



Florida House of Representatives

Representative Jose Felix Diaz

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May 12, 2015

VIA ELECTRONIC CORRESPONDENCE

Secretary Gus Pego
FDOT District 6
1000 NW 111 Ave
Miami, FL 33172

Re: Issues Pertaining to the Brickell Bridge

Dear Secretary Pego:

I hope that this correspondence finds you well. I know that you are very busy, but I also understand that this letter might be timely and can help provide some guidance on some pending issues relating to the Brickell Bridge (the "Bridge"), a vital infrastructure concern in downtown Miami, where I have worked for the past ten years.

I respectfully request that FDOT's project #412473-8 trial "Alternative 4" be replaced with "Alternative 1", which would restore two desperately needed vehicular lanes & still provide the safety improvement on, and adjacent to, the Bridge. See FDOT's attached preferred "Alternative 1: Barrier Wall in Front of Wells Fargo Center, Benefits – No lane changes".

As you are well aware, the Bridge openings have long been an issue for the necessary balance between the river traffic, and downtown vehicular traffic, neither of which should be unreasonably delayed. The new need for drivers to merge from three lanes into only two northbound vehicular lanes while driving on top of the Bridge, makes the vehicular back-up/bottleneck take longer, and takes more time to restore average traffic flow after a Federally regulated Bridge opening.

(30961427:1)Regulatory Affairs Committee, Chairman, Local Government Affairs Committee,
Appropriations Committee, Government Appropriations Subcommittee

It is my understanding that 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 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 that it is 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".

Please note the problem with this "trial" reduction of a vehicular travel lane directly on the Brickell Bridge has been confirmed by me and multiple other witnesses whom live and work in this immediate area. I have asked the Miami River Commission for, and am attaching, the several letters of support, all respectfully requesting that FDOT restore the removed and desperately needed vehicular lanes on and adjacent to the Brickell Bridge.

Secondly, on a related issue – For the past two years, I have been following the public parking lot which is to be constructed on the right-of-way beneath the Brickell Bridge (to service the Miami Circle Park). It has come to my attention that the archeologist in charge of the work plan has re-submitted his plans, and I ask for your support in expediting the State's approval of this land for an MPA parking lot.

As always, I thank you for your time and your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke that ends in a large, rounded flourish.

Jose Felix Diaz
State Representative