

Miami River Commission



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Policy Committee:
Governor of State of Florida
Mr. Rick Scott
Designee: Ms. Patricia Harris

Chair of Miami-Dade Delegation
Representative Eddy Gonzalez
Designee: Rep. Jose Javier Rodriguez

Chair of Governing Board of South Florida Water Management District
Mr. Daniel O'Keefe
Designee: Ms. Sandy Batchelor

Miami-Dade State Attorney
Ms. Katherine Fernandez-Rundle
Designee: Mr. Gary Winston

Mayor of Miami-Dade County
Mayor Carlos Gimenez
Designee: Mr. Frank Balzebre

Mayor of Miami
Mayor Tomas Regalado

City of Miami Commissioner
Commissioner Frank Carollo

Miami-Dade County Commissioner
Commissioner Bruno Barreiro
Designee: Ms. Marlene Avalo

Chair of Miami River Marine Group
Mr. Richard Dubin
Designee: Mr. Orin Black

Chair of Marine Council
Mr. Ed Swakon
Designee: Mr. Phil Everingham

Executive Director of Downtown Development Authority
Ms. Alyce Robertson
Designee: Mr. Javier Betancourt

Chair of Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Barry Johnson
Designee: Ms. Megan Kelly

Neighborhood Representative Appointed by City of Miami Commission
Dr. Ernest Martin

Neighborhood Representative Appointed by Miami-Dade Commission
Ms. Sallye Jude
Designee: Ms. Jane Caporelli

Representative from Environmental or Civic Organization Appointed by the Governor
Mr. Horacio Stuart Aguirre

Member at Large Appointed by the Governor
Mr. Jay Carmichael

Member at Large Appointed by Miami-Dade Commission
Ms. Sara Babun
Designee: Mr. Christian Larach

Member at Large Appointed by City of Miami Commission
Mr. Manny Prieguez

Managing Director
Mr. Brett Bibeau

May 12, 2015

City of Miami Commission
City Hall
3500 Pan American Dr
Miami, FL

Re: 1) Request FDOT to Replace Their Project #412473-8 Trial Option 4A with Option 1, Restoring 2 Needed Vehicular Lanes & Still Providing Safety Improvement, On and Adjacent to Brickell Bridge

Dear City Commissioners:

Please join the Miami River Commission, Epic, the James L. Knight Convention, State Representative Jose Felix Diaz, and other affected parties in requesting that FDOT's project #412473-8 replace the trial "Alternative 4" with "Alternative 1", which **would restore two desperately needed vehicular lanes on and adjacent to the Brickell Bridge & still provide the safety improvement.** Please see FDOT's attached preferred "Alternative 1: Barrier Wall in Front of Wells Fargo Center, Benefits – No lane changes".

As you are aware, Brickell Bridge openings have long been an issue for the necessary balance between the Port of Miami River, and downtown traffic, neither of which want to be temporarily delayed. **The new need for drivers to merge from three lanes down into only two northbound vehicular lanes while driving on top of the Brickell Bridge, clearly makes the vehicular backup longer, and takes more time to restore average traffic flow after a Federally regulated Bridge opening.**

FDOT stated at a public meeting of the MPO's Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee that the FDOT video camera focused on the NE side of the Brickell Bridge frequently views cars running the "No Right on Red" traffic light when the pedestrian and bicycle is crossing the intersection incorrectly thinking it's their turn because the vehicular traffic light is red and the flashing beacon is indicating it's safe to cross. On March 24, 2015 the MPO's Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee passed a unanimous resolution, "to recommend that FDOT suspend project #412473 pending an area-wide study to see the impacts of the lane reduction".

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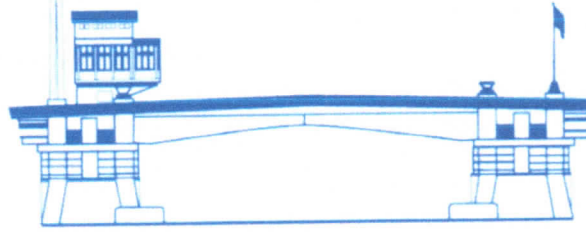
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Please note the problem with this "trial" reduction of a vehicular travel lane directly on the Brickell Bridge has been confirmed by witnesses whom live and work in this immediate area.

I have attached the following letters to you, all respectfully requesting FDOT restore the removed and desperately needed vehicular lanes on and adjacent to the Brickell Bridge:

1. Epic Residences May 2, 2014, representing hundreds of resident taxpayers
2. James L. Knight Convention Center, March 26, 2015, representing hundreds of jobs and economic revenue
3. Representative Jose Felix Diaz, May 12, 2015
4. Miami River Commission, August 12, 2013
5. Miami River Commission, April 29, 2015

The community has been begging FDOT to please restore the two removed vehicular lanes on and adjacent to the Brickell Bridge, and replace it with FDOT's "Alternative 1" which still provides the desired safety improvements (additional traffic calming, sharrows, etc. may also be included) without the unintended and negative consequences of removing two vehicular lanes at this critical and busy intersection.

Your time and consideration are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Horacio Stuart Aguirre
Chair,
Miami River Commission