED BUS SHELTER, WE DECIDED TO BRING IT TO THE RESIDENTS OF HIALEAH.

NOT ONLY IS THIS THE "CITY OF PROGRESS" AND A TRANSFER POINT BETWEEN METRORAIL AND METROBUS, BUT THIS STATION IN HIALEAH IS ALSO THE LOCATION WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF GOLDEN PASSPORT RIDERS.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO AREN'T FAMILIAR WITH THE PROGRAM, OUR GOLDEN PASSPORT OFFERS FREE TRANSIT SERVICE TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY RESIDENTS WHO ARE 65 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER.

CUANDO DECIDIMOS DÓNDE UBICAR NUESTRA PRIMERA PARADA DE AUTOBÚS CON AIRE ACONDICIONADO, POR SUPUESTO QUE PENSAMOS EN HIALEAH.

PORQUE NO SÓLO ES LA CIUDAD QUE PROGRESA Y UN PUNTO CLAVE ENTRE EL METRORAIL Y METROBUS, SINO QUE ES LA CIUDAD CON EL MAYOR NÚMERO DE PASAJEROS DE 65 AÑOS O MÁS QUE RECIBEN ESTE SERVICIO DE MANERA GRATUITA.

AS I SAID BEFORE, WE'RE HERE TODAY BECAUSE WE WANTED TO BRING EVEN GREATER COMFORT TO OUR SENIOR PASSENGERS, AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO USE OUR CLEAN, SAFE AND RELIABLE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM.

AND SPEAKING OF SAFE AND RELIABLE, THIS NEW GLASS SHELTER IS DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND IMPACT FROM UP TO A CATEGORY 3 HURRICANE, WITH DOORS THAT OPEN AND CLOSE MANUALLY TO KEEP THE COOL AIR IN.

WE HOPE THIS AIR-CONDITIONED SHELTER – WHICH IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA – ACCOMPLISHES OUR GOAL OF ENCOURAGING SENIOR RESIDENTS IN HIALEAH TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.

AND WE'RE NOT GOING TO STOP THERE.

IF THIS "TEST" BUS SHELTER IN HIALEAH IS SUCCESSFUL, ALICE AND HER TEAM WILL WORK TO BRING ADDITIONAL A.C.-EQUIPPED BUS SHELTERS TO OUR HIGHEST RIDERSHIP LOCATIONS IN MIAMI-DADE WITHIN THE NEXT TWO TO FIVE YEARS.

AND FOR THE REMAINING THOUSAND-PLUS BUS STOPS THROUGHOUT UNINCORPORATED MIAMI-DADE, WE WILL CONTINUE OUR WORK TO ENHANCE THEIR COMFORT BY ADDING MORE SHADE AND PROTECTION FROM WEATHER THROUGH AN R.F.P. THAT WILL BE ISSUED IN THE NEXT MONTH.

QUIERO ENFATIZAR QUE ESTAMOS AQUÍ PARA BRINDAR MÁS COMODIDAD A LOS PASAJEROS DE ESTA ZONA Y MOTIVARLOS A SEGUIR USANDO NUESTRO SISTEMA DE TRANSPORTE.

ESPERO QUE ESTA NUEVA PARADA, LA PRIMERA DE ESTE TIPO EN EL CONDADO Y EN EL ESTADO, LLENE TODAS LAS EXPECTATIVAS.

EN LOS PRÓXIMOS AÑOS, ALICE Y SU EQUIPO TRABAJARÁN EN INSTALAR MÁS PARADAS COMO ESTA.

I'LL TURN IT BACK OVER TO ALICE SO SHE CAN TELL YOU MORE ABOUT THIS NEW BUS SHELTER – WHICH IS, BY THE WAY, ONE OF THE MANY, MANY WAYS WE'RE WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY FOR ALL RESIDENTS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

SO, THANK YOU AGAIN FOR JOINING US HERE THIS MORNING.

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