



Old Cutler Road Charrette

CHARRETTE AREA PLAN REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OLD CUTLER ROAD CHARRETTE, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FLORIDA:

The Old Cutler Road Charrette Area Plan is the citizens' vision for the enhancement of a two and a half mile segment of Old Cutler Road. It represents the ultimate growth and form of their community and the creation of a recognizable center for the south Old Cutler area, which stretches between SW 200th Street and SW 224th Street in south Miami-Dade County.

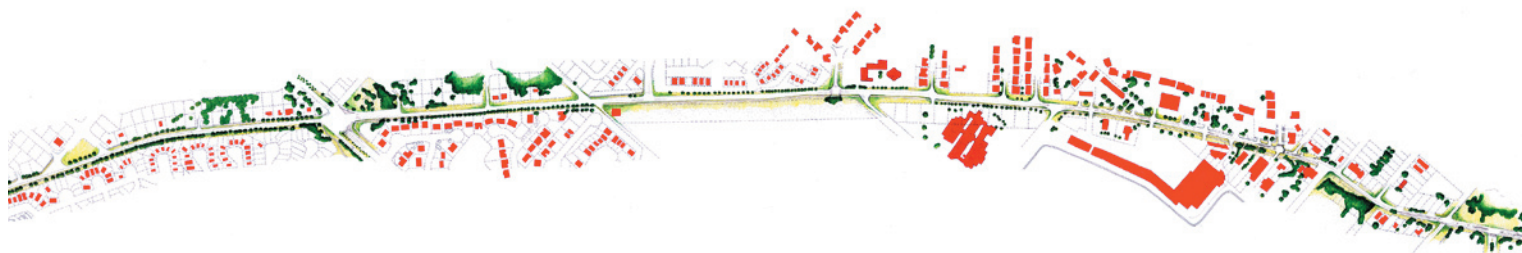
THE OLD CUTLER ROAD MASTER PLAN GREW OUT OF A DESIGN CHARRETTE HELD FROM JUNE 21st THROUGH JUNE 28th, 2002:

The Charrette was held at the Edward Whigham Elementary School and was well attended by residents, property and business owners, representing a diverse cross-section of the community as well as County staff and elected officials, who all worked together to define the elements of this master plan. During the week, the design team

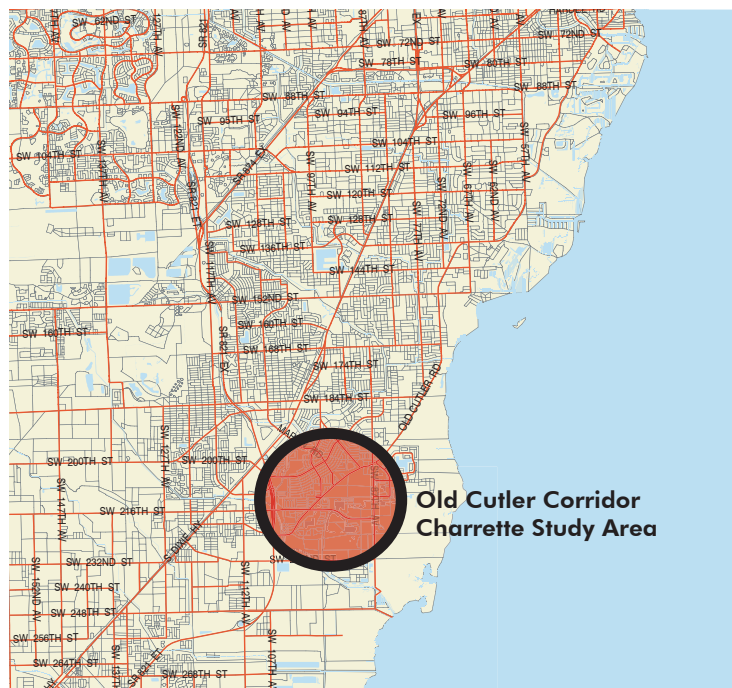
set up its studio in a storefront at the Old Cutler Town Center, where the doors remained open to the public all day. A presentation of the work in progress was held on Friday, June 28th where the community embraced the concepts included in the Charrette Area Plan. Work is documented in the form of a Charrette report and recommendations summary as a follow up to the initial public workshop.

THE CITIZENS, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF A PROFESSIONAL TEAM, STUDIED THE MANY CHALLENGES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY AND PROPOSED SPECIFIC SOLUTIONS:

A series of presentations by County Staff were held and during that time further citizen and professional input was taken into account. The Board of County Commissioners (BCC) passed a resolution (# R-439-04) on April 13th 2004, thereby accepting the Old Cutler Road Charrette Area Plan Report and its recommendations.



Above: Plan of existing conditions in the study area. **Below left:** Scenes from the public design process on Saturday, June 21st, 2002. Numerous concerned citizens from the Old Cutler area participated in the charrette at Edward Whigham Elementary. **Below right:** The Old Cutler Road Charrette study area in the context of South Miami-Dade County



BEFORE AND AFTER:



Above: Pedestrian, lighting, and landscape improvements in the corridor.



Above: Entrance feature at SW 102 Avenue marks arrival into the Old Cutler civic district.

Old Cutler Road: “A Historic Path”

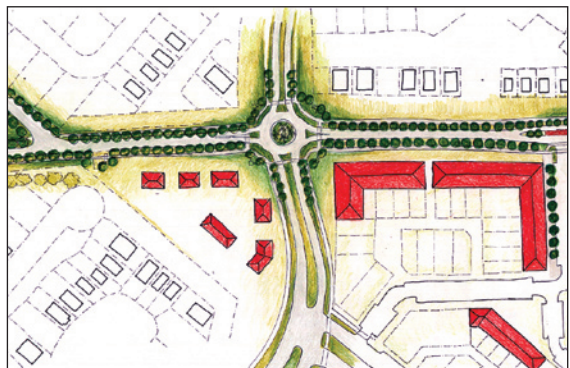
The Old Cutler Road Charrette Report contains detailed instructions that if followed, will reduce traffic congestion and allow development while restoring the historic ambiance of the road. Through the project corridor, the roadway serves commuters destined for points north as well as the retail core of the community.

The roadway was designated as historic by the State in 1974 and limits widening beyond its two-lane current condition. The proposals in this effort are focused on rebalancing the roadway toward all its users: motorists, pedestrians, transit users, and bicyclists.

Traffic volumes on Old Cutler Road currently number 12,000 to 16,000 vehicles per day (VPD) north of SW 184th Street, while the volumes to the south approach 22,000 VPD.

Approved development proposals in the area southeast of Old Cutler Road will add approximately 3,000 new homes within the area and will result in additional traffic volumes. As new neighborhoods are built, opportunities to provide alternate access should be maximized. Such potential connections include SW 212th Street, SW 97th Avenue, SW 92nd Avenue, SW 224th Street, Franjo Road, and SW 85th Avenue.

The extensive concentration of commercial uses within the study area is unique along Old Cutler Road and also marks the end of the historic corridor. The master plan proposes to announce the culmination of the road with a unique statement that is within the road’s historic parameters. A pair of roundabouts, at SW 87th Avenue and 97th Avenue will serve this function as gateways into the historic corridor.



Implementing Roundabouts:

Left: Connecting SW 97th Avenue and creating a roundabout at Old Cutler Road
Right: Improving the SW 87th Avenue and Old Cutler Road intersection with a roundabout
 These proposals create ‘bookends’ to the Old Cutler civic district and provide a mark of transition from the commercial core to the surrounding residential areas.



Above: Citizens’ Charrette Area Plan enhancements to the Old Cutler Road corridor from SW 200th Street to SW 224th Street

Citizens' Requests:

- Restore the historic character of Old Cutler Road
- Reduce congestion, improve traffic flow and safety
- Calm traffic along Old Cutler Road
- Improve intersections and build new streets
- Improve landscaping on Old Cutler Road
- Maintain and improve sidewalks and bike lanes
- Connect existing streets and parking lots
- Consolidate driveways
- Promote civic identity, create a civic district/town center
- Place an entrance feature at the start of the civic district
- Create a walkable, pedestrian-friendly environment
- Relocate Khoury League baseball fields
- Create a plaza surrounded by mixed-use buildings
- Improve drainage
- Establish architectural design guidelines

THE VISION



BEFORE AND AFTER:

From 'Potato Field' to Town Center
The Citizens' Charrette Area Plan proposes the land east of Old Cutler Road and North of SW 212th Street become a center for the community. During the charrette, the need to define the area's identity and create a public gathering place was expressed. **Top left:** View across the triangular green along Old Cutler Road. **Above left:** View down a new street in the neighborhood that terminates on a civic building. **Above right:** View to the southeast over Old Cutler Road.



Above: Landscape and pedestrian improvements in the corridor- The Citizens' Charrette Area Plan proposes sidewalks and consistent tree planting on both sides of Old Cutler Road through the corridor to provide a comfortable environment for all users of the roadway.

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Project Goals and Objectives:

The goal of the Old Cutler Road Charrette Area Plan is to create a framework that will preserve the heritage of this historic roadway, facilitate improvement in public infrastructure and the investment in private land, enhance the livability and encourage design quality, both architectural and urban, in a manner that achieves the following objectives:

- To preserve and enhance the historic and community character along Old Cutler Road
- Reintroduce pedestrian-scale improvements in lighting and landscaping; rebalance vehicular movement in the corridor
- Providing residents additional travel options by connecting the street network east of 87th Avenue to Old Cutler Road

- To enhance safety and lower travel speeds in the neighborhoods to the northwest of Old Cutler Road by implementing roundabouts in place of traffic signals wherever appropriate
- To create a civic district/town center and public gathering space for the surrounding area
- Provide residents better access to goods and services available along Old Cutler Road without having to travel on that same road
- To increase safety along Old Cutler Road through design modifications that reduce motorists' speeds and increase pedestrian and bicycle visibility and comfort

THE CHARRETTE AREA PLAN: A COMMUNITY'S VISION



Old Cutler Road Charrette Report prepared with the assistance of: Chamber South and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council. For more information contact Miami-Dade County Department of Planning and Zoning at 305-375-2842



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