

**Transit, Connectivity & Mobility Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

200 S. Biscayne Blvd., Suite 2929, Miami, FL 33131

Tuesday, February 7, 2017 | 9:00 A.M

DDA Conference Room

**Committee Members Present:**

Alan Ojeda, Chair and Miami DDA Board Member

Marta Vicedo, Miami DDA Board Member

Santiago Eliashev

Rachel Johnson

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**1. Presentations:**

- a. “Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Plan” SMART Plan update – Aileen Boucle, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Alice Bravo, Director of the Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works (MDC DTPW). (detailed presentation on file). Aileen Boucle and Alice Bravo provided a presentation to the Committee Members.

Bravo and Boucle explained that the goal of the SMART plan is to get a balanced overall network, with a rail network, bus network, and road network that expands the options and move people across the entire county.

The precedent for this approach exists, as other cities in the country have received big federal funding packages to implement comprehensive transportation/transit plans. MPO is approaching FTA so that they can give the SMART plan a federal designation.

The timing for implementation is subject to the funding; the state needs to jump in with a 25% support of the 3.6 Billion Dollar request, and that would make the federal request more palatable. Of the four most populous states in the country, Florida is the only state that doesn't have a serious plan to develop/expand transit.

PD&E studies for Kendall, North, and Northeast Corridors (FEC) are being advanced with help from the state (FDOT). The other three corridors (East-West, Beach connector, and South) are being advanced locally.

Implementation plans are to be developed for 6 corridors. This will help detail last mile and land uses. MPO is acting as procurement arm of the county to hire consultants. The RFQ is to be issued soon, and MPO will select 5 consultants and assign one corridor to each consultant.

After her presentation, Alice Bravo requested the support of the Miami DDA Board for the SMART plan and the funding strategy in place to pursue dollars at the federal, state, and local

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level for implementation. They also want the DDA to support the MPO's initiative to develop implementation plans that will be advanced as part of this planning effort to figure out the physical and regulatory details within the station areas as they fund the infrastructure investments.

## 2. Committee Action/Discussion Items:

### a. Downtown Pedestrian Priority Zone

Julian Gigi from Downtown Neighborhood Alliance (DNA) said that DNA would like to have the DDA join forces with them to push for the city to implement and take action on the 10 proposed initiatives of the Downtown Pedestrian Priority Zone (PPZ). Fabian de la Espriella provided a document with the summary of the current 10 initiatives:

1. Create a Clear Pedestrian Path
2. Align Curb Ramps with Sidewalks
3. Require Crosswalks at all intersections
- 4. Provide automatic countdown timer with more crossing time**
5. Reduce drive lane widths
6. Extend the sidewalk at all intersections
7. Enhance mid-block lighting
8. Provide shade at sidewalks
- 9. Designate 25 MPH speed limit**
- 10. Prohibit right turns on red**

Alan Ojeda asked who had jurisdiction on the roads. Fabian de la Espriella responded that the jurisdictions of roads in Downtown may be under City, Miami-Dade County or Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

De La Espriella added that there's resolutions at the City and County level adopting the PPZ. The challenge to date has been making sure the PPZ elements get incorporated as capital improvement projects and public works projects get implemented.

To ensure the implementation of the PPZ, Christina Crespi mentioned that staff continuously reports and makes recommendations to the appropriate entities to ensure City and County staff keep these elements in mind as projects are moving forward.

Alyce Robertson added that DDA has two grants from FDOT to implement pedestrian and bicycle enhancement on several street in Downtown, and the DDA is currently working with the City of Miami Capital Improvements Department to implement the use of those grants.

Marta Vicedo recommended to prioritize elements 4, 9 and 10 (provide automatic countdown timers, establish a 25 mph speed limit, and prohibit right turns on red). Carlos Cruz-Casas, from MDC DTPW, mentioned that in order to lower the speed limit to 25 mph, a study will probably be necessary so that there's an understanding of the impacts of that change within the network.

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Alan Ojeda suggested that we figure out a way to keep track and follow up on the implementation of the PPZ elements, and a way to report DDA efforts in the incremental implementation of the PPZ. DDA staff will report to committee monthly about the progress of the Downtown Priority Zone.

### **3. Project Updates:**

#### **a. SE/SW 1<sup>st</sup> Street Complete Streets Project**

Fabian de la Espriella provided an overview of the Complete Streets Project to the new Committee members and mentioned that coordination is taking place with City of Miami and Miami Dade County staff on the necessary road improvements and contractor selection. The project should be ready to be implemented around May 2017. Alan Ojeda suggested to the project team to be careful with the selection of the appropriate materials in order to maximize the lasting effect of the project and its impact.

#### **b. Signage and Wayfinding**

Fabian de la Espriella provided an update on the status of the project.

Alan Ojeda made the request that staff and committee make a priority of the SMART Plan, the Brickell Tunnel and the other active projects taking place without adding new tasks on the dashboard, as the agency does not have the funds and man power to take on bigger tasks.

Next steps include to send workplan to all committee members, and to send Brickell Tunnel Feasibility Study to Alan Ojeda.

Next meeting – March 7, 2017 – Agenda items scheduled

- Metropolitan Planning Organization Presentation - July 2014 Miami-Dade Metromover System Expansion Study

***Meeting Adjourned***

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