

# MIAMI BEACH

## TRANSPORTATION WORKSHOP

City Hall, Commission Chambers, 3rd Floor, 1700 Convention Center Drive

December 16, 2015

Mayor Philip Levine  
Commissioner John Elizabeth Alemán  
Commissioner Ricky Arriola  
Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez  
Commissioner Michael Grieco  
Commissioner Joy Malakoff  
Commissioner Micky Steinberg

City Manager Jimmy L. Morales  
City Attorney Raul J. Aguila  
City Clerk Rafael E. Granado

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Meeting called to order at 3:07:20 p.m.

### TRANSPORTATION WORKSHOP

Kathie G. Brooks, Assistant City Manager, stated that the purpose of this workshop is to give perspective on the development of the Transportation Department and its plan. The Transportation Department was formed over a year and a half ago; before the Department was created, there were only two positions that dealt with transportation. The first assignment was to develop a Transportation Master Plan, which included the implementation of a trolley system and intelligent traffic monitoring. There have been some major accomplishments in a short period. The Transportation Department is

trying to remain innovative in resolving traffic issues. She introduced Jose Gonzalez, Transportation Director.

Jose Gonzalez, Transportation Director, showed a PowerPoint presentation. Click [here](#) to view presentation. He stated that in order for the City to have a good transportation system, we first need vision and a plan to accomplish it. The last Transportation Master Plan was done in 1999, and given the changes in transportation trends during the past fifteen years, it was not only necessary, but also critical to revamp that plan taking into consideration today's conditions and accommodate for the future. The new Master Plan will be the blueprint for the next 20 years. The plan is comprised of three components:

1. Street Design Guide - Provide safe and comfortable streets for all to use;
2. Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan - Intended to create a safe and connected bicycle network, as well as promote walking;
3. Transportation Master Plan - This will tie everything together, and provide for better ways for people in Miami Beach to get around.

Mayor Levine stressed the importance of the City showing significant progress in terms of traffic within the next six months.

Josiel Ferrer Diaz, Transportation Manager, stated that there have been extensive briefings where most of these projects have been discussed. The overall goal is to combine projects and policies to help Miami Beach become a multi-modal City. He brought attention to the failing roadways. There are eight segments that are failing, and all are near causeways. Many of the roadways are State arterials or State roadways. The City's major congested roadways are from the State. He compared Miami Beach to other cities, and he found that despite the City's shortcomings, people are predisposed to using alternate methods of transportation. The City needs to provide for the alternatives to be used. The vision of Miami Beach is to become less car-centric. He gave the example of Washington Avenue, which could be used for bicycle transit. When a lane is dedicated to transit, the City can then double the lane's capacity. A hierarchy has been proposed in terms of importance on the roadways: 1. Pedestrians; 2. Transit bicycles and freight; and 3. Private vehicles. He highlighted the bicycle corridors and connecting links.

City Manager Morales described the current project of painting bicycle lanes green for visibility, as is being done on 16<sup>th</sup> Street.

Commissioner Malakoff asked if there is anything being done to protect the bicycle lanes.

Mr. Ferrer Diaz replied that they are working hard to secure the bicycle lanes.

Discussion held regarding bicycle safety training.

Mr. Ferrer Diaz stated that better parking information is needed, with more technology, and a smart parking system. Freight alternatives would help ease congestion, by having overnight deliveries, and preferred vehicle types.

Mr. Gonzalez stated that currently, everything is in plan form. They will reach out to the community in January, and then return to the City Commission in February.

Nelson Mora, Representative from Garrett Fleming, stated that the City is showing its commitment regarding this issue. He gave the example of the MacArthur Causeway's plan to have bicycle lanes. The plans that are presented range from implementation to feasibility.

City Manager Morales stated that the State and County are in favor of the City's proposed protected bicycle lanes.

Commissioner Malakoff stated that she met with FDOT regarding Alton Road where bicyclists and motor vehicles share the road. She believes it is a disaster, and hopes other lanes can be protected, and possibly have landscaping dividing the lanes.

Vice-Mayor Alemán stated that around certain schools it is not safe for children or parents to ride their bicycles to schools. She is hoping this barrier can be addressed.

Mr. Ferrer Diaz stated that they are planning to implement buffers for bicycle lanes to improve safety, and make it a viable alternative for people to ride their bicycles to school.

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez stated that the bicycle lanes on Prairie Avenue and around Nautilus Middle School need to be addressed for safety.

Mr. Ferrer Diaz addressed Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez's concern regarding the bicycle lanes that they will soon be painted green, and will offer protection for the bicyclists.

Vice-Mayor Alemán asked the Transportation Department to keep pedestrian patterns in mind, because many of the Jewish population in Miami Beach walk to temple on Fridays and Saturdays, and rely on safe roads and sidewalks.

Mr. Ferrer Diaz stated that any project will look at the pedestrian impact first, given that pedestrians are number one in the hierarchy of importance.

Discussion continued regarding protected bicycle lanes.

Mr. Ferrer Diaz stated that regarding City parking, they do not want to reduce City parking, but they are looking into integrating landscaping into every project. The cost may not be included in the project's pricing, but it will be addressed to make everything more pedestrian friendly.

City Manager Morales added that currently a Citywide tree survey is taking place

Discussion held regarding having a physical barrier to protect bicyclists.

Commissioner Arriola commended everyone for their bold ideas to take on traffic.

City Manager Morales asked Mr. Gonzalez to present the City Commission with the extent of funding that has been approved for these projects for the next time this item is presented. **Jose Gonzalez to handle.**

Vice-Mayor Alemán asked staffers to be aware of how much digging needs to be done for each project, and to not have projects overlap resulting in a road section being dug up, only to go through the same process a few months afterwards for another project.

Mr. Ferrer Diaz stated that the potential funding sources would be from Federal, State, and Local resources. Many policies need to be brought up-to-date to fit with the City's current needs. Pedestrian

priority zones are needed, and bicycle lanes need to be painted and offer protection. The City needs to continue enhancing transit amenities such as better bus shelters.

City Manager Morales stated that the Mid Beach Walk is moving forward, and that would provide an eastern bicycle and pedestrian link.

Mr. Ferrer Diaz stated that they are looking into off hour and nighttime deliveries. Engaging businesses to provide bus passes and bicycle amenities. City Manager Morales mentioned that 450 bicycle parking spots were added to the City last year.

Commissioner Steinberg thanked everyone for their hard work.

Meeting adjourned at 4:12:26 p.m.