



MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
NO. LTC # 201-2010

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission
FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager
DATE: July 14, 2010
SUBJECT: Port of Miami Tunnel Project Update & I-395

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The purpose of this Letter to Commission is to provide you with correspondence received from the Transportation and Parking Committee regarding the above subject.

JMG/JGG/SF

- C: Hilda Fernandez, Assistant City Manager
- Robert C. Middaugh, Assistant City Manager
- Jorge Gomez, Assistant City Manager
- Saul Frances, Parking Director

Transportation & Parking Committee

Mark Weithorn, Chairman
Alan B. Fishman, Vice-Chairman

TO: Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Mark Weithorn, Transportation & Parking Committee Chair

Members:

Jo Asmundsson
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Marvin Silverman
Scott Timm
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DATE: July 14, 2010

SUBJECT: PORT OF MIAMI TUNNEL PROJECT UPDATE & I-395

Dear Mayor and Honorable City Commission:

The Transportation and Parking Committee met on July 12, 2010 and were provided with the below update on the Port of Miami Tunnel Project and I-395:

- Started construction on Parrot Island Trail (next to Miami Children's Museum)
- Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) under design/manufactured in Germany
- All permits necessary for roadway work on Watson Island, have been obtained
- Groundbreaking of Port of Miami Tunnel held June 11th
- Signage entered as action item: *Ensure Master Signage Committee considers signage for visitors staying in Miami Beach and going to the Port, as well as signage for visitors who accidentally enter the tunnel and need to head back to Miami Beach through Port Blvd.*
- Meeting held with Venetian Island Association regarding traffic issues. Association wants to make it clear if something is happening on causeway, none of intermittent signs or Public Safety Officials are to advertise use of Venetian Causeway as any type of alternative road (working with FDOT/Public Safety from Miami and Miami Beach)
- In 3-4 weeks – westbound lane will be restriped; where merge lane/emergency lane is located, will take bus stop and move back 4 feet to do drainage/utility work and moving road 3 feet to right (not a road closure, but lane closure intermittently for 3 days)
- More visual presence of 24hr tow trucks
- Website now has link for live traffic video which will show live video cameras from I-395 (4-5 different cameras which rotate every 2-3 seconds) – website: www.portofmiamitunnel.com; additional traffic reports can be located beneath link by logging into 511, which is FDOT traffic reports website
- Frontage Road (Jungle Island Rd) has been taken over (eastbound lane – work happening on right hand side); taking Frontage Rd and moving to right and where current Frontage Rd is located, will be 3 lane causeway (moved to right), but will not happen for another 2-3 months
- Intermittent lane closure on west side will be done during non-peak usage traffic time – 9:30a-3:00p weekdays only
- During summer, hope is that majority of roadwork will be done (off-road) – will not start to finish work until after Labor Day (diverting traffic); tentatively, September 15th is goal date for a seamless transition
- Weekly Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) notices will be transmitted
- VMS signage, by contract, will be placed

- Tunnel Boring Machine will arrive in parts starting March; currently welding plates for machine; large portion will start to assemble in May and barged on site
- After anticipated seamless flow of traffic, will start groundwork/excavation at median, for tunnel boring machine; over 175 ft, width of machine is 42 ft in diameter – looking at placing temporary walls and permanent walls
- Tunnel Boring Machine not laid flat, will be at a 5% grade and part of it will be inside excavated area – will be able to see double portals; County and MPO Committee are currently looking at what tunnel portal will look like. This is very important as it will be at entrance, ensure it is something reflective of what is desired; committee being put together

Furthermore, the committee also met with the County's FDOT Department in charge of I-395. There was a discussion on the possibility of adding a third lane between Biscayne Blvd. and I-95. Question was asked if the bridge over Biscayne Blvd. will be able to handle the added load of hundreds of trucks. They informed they are presently conducting a feasibility study and looking at either restriping, creating a third lane or widening the highway for the third lane. An update will be provided to the committee either in September or October.

Sincerely,
Transportation and Parking Committee