

**TRANSIT, CONNECTIVITY & MOBILITY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

200 S. Biscayne Blvd., Suite 2929, Miami, FL 33131  
Tuesday, October 4, 2016 | 9:00 A.M  
DDA Conference Room

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**Meeting Attendees:**

Alan Ojeda, Chair  
Alyce Robertson  
Eric Riel  
Fabian De La Espriella  
Neal Schafers

Nicholas Martinez  
Karry Maravilla  
Jack Schnettler  
Glen Myers  
Wilson Fernandez

Kimberly Bentley  
Floencia Tabeni  
Mildred Riscagno  
Janice Rodriguez  
Juan Calderon

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**1. Presentations:**

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Miami River/Brickell Bridge Tunnel Feasibility Study - Jack Schnettler, P.E. (ATKINS).

The presentation addressed the following:

- Study Purpose
  - Identify and define tunnel improvement concepts that are technically feasible and implementable
  - Determine advantages and disadvantages
  - Provide conceptual-level cost estimates
  - Define implementation strategy and schedule
  - Prepare visualizations of preferred concepts
- Study Participants include MPO, Consultant Team and Project Advisory Committee.
- Study Area
- Data Collection
- Design Criteria
- Relevant Prior Studies
- Port Miami River tunnel studies
  - 1964 Bridge and Tunnel Study – No action to move forward
  - 2006: Tunnel study
  - Examined several tunnel options
  - Between I-95 and Miami Ave.
  - Least costly option: \$727 million 2015
  - Included significant ROW acquisition
  - Showed limited diversion of traffic away from Brickell corridor
- Port Miami Tunnel
- Key Study Issues and considerations include
  - Study area context
  - Strategies for alternatives definition
  - Street system integration

- Technical considerations for tunnels
- Construction phasing
- Comparative factors
- Strategies for alternative development include
  - Add to number of crossings and crossing capacity:  
Construct tunnel and retain existing Brickell Bridge
  - Maintain number of crossings with increase in capacity:  
Construct tunnel, maintain partial bridge operation during construction, remove existing bridge
  - Maintain number of crossings with increase in capacity:  
Remove existing bridge, construct tunnel on bridge alignment

Mr. Schnettler concluded that the next steps of this study included:

- Continue development of alignment options and refinements
- Finalize screening criteria
- Conduct internal reviews and screening
- Conduct follow-up PAC meeting
- Initiate development of cost estimates
- Continue with development of study report
- A mid-October meeting to be scheduled with the committee to follow up and a report about this study should be available by the end of the year.

Mr. Ojeda thanked the consultants for their presentation and commented that he was not sure whether the option of creating a water tunnel similar to the Port Miami Tunnel would be the best option as Brickell will not get wider. Members of the public mentioned that they would like to see street connectivity options in the study. Mr. Schnettler concluded that a DRAFT report would be available at the end of October and final report in December. **Mr. Ojeda asked that the (MPO) Consultants return after the report is finalized and report as to MPO actions and next steps for implementation.**

## 2. Project Updates:

**Committee Action Discussion/Action Items: Committee recommendation of the MPO Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Plan Corridor Priority/Priorities for Downtown Miami.**

Eric Riel commented that Wilson Fernandez presented the SMART Plan at this committee last month and requested the DDA support of this project.

A SMART Plan Rapid Transit Corridors map was provided to Alan Ojeda and members of the public. Mr. Ojeda commented that he's in support of the Rapid Transit Corridors 1, 2, 4, 5 on this map. He feels that transit connectivity is missing in the SMART plan and stations should be built to meet the needs of the commuters. After further discussion, Wilson Fernandez asked if a letter would be issued to recommend this plan, **Mr. Ojeda stated that he's in support of the plan, but he feels that there are missing pieces in this project.**

**Mr. Ojeda suggested that DDA staff create a system on this committee reinforced with milestones and goals. This information should be provided to the Board to see the progress status of all the three projects. Eric Riel was tasked with creating milestones for each project.**

*Meeting Adjourned*

**Attachments:**

Attendance Sign-in Sheet



