

THE MDX PRESSWAY

www.mdxway.com

In this Issue:

Work Program Improves Mobility and Economy

Post-Hurricane Damage

SunPass Direct Expanded

Parapar Elected to Board of IBTTA

New Construction to Ease Congestion Around MIA

MDX's Work Program: Improved Mobility and a \$1 Billion Economic Impact

The future economic growth of Miami-Dade County is directly linked to the ability to move people and goods to their destinations. Through its five-year (2006-2010) Work Program, the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority will not only improve mobility but will add a significant amount of revenue and jobs to the local economy.

A newly released study by The Washington Economics Group (WEG) estimates the work done by MDX to expand the infrastructure and capabilities of the roadways it manages will have an economic impact of close to \$1 billion and generate over 9,770 jobs for the area. According to economist and WEG Chairman J. Antonio Villamil, the infrastructure improvements will also reduce highway congestion, eliminating an estimated 20.3 million-vehicle delay hours each year.

"Miami-Dade County residents will benefit significantly from the Five-Year Work Program as mobility improves when the projects are completed," said Villamil. "For example, the reduction of motorist delays will have a positive economic impact of at least \$580.2 million each year. But a modern and efficient transportation system creates benefits far beyond the ability of analysts to measure them. These are the 'externality' benefits of MDX activities and they are significant."



MDX's Work Program includes the construction of 137th Avenue as a 6-lane roadway from SW 8th Street to NW 12th Street, which means West Dade commuters won't have to snake along congested local roads to access the Dolphin Expressway.

The Work Program projects provide a key component to a "smart" network that is both technologically intelligent and interconnected with other modes of transportation.

Major projects have included reconstruction of the western portions of State Road 112 (Airport Expressway) to facilitate access to Miami International Airport and the Miami Intermodal Center; new projects include a new extension of State Road 836 (Dolphin Expressway) further west to improve access to areas west of the Airport, and the western suburbs, as well as selected improvements to State Roads 874 and 878 to improve their efficiency.

Post-Hurricane Crews Force Repairs

A series of incidents involving oversize vehicles caused accidents during a one-week period in November damaging the canopy covering SunPass lanes on SR 874. The accidents caused traffic jams and created potentially dangerous driving conditions. In order to keep traffic moving MDX waived tolls periodically. "Although the agency lost more than \$225,000 in toll revenue during this time, it was critical to ensure that traffic on this major roadway kept flowing, especially during rush hours," said Steve Andriuk, MDX director of toll operations.

Following the last of five crashes, MDX crews and contractors worked around the clock to remove the canopies from the north- and southbound express lanes and had all SunPass equipment back in place and functioning within one day.

MDX Expands SunPass Direct Program ensures equal access to MDX roadways

MDX has renewed its SunPass Direct program. This is the effort which provides a number of free transponders to low-income (\$22,500 or less) Miami-Dade County residents. And, to ensure everyone has equal access to the benefits of using SunPass, MDX is expanding the distribution to include military veterans and the disabled.

Since 1999, MDX has invested more than \$3 million in subsidized transponders to make SunPass more accessible to all Miami-Dade County residents.

Drivers can apply for the SunPass Direct program at Team Metro offices or at Miami-Dade County's traveling Government on the Go bus. All drivers interested in applying for a free transponder will be required to bring a current driver's license and proof of Miami-Dade County residency.

- Low-income residents must bring proof of income (such as an IRS W-2 form or EBT card).
- Honorably discharged veterans, regardless of income, who are permanent residents of Miami-Dade, should bring a veteran's picture ID and the DD214 or VA1010 form as proof of an honorable discharge.
- Disabled residents must bring form HSMV 83039, certified by an authorized practitioner or agency.

Once the proof has been verified by Team Metro staff, customers will receive a free SunPass transponder and are responsible for activating the account before use.

For more information about applying for the SunPass Direct program, residents can call MDX at (305) 637-3277 x 2206. To inquire about Team Metro office hours and locations or the Government on the Go bus they can contact Team Metro at (305) 468-5900.



MDX BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Darryl K. Sharpton, CPA
Chair

Roymi V. Membiola
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

www.mdxway.com

MDX's Parapar Elected to Worldwide Industry Alliance



The International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association has elected Servando Parapar, MDX Executive Director, to its Board of Directors for 2006. IBTTA is the worldwide alliance of toll operators and associated industries that helps members stay abreast of trends that will see the toll industry emerge as a leading force in highway finance and operations.

"IBTTA enables representatives from around the world to share information and innovations about the way technology is reshaping road financing and service delivery," said Parapar. "Many of those ideas can be put to work helping us enhance mobility in Miami-Dade." A registered Professional Engineer, Parapar has served as Executive Director of the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority since its inception in April 1996.

New Construction Will Improve SR 836 East of the Palmetto



Several construction projects currently underway are designed to ease congestion and improve mobility in the area around Miami International Airport. MDX is presently constructing one auxiliary lane, approximately 1.5 miles long, adjacent to the existing westbound SR 836 from just west of NW 57th Avenue to the Palmetto. And, as part of the Palmetto interchange improvements being done in conjunction with FDOT, there will be a realignment of the westbound off-ramp at NW 72nd Avenue. This project also includes the construction of a new two lane bridge over the existing CSX/FEC railroad tracks and is expected to be completed in July 2006.

MDX has also started construction on a project that will improve the NW 57th Avenue interchange. This will extend and widen the existing outside lane westbound, from just east of NW 57th Avenue to just west of NW 57th Avenue, connecting the new auxiliary lane through to the Palmetto. It will also provide a new exit ramp to NW 57th Avenue. Completion is anticipated in September 2006 and should reduce the congestion caused by the current need to merge lanes.