



# NEAT STREETS MIAMI

## Meeting Summary

### March 28, 2018

#### **NSM Members Present**

Lina Blanco, City of Miami  
Councilwoman Patricia Cohen, Village of Bal Harbour  
Cesar Garcia Pons, Perkins+ Will  
Kenneth E. Gardner, Transportaion Aesthetics  
Ramiro Inguanzo, Miami-Dade College  
Rick Johnson, MDX  
Omar Leon, City of Miami Beach  
Gianni Lodi, RER  
Robert McClellan, DTPW  
Maria I. Nardi, PROS  
Teresa Olczyk, UF IFAS Extension

George Puig, Kimley- Horn  
Christopher J. Russo, City of Sunny Isles Beach  
Peter Trupia, District 3 Designee  
Rick Vasquez, District 5 Designee  
Edward Bann Williams, Aviation

#### **Participants Present**

Andrew Wobensmith, GMCVB  
Javier Betancourt, CITT  
Kevin Schot, FDOT  
Diana Amaya, District 9 office  
Carl Burns, DSWM  
Joseph Rhevues, Suntrust Bank  
Jennifer Llorente, NSM  
Jeromy Whyte, NSM  
Gabriela Lopez, NSM  
Ronlad L. Howard, DSWM  
Guillermo Olmedillo, Town of Surfside

#### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss  
Miami-Dade County Commissioner of District 9 and Chairman of Neat Streets Miami, Dennis C. Moss, warmly welcomes and thanks everyone for being present. Immediately after the welcome, Chairman Moss leads the introductions by first introducing himself and asked everyone to individually introduce themselves. Upon completion of introductions, Chairman Moss thanks everyone again for their participation and thanks the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau (GMCVB) for hosting the Neat Streets Miami Board meeting.

#### **II. Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau Update**

Bill Talbert

- Februrary occupany up 5%
- Februay room rate up 12.1%
- February rev par up 17.2%
- Occupany for the year up 5.1%
- Room rate up 10% for the year
- Rev par up 15.8% for the year
- Out of top 25 markets Miami ranked #1 in room rate, rev par and #2 in occupancy
- Miami Sports Month starting April 1<sup>st</sup>
- First County-wide convention in September

#### **III. Action Items**

- **Approval of the 2/28/18 Minutes**
  - Minutes moved by Rick Johnson and seconded by Chairman Moss

#### **IV. Reports**

##### A. People's Transportation Plan Update

Javier A. Betancourt  
Executive Director, The Transportation Trust

Javier A. Betancourt first starts by giving a short description of what The Citizen's Indepent Transportation Trust (CITT) is along with a brief history. CITT was created 15 years ago along with the half penny sales tax for transportation. The half penny sales tax was dedicated to transportation

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enhancements. He mentions that with the half penny sales tax, billions of dollars were collected and many projects were accomplished, however, there were a lot of complaints regarding misappropriation of funds due to circumstances that were not thoroughly contemplated.

The CITT is an independent organization of the County. The CITT has a board composed of 15 members, including the Chair of the Board Glenn Downing, an appointee of the Mayor, and members representing every Commission district in Miami-Dade County.

Mr. Betancourt continues by mentioning the People's Transportation Plan (PTP 1.0) was a large list of projects planned to be funded with the half penny sales tax, however, it was evident that the half penny would not generate enough funds to completely fund PTP 1.0. Despite not fulfilling PTP 1.0 with the half penny sales tax, the following was still accomplished: free fare to seniors citizens and low-income veterans; completion of an essential rail corridor to the Airport; complete renovation of the Metromover fleet; complete replacement of the Metrorail trains; upgrade of the array of technology used by the Department of Transportation and Public Works; and the introduction of new Metro bus vehicles.

One of the visions of PTP 1.0 was creation of multiple Metrorail routes but only one project was completed because the half penny could not sufficiently supplement the other projects. Because the half penny sale tax was not enough to fully fund PTP 1.0, the People's Transportation Trust has engaged a number of initiatives to identify other funding sources to expand the transit corridors. As a result, PTP 2.0 was introduced. PTP 2.0 is taking the things that were not accomplished in the original PTP 1.0 and figuring out how to advance them. For example, PTP 1.0 focused on Metrorail while PTP 2.0 focuses on all modes of transportation to learn which mode is appropriate for each individual corridor.

The first opportunity was Brightline, which is an interstate rail that will not engage local communities effectively. Brightline offers limited stops to Miami, Fort Lauderdale West Palm Beach, Orlando, Tampa, and Jacksonville. With the new funding sources and PTP 2.0 plans have been made to extend Brightline to local communities. Another outcome of PTP 2.0 was an investment to Tri Rail which extended its service to Downtown Miami.

To conclude, Mr. Betancourt mentions other potential CITT initiative such as travel demand management, ridership Incentive program, re-branding and marketing, annual community survey, first/last mile solutions, connecting County and municipal systems, and system maintenance.

Chairman Moss asks what the duties of the Neat Streets Miami Board should be regarding corridors as they go forward. Commissioner Moss mentions that some Tri Rail courses are in "rough" shape," and our concerns should be focused on aesthetics, landscaping, litter pick up and maintenance for these corridors to uphold our standard as a world class community.

B. 89<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> Street One Way Conversion

Guillermo Olmedillo  
Manager, Town of Surfside

The Town Manager of Surfside, Guillermo Olmedillo, begins with a short description of the Town of Surfside. The Town of Surfside is approximately one mile in length, half a mile in width and houses about 6,000 residents. Mr. Olmedillo then describes the political background of Surfside- officials are limited to two-year term and officials run at the same time instead of staggered elections. A large portion of the population is comprised of traditional orthodox Jewish families who walk very often. Mr. Olmedillo continues by recognizing the population as an asset but also recognizes that the particular conditions of the community create specific needs for the community.

Some of the needs of the community are connecting the underutilized town assets such as street ends, beaches, places of worship, parks, parking lots, and Town Hall. However, a particular issue hindering those assets is traffic intrusion. Mr. Olmedillo states the Town is dissected by a pair of State roads. In an effort to combat this issue, an initiative was taken to improve the walkability of the Town of Surfside.

Mr. Olmedillo informs us of the current walkability conditions in the Town of Surfside. The public right-of-way is only 40 feet when the standard is 50 feet. As a result of the Town not keeping up with this standard, the residents have engaged in illegal landscaping, making the roads more narrow and ultimately decreasing walkability. Mr. Olmedillo proposed a pilot within the paved area that ranges about 37 feet to provide walkability. Within the 37 feet of paved area, Mr. Olmedillo states he can provide safe

space for pedestrians, a buffer that can be used for parking, foliage, or a circulating lane. This pilot is currently being conducted on two streets in the Town of Surfside.

Rick Johnson, MDX, asked Mr. Olmedillo if he was able to relay the point that this change would be an economic enhancement to the residents in this area, and that, as a result, their property value could potentially go up. Mr. Olmedillo stated that particular argument had been made and individuals expressed their own personal value. Mr. Olmedillo concluded by stating that the pilot project is awaiting approval by the Town's Commissioners in order to make the changes permanent.

## V. Updates

- A. Neat Streets Miami Office Gaby Lopez
- On March 14<sup>th</sup>, Staff went to Citrus Grove Elementary to mulch 15 new trees planted along NW 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue with the students of the class. Staff also informed the children the importance of trees and maintaining your community.
  - On March 17<sup>th</sup>, 3 new trees were donated -a lime, lemon and orange tree- to help rebuild a community garden in Robert King High Towers as part of a Leadership Miami project.
  - March 20<sup>th</sup>, Neat Streets Miami partnered with TD bank to 20 new trees planted at Bird Lakes Park. This event was our Neat Streets Miami first Growing Green Playground project.
  - An update of the Fiscal year of Neat Streets Miami was made for quarter 2. (see attached)
- B. Marketing and Education Committee Lina Blanco
- a. Poster Contest Winners
- Elementary 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Alejo Dominguez
  - Elementary 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Sasha Nicole Curbelo
  - Elementary 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Hazel Slaughter
  - Middle School 3<sup>rd</sup> Place- Nickole Reyes
  - Middle School 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Juliette Camacho
  - Middle School 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Estefania Collazo Wood
  - Highschool 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Sidney Starman
  - Highschool 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Danielle Ojeda
  - Highschool 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Ashley Gonzalez
- b. Video Contest Winners
- First Place, Luis Perez, Giuliana Coto – 11<sup>th</sup> Grade – and Jorge Socarras 12<sup>th</sup> Grade – Pinecrest Preparatory Highschool
  - First Place, Marcelo Balladares, Andrew Lopez and Shawn Gutierrez – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade – Pinecrest Preparatory Highschool
  - Second Place, Matthew Vidaurre – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade – Leadership Learning Center at St. John Bosco
- C. Tree and Landscape Committee Rick Johnson
- Leaf Workshop agenda has been finalized. The panels for the workshop will be the following: Activating and communicating with the public before and after the storm, Hurricane Debris: Planning and Response, Maintaining our Urban Tree Canopy Year- Round, Creating Resilient Ecosystems and treescapes and Growing our Resilient Community Together.
  - Review of lighting and landscape plans for MDX's 874 Extension
- D. Transportation Gateways and Corridors Committee Dr. Claudius Carnegie
- New fleet of CNG buses Introduced
  - 1/10<sup>th</sup> of the CNG buses currently delivered. The remainder are expected to be delivered in April 2018.

## VI. Closing Remarks

Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss

Chairman Moss thanks the GMCVB for hosting the Neat Streets Miami Board meeting and then thanks everyone present for participating.

***Please note: Next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m.***

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