

Miami River Commission Public Meeting Minutes May 5, 2025

The Miami River Commission's (MRC) public meeting convened at noon, March 5, 2025, in the Downtown Library Auditorium, 101 W Flagler. Sign in sheets are attached.

Miami River Commission (MRC) Policy Committee Members and/or Designees attending:

Horacio Stuart Aguirre, Chairman, Appointed by the Governor
James Murley, Vice-Chairman, designee for Miami-Dade County Daniela Levine Cava
City of Miami Commissioner Mike Gabela
Megan Kelly, designee for City of Miami Mayor Francis Suarez
Theo Long, Neighborhood Representative appointed by Board of County Commissioners
Eileen Broton, Neighborhood Representative Appointed by City of Miami Commission
Richard Murphy, designee for Neighborhood Representative Appointed by City of Miami Commission
Bruce Brown, Miami River Marine Group
William Gonzalez, designee for Miami-Dade County State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle
Alvaro Coradin, designee for Member at Large Appointed by the County Commission
John Michael Cornell, designee for Member at Large Appointed by the Governor
Neal Schafers, designee for the Downtown Development Authority

MRC Staff:

Brett Bibeau, Managing Director

I) Chair's Report and "Voluntary Improvement Plan" (VIP) Update

The Miami River Commission unanimously adopted their March public meeting minutes.

MRC Chairman Horacio Stuart Aguirre provided the following report:

A rotating PowerPoint depicted numerous pictures of the successful free 26th Annual Miami Riverday, which was held April 5, 2025, 1-6 PM, Lummus Park, 250 NW North River Drive, featuring free boat rides, live music, environmental education, historic reenactors, children's activities, food and drinks. The MRC presented plaques of appreciation to the Riverday sponsors unavailable to receive their plaques on stage at Riverday. Miami Riverday was featured on the Channel 7 and Univision Television News.

The 22nd Annual Miami River Map & Guide was released at Miami Riverday, and a copy is before you. On behalf of the entire MRC, I thank all the advertisers in the Miami River Map and Guide including many of which are here today.

MRC Vice Chairman Jim Murley provided the following Miami River Voluntary Improvement Plan (VIP) Update: The Miami River Commission has been actively assisting the efforts of the City, County, State, and private sector to clean up the Miami River District. The MRC pays professional maintenance companies every day to remove litter, invasive plant species, graffiti and provide landscaping, pressure washing, vacuum truck, and Scavenger Water Decontamination Vessel services along the Miami River. In addition, the MRC thanks the Hands-on Miami volunteers whom picked up garbage along the Miami River in Sewell Park on March 2, March 30, and April 27 and in Curtis Park on March 23, and April 20.

II. Discussion Regarding 17 Avenue Bridge Planning, Development & Engineering (PD&E) Study

Rick Crooks, EAC, and Gabriel Delgado, Miami-Dade County, presented a PowerPoint regarding the 17 Avenue Bridge Planning, Development & Engineering (PD&E) Study. The study assesses numerous alternatives while considering the public Riverwalk, environmental, natural, social, physical and cultural resources. The process includes public involvement and the timeline includes:

- Started November 2024
- Alternatives Meeting 2025
- Public Hearing 2027
- Study Completed 2028

The presenters stated the County and City are working together to remove the illegal charter operation which is operating from City and County public ROW on the SE Side of the 17 Ave bridge.

III. Discussion Regarding Railroad at the Miami River

Binod Bisnot, FDOT, presented a PowerPoint regarding the Miami River – Miami Intermodal Center Capacity Improvement (MR-MICCI) Project featuring the replacement of the single train track bridge with a double train track bridge. The \$89 million project is scheduled to commence construction in Summer 2026 and complete construction in Spring 2029.

Hector Hartman, SFRTA, presented a PowerPoint regarding replacing 1,100 linear feet of the railroad along North River Drive. The new tracks will generate additional 780 carload rail shipments per year. The project will cost \$1,315,500 started on April 1 and will end on May 15. The project will include replacing 1,100 linear feet of broken chain link fence which separates the Miami Dade County public Right of way from the FDOT / Railroad area, and MRC Vice Chairman suggested repairing the additional remaining broken chain link fence and broken Rail Road signage along the remaining portion of NW North River Drive. MRC Director Bibeau asked when the numerous derelict and untagged vehicles which are blocking the project located on both the FDOT and County ROW will be removed? Mr. Hartman stated FDOT is considering hiring as private sector towing company, and the contract is under review by FDOT legal for the next week.

IV. Presentation Regarding FDOT's Freight Village Countywide Analysis Study

Daniel Crotty, HNTB, presented a PowerPoint regarding FDOT's Freight Village Countywide Analysis Study. "This plan aims to improve Florida's global supply chain and economic competitiveness by identifying key transportation enhancements to maximize efficiency."

"Study Overview

- Freight and logistics network overview
- Assessment of multimodal freight mobility needs
- Identification and prioritization of improvements
- Programming and assessment of financial feasibility
- GIS database and freight dashboard"

"Goal - Improve Florida's standing as a hub for trade, logistics, and international trade activities"

"Primary Objective - Develop a bank of freight infrastructure projects that meet existing and future needs, enabling key projects to be considered for inclusion in the District Six Work Program"

Mr. Crotty stated Port Miami River is included, and thus far they met with Port Miami River representatives Antillean Marine, Miami River Towing Company and the Miami River Marine Group for direct input.

V. Subcommittee Reports

- a. The MRC Urban Infill & Greenways Subcommittee's March 6, 2025 public meeting minutes were distributed.
- b. The MRC Stormwater Subcommittee's April 16, 2025 public meeting minutes were distributed.

VI. New Business

The MRC adopted a unanimous resolution in support of Miami-Dade County May 6, 2025 Agenda Item No. 4(A) "Ordinance related to environmental protection...expedited administrative authorizations to authorize the placement of biodiversity enhancement tiles on existing seawall..."

The public meeting adjourned.

Miami River Commission

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May 5, 2025 - 12:00 PM

101 W Flagler, Miami FL - Main Library Auditorium

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