

In this Issue:

Solving Traffic Issues Together

Blacks in Transportation History

MDX Annual Report Charts Progress

People Are Talking About MDX

Working Together to Solve Traffic Issues

Public input, combined with rapidly changing technology, is leading to a “win-win” situation for MDX and residents of the Killian area. Initial plans for changes to SR 874 (Don Shula Expressway) called for a tollbooth to be placed just north of the Killian exit. Interested citizens, represented by the group CANT, met with MDX staff to voice their concerns about the potential traffic backup at the proposed tollbooth and the possibility that hundreds of cars trying to avoid the toll would snake through residential neighborhoods.

In a subsequent public forum sponsored by Miami Dade College Student Government, some 60 area residents and several state legislators heard MDX announce recommended changes to SR 874 that eliminate the need for the tollbooth.

Director of Toll Operations Steve Andriuk told the group that advances in technology mean that MDX will be able to implement Open Road Tolling (ORT) on its roadways much sooner than expected, so that eliminating the Killian tollbooth is now a viable option. “We’re committed to bringing improved mobility to Miami-Dade and we’ll do that through ORT,” said Andriuk. “ORT means that traffic will flow more smoothly because overhead gantries will read a driver’s SunPass® and there will be no need to stop or even pause at a tollbooth.”

Alfred Lurigados, MDX Director of Engineering, said that eliminating the tollbooth would not affect improvements to the roads. “We’re still moving ahead with additional capacity, noise walls and landscaping.” And, he told the audience, this would not be the end of the communications process. “This is only the beginning of our community outreach. These are your roadways, and we welcome your ongoing input.”



ORT uses overhead gantries like the one on SR 836 which enables drivers to pay tolls while maintaining highway speed.

Black History Moments in Transportation

As America celebrates Black History Month, MDX recognizes pioneers who have made outstanding contributions in the area of transportation.

- **Richard Spikes** From 1913 until his death in 1962, he invented a variety of improvements we now take for granted. These include the automatic car washer, automobile directional signs, the automatic gear shift and transmission and the automatic safety brake system.
- **Frederick Douglass Patterson** was the first Black to manufacture cars, building thirty between 1916-1919.
- **Garrett A. Morgan** was granted a patent in 1923 for the first automated traffic signal in the United States.
- **Richard F. Neblett** patented his formula of gasoline composition and motor fuel composition.
- **Wendell Oliver Scott** was the first and only Black driver to win a NASCAR Winston Cup.



Annual Report Charts Progress Toward Improved Mobility

Transportation is a key component to the continued economic vitality of our community. Through the Five-Year Work Program, MDX reinvests toll dollars collected to provide significant improvements to the infrastructure of roadways in the system.

In its newly released annual report, MDX charts the progress it is making toward improved mobility for everyone in Miami-Dade County. To obtain a copy, contact MDX at mailbox@mdxway.com.

Recognizing Employee Excellence

John Reese is the recipient of MDX’s semi-annual Outstanding Employee Award. A systems analyst, he was honored for his commitment and dedication. During the awards ceremony, Executive Director Servando Parapar noted Reese’s achievements including the design and implementation of the new MDX web site; work on the agency’s accounting system and support of all requests made in connection with MDX’s successful 2005 audit.



Barbara Cash, Office Manager and Executive Director Servando Parapar congratulate outstanding MDX employee John Reese (center).

People Are Talking About MDX

In times of need, sometimes help is just around the corner. It was in the case of damage caused in the Fountainbleau area by Hurricane Wilma. MDX contractors, working on clearing the area near SR 836, saw downed pine trees on top of a home and blocking a yard in Fairway Lakes Village.

Under the direction of superintendent Victor Marimon and supervisor Reynaldo Dominguez, the crew cleared in a few hours what Wilma caused in just minutes. Resident German Spicker wrote MDX to congratulate the crew on a job well done.

“They came as a miracle; there was no way we could solve the problem by ourselves,” wrote Spicker. “I hope one day we can do something for you. Thanks again. People like you make a difference in our world.”

MDX BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Darryl K. Sharpton, CPA
Chair

Roymi V. Membiela
Vice-Chair

T. Gene Prescott
Treasurer

John Martinez, P.E.
FDOT District Secretary

Maurice A. Ferré
Maritza Gutierrez
Robert W. Holland, Esq.
Carlos A. Lacasa, Esq.
Cesar Llano
Arthur Noriega, V
Oscar Rivero, Esq.
Gonzalo Sanabria
Yvonne Soler-McKinley

Servando M. Parapar, P.E.
Executive Director



OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS:

Alexander Armas
Public Information Specialist

mailbox@mdxway.com
305-637-3277