



# MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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## LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor David Dermer and  
Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: December 12, 2006

SUBJECT: **COASTAL COMMUNITIES TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN UPDATE**

This letter is to provide you with an update on the Coastal Communities Transportation Master Plan and Coastal Communities Transit Study and to inform you about the Community Workshops that will be taking place in the upcoming weeks.

### **Project Overview**

The Coastal Communities Transportation Master Plan (CCTMP) was created to address the regional transportation issues of the Barrier Islands. Building upon the MMP, the CCTMP takes a snapshot of current traffic conditions and then apply traffic modeling under varying transportation forecast scenarios. Including but not limited to future population growth vs. available roadway capacity, patterns of flow along the Coastal Communities as well as an assessment of roadway infrastructure sustainability.

The goal of the CCTMP is to provide a sub-regional plan with short-term (5-year horizon), mid-term (10-year horizon), and long-term (25-year horizon) solutions to transportation issues under varying development forecast scenarios. The coastal communities understand that the barrier islands are physically constrained. As demands on the transportation infrastructure increase and the capacity to manage traffic becomes further limited, the equilibrium between growth and available capacity must be identified to assure sustainability through the region. This initial assessment would assist as a benchmark to derive further transportation initiatives to address these issues.

This effort is coordinated with a Coastal Communities Transit Plan being developed by the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR). The CCTS is an operations study that focuses on improving the operational efficiency of buses through a route segment-level analysis. The transit study will be aimed at improving service quality to the County's transit customers. A by-product of this study will be recommendations for improving and balancing transit service efficiency through the consolidation of existing bus routes and improvement of quality of service.

### **Methodology**

The methodology to develop Coastal Communities Master Plan contemplates five tasks: data collection, public involvement, needs assessment, development of potential projects, and implementation plan. Following is a description of completed tasks to date:

Data Collection. – Completed. This task consisted on review of traffic and transportation data and the application of an Origin and Destination (O/D) survey that allowed determining travel patterns along the barrier island. The O/D survey was initiated on March 28, 2006 using cameras to capture movements of traffic. Cameras were located in nine screen lines along the coastal communities from Aventura to Miami Beach. The data was analyzed resulting in the identification of travel patterns, as origin, destination and through-traffic for each of the zones within the study area.

The CCTS on the other hand analyzed the Origin Destination survey completed by Miami Dade Transit as part of the Comprehensive Bus Operational Analysis performed in 2004 and segregated trips which consider the barrier island as an origin and/or destination.

Public Involvement. – In Progress. Several discussions have been held with the established Technical Steering Committee and local governing bodies along the coastal communities to delineate transportation problems based on the results of the data collection.

Community Workshops. As part of the public involvement three community workshops will be held at three different locations in the Study Area (north, middle and south). Both studies will be presented at the workshops, showing the traffic patterns and ridership through the entire area. The workshops are designed as follows:

- Findings, with the results of the data collection and Origin Destination survey for both the CCTMP and the CCTS.
- Potential solutions and alternatives, based on the following categories: Alternative Mode, Capacity, Sustainable Community, Corridor Enhancement, Promoting Alternate Routes to Downtown Miami
- Discussion with residents and delineation of recommendations.

The meetings are scheduled to occur on December 12 in South Beach at the CMB Commission Chambers; December 14 in North Beach at the North Shore Youth Center and December 18 at Aventura Commission Chambers. All the meetings are at 6:30 PM. Two additional meetings will be scheduled in January. Attached are copies of the presentations being made at the public meetings.

The community workshops will give the residents the opportunity to understand the transportation issues along the barrier island and to provide input and bring ideas that will shape the future of the our community.

The results of those meetings will be reflected in the recommendations issued by both projects.

### **Next steps**

The next steps of this project will focus on the development of a bank of Transportation and Mass Transit initiatives. The results and impacts of the recommended projects will be analyzed using a transportation modeling process, which will generate projects recommended in the short-term (5-year horizon), mid-term (10-year horizon), and long-term (25-year horizon). Each developed alternative will be documented and reflected in the implementation plan.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

  
RCM/FHB/FV/ME