

MPO RESOLUTION # 21-08

RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2030 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN TO INCLUDE IN PRIORITY III SR 924 (GRATIGNY PARKWAY) EAST EXTENSION TO I-95 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADVANCING PLANNING AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

WHEREAS, the Interlocal Agreement creating and establishing the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Miami Urbanized Area requires that the MPO provide a structure to evaluate the adequacy of the transportation planning and programming process; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Planning Council (TPC) has been established and charged with the responsibility and duty of fulfilling the aforementioned functions; and

WHEREAS, the TPC has reviewed the TIP amendment, made apart hereof, and finds it consistent with the goals and objectives of the Transportation Plan for the Miami Urbanized Area; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade Expressway (MDX) proposes to extend SR 924 east from its current terminus to I-95 to provide additional east-west limited access mobility in the northern section of Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, this project will interconnect the three major highways SR 826, SR 924 and I-95 and reduce travel times and minimize delays along NW 119th Street; and

WHEREAS, MDX has the funding and is prepared to start planning studies including the Project Development and Environmental Study for the proposed project,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION FOR THE MIAMI URBANIZED AREA, that the attached amendment to the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan to include in Priority III SR 924 (Gratigny Parkway) East Extension to I-95 for the purpose of advancing planning and project development activities is hereby approved.


The adoption of the foregoing resolution was moved by Board Member Dorin D. Rolle. The motion was seconded by Board Member Audrey M. Edmonson, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro-Aye
Vice Chairwoman Barbara J. Jordan-Aye

Board Member Lynda Bell	-Aye	Board Member Joe A. Martinez	-Absent
Board Member Kevin A. Burns	-Aye	Board Member Dennis C. Moss	-Aye
Board Member Jose "Pepe" Diaz	-Absent	Board Member Julio Robaina	-Aye
Board Member Audrey M. Edmonson	-Aye	Board Member Dorrin D. Rolle	-Aye
Board Member Shirley M. Gibson	-Absent	Board Member Marc D. Sarnoff	-Absent
Board Member Carlos A. Gimenez	-Aye	Board Member Natacha Seijas	-Absent
Board Member Perla T. Hantman	-Aye	Board Member Katy Sorenson	-Aye
Board Member Sally A. Heyman	-Aye	Board Member Rebeca Sosa	-Absent
Board Member William H. Kerdyk	-Absent	Board Member Javier D. Souto	-Aye
		Board Member Richard L. Steinberg	-Aye

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and approved this 23rd day of October, 2008.

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
 M.P.O.
 By Zainab Salim
 Zainab Salim, Clerk
 MPO Secretariat





MIAMI-DADE EXPRESSWAY AUTHORITY
AN AGENCY OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

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September 8, 2008

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Mr. Jose Luis Mesa
MPO Secretariat
Miami-Dade County MPO
111 NW 1 Street, 9th floor
Miami, FL 33128-1900

Re: Proposed Amendment to the 2030 MPO Long Range Transportation Plan to include SR 924 East Extension to I-95

Dear Mr. Mesa: *Jose*

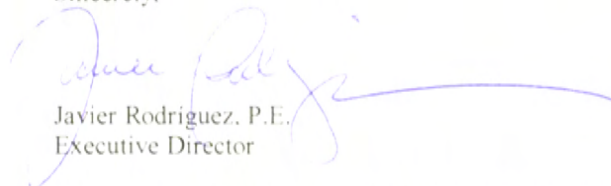
The Miami-Dade Expressway Authority (MDX) is embarking on a series of planning studies to determine the potential for future expansion of the MDX system as part of its Master Transportation Plan update. Expansion and improvement of the MDX system will provide additional mobility throughout Miami-Dade County in concert with other transportation planning efforts underway. Currently, two projects, SR 924 West Extension to the HEFT and the SR 874 Ramp Connector, are included in the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). MDX is requesting that the SR 924 East Extension to I-95 be included in the LRTP for the purposes of advancing the planning and project development process.

Additional information on the proposed project is attached. The purpose and need for the project is to connect the current terminus of SR 924 to I-95 to enhance mobility to all travelers in the northern area of the County by interconnecting the three major highways SR 826, SR 924 and I-95. This highway interconnection will reduce travel times and minimize delays throughout the congested roadway network in the area, especially along NW 119th Street. Preliminary traffic estimates along the corridor indicate that average daily traffic will be approximately 90,000 vehicles per day. The project would provide alternate access to the Golden Glades interchange and park and ride facilities. Potential project benefits include the opportunity to implement livable community improvements along NW 119th Street.

When the western extension of SR 924 is developed, the two projects would provide a very much needed, east-west corridor in northern Miami-Dade County. The SR 924 western extension is part of the 2030 MPO LRTP.

We look forward to working with you to include this project in the LRTP as soon as possible. If you have any further questions regarding this MDX project, please direct them to Ms. Mayra Diaz, MDX Senior Planner. Ms. Diaz can be reached at (305) 637-3277 extension 2118 or mdiaz@mdx-way.com.

Sincerely,


Javier Rodriguez, P.E.
Executive Director

Cc: Alfred Lurigados, MDX Director of Engineering
Mayra Diaz, Senior Planner

SR 924 Extension to I-95 (east)

Description

The objective of this project is to provide a direct connection from I-95 to SR 924 (Gratigny Parkway) and ultimately with all the major highways within Miami-Dade County. Such a connection would provide improved access and mobility to and from major origin and destinations in northern Miami-Dade County including employment centers in the cities of North Miami, Opa-Locka, Hialeah and Miami Lakes.

Location

SR 924 / NW 119th Street from NW 32nd Avenue to I-95. Project length is approximately two miles.

Purpose and Need

The project connecting the current terminus of SR 924 to I-95 would enhance mobility to all travelers in the northern area of the County by interconnecting the three major highways SR 826, SR 924 and I-95. This highway interconnection will reduce travel times and minimize delays throughout the congested roadway network in the area, especially along NW 119th Street. Preliminary traffic estimates along the corridor indicate that average daily traffic will be approximately 90,000 vehicles per day. The project would provide alternate access to the Golden Glades interchange and park and ride facilities. Potential project benefits include the opportunity to implement livable community improvements along NW 119th Street.

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Project Status

Miami Dade Expressway Authority would like to expedite the inclusion of this project in the LRTP in order to proceed with the Project Development and Environmental Study phase.

Project Schedule and Cost

The estimated time to develop the project from concept to concrete is 10 years. Construction costs are estimated at approximately \$290 million.

Area Characteristics

SR 924/NW 119th Street is currently a 6 lane divided highway used to connect the unincorporated areas of Miami-Dade County to west and the City of North Miami and major employment areas in the I-95 corridor to the east.

Land use in this study area is predominantly commercial and industrial west of NW 27th Avenue and residential east to I-95 with commercial uses fronting NW 119th Street and NW 7th Avenue. The study area traverses the Westview Country Club, a private golf course, and provides access to the North Campus of Miami Dade College.

Environmental Considerations

Natural System

The study area is completely built-out with no natural systems remaining. Open spaces have been altered and are limited to maintained landscaped areas, such as golf courses, man-made lake shoreline, and sod fields. The majority of the study area lies outside of the 100 year flood plan.

Community Issues

Future studies will determine if there is any right-of-way or other impacts from alternatives considered. Project alternatives will be developed to minimize potential to the surrounding area.

Visual and Aesthetics

Future studies will determine any visual and aesthetic impact and provide mitigation opportunities as applicable.

Governmental Coordination

MDX will coordinate throughout all future studies with all appropriate agencies including but not limited to Miami-Dade County and the Florida Department of Transportation specially Miami-Dade Transit with respect to the North Corridor transit design in relation to the proposed Metrorail extension. It will also closely coordinate with all adjacent municipalities and any targeted plans for the area such as the Economic Redevelopment Plan of the City of North Miami.

Community Acceptance

Future studies will incorporate extensive public outreach to district elected officials and potentially impacted and benefitted areas surrounding the corridor. The MPO's Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee has endorsed this project through Resolution #4-08 of March 19, 2008.

Public Facilities

Community services within the study area include several places of worship, schools and day care centers. The Miami-Dade College North Campus and Barry University are located on the western and eastern portions of the study corridor, respectively. There are two neighborhood parks, Kiwanis and Oleander, which lie within the study area.

Archeological and Historic Sites

There are various historic structures along the study area, most of which are private residences along NW 119th street east of I-95. However, the majority is ineligible for placement on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and is not contributors to any Natural Resources District (NR District).

Contamination

Potential contamination sites include gasoline stations, hazardous waste sites, petroleum contaminant facilities and petroleum tanks. Future studies will develop alternatives that avoid or minimize impacts to these sites.

SR 924 East Extension to I-95

