

Transfer of Brickell Avenue from the Florida Department of Transportation to the City of Miami From the US 1/I-95 merge/diverge ramp to SR 90/SE 8 Street

PROJECT FACT SHEET



Transfer of Brickell Avenue from the Florida Department of Transportation to the City of Miami From the US 1/I-95 merge/diverge ramp to SR 90/SE 8 Street

Tuesday, January 21, 2014 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church of Miami 609 Brickell Avenue, Miami, Florida 33131

The City of Miami Commission passed Resolution R-13-0219, dated June 13, 2013, authorizing the City Manager to execute a roadway transfer agreement with the Department. When the transfer is completed, the City will become responsible for owning, operating and maintaining Brickell Avenue within the limits of the transfer.

This public hearing is being conducted to give interested persons an opportunity to express their views concerning the location, social, economic and environmental effects of the proposed transfer.

Please provide your comments to ensure they become part of the project's Public Hearing record. Persons wishing to submit written statements or other exhibits, in place of or in addition to oral statements, may do so at the hearing or by sending them to Phil Steinmiller, District Six Planning Manager, at 1000 NW 111 Avenue, Room 6111-A, Miami, Florida 33172, or via email at phil.steinmiller@dot.state.fl.us. All exhibits or statements postmarked on or before February 3, 2014, will become part of the public hearing record.

PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

6:30 p.m.

Open House (informal session and discussion with FDOT staff)

7:00 p.m.

Formal Presentation

7:30 p.m.

Public Comment Period and Open House (informal session and discussion with FDOT staff)

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) or translation services (free of charge) should contact Mr. Brian Rick seven (7) days prior to the hearing at (305) 470-5225, or in writing at 1000 NW 111 Avenue, Room 6134, Miami, Florida 33172, or via email at brian.rick@dot.state.fl.us.

BRICKELL TRANSFER LIMITS Project Location Map





Transfer of Brickell Avenue from the Florida Department of Transportation to the City of Miami From the US 1/I-95 merge/diverge ramp to SR 90/SE 8 Street

CITY OF MIAMI RESOLUTION: R-13-0219



City of Miami

Legislation

Resolution: R-13-0219

City Hall 3500 Pan American Drive Miami, FL 33133 www.miamigov.com

File Number: 13-00581 Final Action Date: 6/13/2013

A RESOLUTION OF THE MIAMI CITY COMMISSION, WITH ATTACHMENT(S), AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A ROADWAY TRANSFER AGREEMENT, IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE ATTACHED FORM, WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ("DEPARTMENT"), FOR THE TRANSFER OF STATE ROAD 5/US-1/BRICKELL AVENUE, MIAMI, FLORIDA, FROM THE DEPARTMENT STATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM TO THE CITY OF MIAMI ("CITY") STREET SYSTEM; FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ALL OTHER AGREEMENTS, PERMITS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS THAT MAY BE REQUIRED TO EFFECTUATE THE TRANSFERS.

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Transportation ("Department") has completed a countywide analysis of potential roadway transfers and has identified corridors for possible transfer between governmental jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the City of Miami ("City") desires to assume jurisdictional responsibility for Brickell Avenue from I-95 to Southwest 8 Street, Miami, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the City will request the transfer of additional streets from the City Street System to the State of Florida Department of Transportation State Highway System by mutual agreement, and a subsequent Roadway Transfer Agreement, to be determined by September 30, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the City agrees with the terms and conditions contained in the Agreement, and these transfers are mutually agreed upon between the City and the Department;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI, FLORIDA:

Section 1. The recitals and findings contained in the Preamble to this Resolution are adopted by reference and incorporated as fully set forth in this Section.

Section 2. The City Manager is authorized {1} to execute the Roadway Transfer Agreement, in substantially the attached form, with the Department, for the transfer of State Road 5/US-1/Brickell Avenue, Miami, Florida, from State Road 9/I-95 to State Road 90/Southwest 8 Street, Miami, Florida, from the Department State Highway System to the City Street System.

Section 3. The City Manager is further authorized {1} to execute all other agreements, permits and any other relevant documents that may be required to effectuate the transfer.

File Number: 13-00581 Enactment Number: R-13-0219

Section 4. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption and signature of the Mayor.{2}

Footnotes:

- {1} The herein authorization is further subject to compliance with all requirements that may be imposed by the City Attorney, including but not limited to those prescribed by applicable City Charter and Code provisions.
- {2} If the Mayor does not sign this Resolution, it shall become effective at the end of ten calendar days from the date it was passed and adopted. If the mayor vetoes this Resolution, it shall become effective immediately upon override of the veto by the City Commission.



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DRAFT ROADWAY TRANSFER AGREEMENT

BETWEEN THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORATION & THE CITY OF MIAMI



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORATION & THE CITY OF MIAMI ROADWAY TRANSFER AGREEMENT SR 5/ BRICKELL AVENUE FROM SR 9/I-95 TO SR 90/US 41/SW 8 STREET

THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered into this _	day of	, 20	by and between
the FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT	ATION, an agency	of the State of Flo	orida, hereinafter
called the "DEPARTMENT", and CITY OF MIAN	AL hereinafter calle	d the "CITY":	

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, the DEPARTMENT has requested the transfer of SR 5/Brickell Avenue from SR 9/I-95 to SR 90/US 41/SW 8 Street from the State of Florida Department of Transportation State Highway System to the CITY Street System and this transfer is mutually agreed upon, between the CITY and the DEPARTMENT; and

WHEREAS, the parties are authorized to enter into this Agreement pursuant to Section 335.0415, Florida Statutes;

NOW, THEREFORE, THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH: in consideration of the mutual covenants and promises herein contained, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and adequacy of which are hereby acknowledged, the CITY and the DEPARTMENT agree as set forth below:

This Agreement sets forth the terms and conditions under which the CITY and the DEPARTMENT will abide. The commencement of jurisdictional and maintenance responsibilities is the date of the approval of the roadway transfer by the Secretary of the Department of Transportation.

- (a) The CITY accepts all responsibility for the road right-of-way and for operation and maintenance of the roadway, including bridges. In addition to the roadbed, this agreement includes all curbs, culverts, and drainage structures within the right-of-way at the time of transfer. The CITY shall be responsible for maintenance of public sidewalks, bike paths, and other ways in the right-ofway.
- (b) The DEPARTMENT gives up all rights to the road, including the right-of-way, except as may be specified in this Agreement.
- (c) Prior to the transfer, the DEPARTMENT will offer an opportunity for a public hearing stating the intent to remove this road from the State Highway System.
- (d) The CITY shall be responsible for maintaining and operating all traffic signals, and lighting systems within the right-of-way.
- (e) It is agreed that all obligations of the DEPARTMENT, under any maintenance, utility, or railroad crossing agreement or other such agreement, relating to this transfer, shall be transferred to the CITY at the same time and in the same manner as jurisdictional responsibility. If the agreements were made between the DEPARTMENT and the CITY, and the DEPARTMENT will no longer be involved after the transfer takes place, new agreements or amended agreements shall be made



between the DEPARTMENT and the CITY. These agreements shall be negotiated and signed prior to District Secretary approval of the final Transfer Agreement. Copies of any existing permits, agreements and easements shall be turned over to the receiving entity for their records.

- (f) There is evidence of historical/archaeological resources within the right of way being transferred, as documented in the Cultural Resources Assessment Survey for the Jurisdictional Transfer of US1/Brickell Avenue from I-95 to SW 8th Street, Miami-Dade County, Final Report dated October 2013, prepared by Janus Research (hereinafter "CRA Survey"). The CITY agrees to maintain any and all cultural resources located within the right of way being transferred, in accordance with the CRA Survey recommendations, if any, and to comply with the provisions of Section 267.061, Florida Statutes. The CITY shall at all times take the necessary steps to avoid adverse impacts to the historical/archaeological resources. Copy of the CRA Survey shall be delivered to the CITY for its records. The obligations hereunder shall be ongoing obligations of the CITY upon the transfer of the right of way from the DEPARTMENT.
- (g) The CITY agrees to be responsible for inspection, management and performance of all maintenance components of the facility being transferred as identified in this agreement. All maintenance activities formerly performed by the Department's Maintenance Division within the limits of this transfer will now be performed by the CITY. The CITY agrees to inspect, manage and maintain all assets within the transfer limits consistent with the Department's maintenance practices and standards as outlined in the following Publications:
 - o Topic Number 375-020-002, Contract Maintenance Inspection and Reporting
 - o Topic Number 850-000-015, Roadway and Roadside Maintenance
 - o Topic Number 850-050-003, Guardrail Inspection and Maintenance
 - o Topic Number 850-055-025, Single and Multi-Post Sign Inspection
 - o Topic Number 850-065-002, Maintenance Rating Program and Handbook
 - FHWA "Guidelines for the Installation, Inspection, Maintenance and Repair of Structural Supports for Highway Signs, Luminaries, and Traffic Signals"
 - o NPDES Statewide Stormwater Management Plan
 - o Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction
- (h) Existing deeds or right-of-way maps will be recorded by the DEPARTMENT in the public land records of Miami-Dade in which the rights-of-way are located. If right-of-way maps do not exist, the DEPARTMENT shall make maps and file them for possible future use. If the right-of-way is conveyed by Quit-Claim Deed, the same shall also be recorded in the public records of Miami-Dade County.
- (i) The City, by Resolution R-13-0219, dated June 13, 2013, has authorized the execution of this Agreement, further authorizes the terms and conditions of this Agreement, and directs its officials to comply with all provisions hereunder.



- (j) To the best of the DEPARTMENT's knowledge and belief:
 - a. There are no pending actions or claims against the DEPARTMENT relating to the road segment and the DEPARTMENT has not received notice in any form of such action or claim or possible action or claim;
 - b. There are no contaminants, pollutants, man-made substances, or toxic or hazardous substances on or in the road segment.
- (k) The commencement of jurisdictional and maintenance responsibilities is the date of the approval of the Roadway Transfer by the Secretary of Transportation.

All words used herein in the singular form shall extent to and include the plural. All words used in the plural form shall extend to and include the singular. All words used in any gender shall extend to and include all genders.

This Agreement embodies the whole agreement of the parties. There are no promises, terms, conditions, or obligations other than those contained herein, and this Agreement shall supersede all previous communications, representations, or agreements either verbal or written between the parties hereto.

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida.

For communication purposes, the parties may be reached at the following addresses and phone numbers.

Florida Department of Transportation

District Six

1000 NW 111 Avenue Miami, Florida 33172 Telephone: 305-470-5197

Fax: 305-470-5189

Attn: Gus Pego, P.E. District Secretary

City of Miami

Office of the City Manager

444 S.W. 2nd Ave Miami, FL 33130-1910 Telephone: 305-416-1025

Fax: 305-416-1019

Attn: Johnny Martinez, P.E.

City Manager

Each party is an independent contractor and is not an agent of the other party. Nothing contained in the Agreement shall be construed to create any fiduciary relationship between the parties, during or after the performance of this Agreement. Neither party shall have the authority to bind the other party to any obligation whatsoever to any third party without the express specific written consent of the other.

No modification, amendment, or alteration in the terms or conditions contained herein shall be effective unless contained in a written document executed with the same formality and of equal dignity herewith.

If any part of the Agreement shall be determined to be invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction or by any other legally constituted body having the jurisdiction to make such determination, the remainder of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect provided that the part of this Agreement thus invalidated or declared unenforceable is not material to the intended operation of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused these presents to be executed, the day and year first above written.



CITY OF MIAMI

BY:
BY:Authorized Signature
ATTEST:Clerk
Clerk
LEGAL REVIEW:
Local Legal Counsel
STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
TRAINSFORTATION
BY:
District Secretary
ATTEST:
LEGAL REVIEW:
District Legal Counsel



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

POSED DURING PUBLIC HEARING



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Posed during Public Hearing
Transfer of Brickell Avenue from
The Florida Department of Transportation to the City of Miami
From the US 1/I-95 merge/diverge ramp to SR 90/SE 8 Street

Tuesday, January 21, 2014 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church of Miami 609 Brickell Avenue, Miami, Florida 33131

- 1. The traffic and pedestrian lights at 4th Street / Brickell Avenue and at 5th Street / Brickell Avenue turn green at the same time. Will this intersection be part of the transfer, and can this be resolved? FDOT will evaluate both intersections in an effort to define the problem and determine if improvements can be made. These 2 locations are not part of the transfer.
- 2. Will the transfer bring any changes to the operation of the Brickell Bridge?

 The Brickell drawbridge operations are managed by the US Coast Guard. Bridge openings are limited during the morning and afternoon rush hours, and also at lunch time, in order to reduce the delays for vehicular traffic on Brickell during these time periods. The transfer does not include the bridge, and will not change the bridge operations.
- 3. What steps are in place to improve the pedestrian crossing on the south side of Brickell Avenue / 8th Street intersection for pedestrians crossing with baby strollers? How will it be different from the north side of Brickell Avenue?

 FDOT will perform a review of the SE 8th Street/Brickell Avenue intersection to determine if there are

sufficient pedestrian crossing times, and whether any improvements can be made. The Brickell / 8th Street intersection will remain under FDOT control.

- 4. What are the tax effects, if any, to residents of the City as a result of this transfer?

 For information regarding taxation, please contact City of Miami Public Works Director, Nzeribe Ihekwaba, at (305) 416-1200.
- 5. Will any trees along Brickell Avenue be affected as a result of this transfer?

 For information regarding current and future landscaping maintenance along Brickell Avenue, please contact City of Miami Public Works Director, Nzeribe Ihekwaba, at (305) 416-1200.
- 6. What are the maintenance costs associated with Brickell Avenue?

 FDOT spends approximately \$65,000 annually to maintain Brickell Avenue in the limits of the transfer. This does not include landscape maintenance, which is maintained by the City under an agreement with FDOT.
- 7. Who will pay for maintenance of Brickell Avenue after the transfer?
 Upon completion of the transfer, the City will cover all maintenance costs within the limits of the transfer.
- 8. What are the main benefits that Brickell residents will get from the transfer?

 For information regarding benefits to the residents of the Brickell area, please contact City of Miami Public Works Director, Nzeribe Ihekwaba, at (305) 416-1200.
- 9. Once the transfer is completed, if a permit is required for improvements of areas adjacent to Brickell Avenue, will that be done directly with the City or will there still be involvement from FDOT required? Upon completion of the transfer, FDOT would no longer be involved in permitting activities; this would be handled by the City.
- 10. How much money is projected over the next 10 years for maintenance and upgrade and improvement of the current infrastructure on Brickell Avenue?

 For information regarding future maintenance costs, please contact City of Miami Public Works Director, Nzeribe Ihekwaba, at (305) 416-1200.
- 11. What is the City giving for Brickell Avenue? Are any City roads being transferred to FDOT? At present, the City has not offered other roadways to be transferred to the State; however, FDOT remains open to discussing this option with the City.



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PUBLIC HEARING TRANSCRIPT

Page 1

BRICKELL AVENUE TRANSFER PUBLIC HEARING

RE: Transfer of Brickell Avenue from the Florida

Department of Transportation to the City of Miami

Taken on: January 21, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Location: First Presbyterian Church of Miami 609 Brickell Avenue
Miami, Florida 33131

Taken before ONEIDA DEL TORO, Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for Miami-Dade County, State of Florida at Large.

Downtown Reporting

	Page 2
1	APPEARANCES:
2	
3	MAYOR REGALADO
4	SENATOR MIGUEL DIAZ DE LA PORTILLA
5	STATE REPRESENTATIVE JOSE JAVIER RODRIGUEZ
6	STATE REPRESENTATIVES FROM SENATOR MARGOLIS
7	COMMISSIONER SARNOFF
8	REPRESENTATIVES FROM COMMISSIONER XAVIER SUAREZ
9	
10	DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
11	GUS PEGO
12	(District Six Secretary)
13	PHIL STEINMILLER
14	(District Six Planning Manager)
15	NEIL LYN
16	(District Statistics Administrator)
17	HAROLD DESDUNES
18	(District Director of Transportation Development)
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	

Downtown Reporting

	Page 3
1	(Thereupon, a resident of
2	Brickell Avenue made his/her
3	comment on the record).
4	COURT REPORTER: What is your name?
5	MR. RICE: Kyle, K-Y-L-E, Rice, R-I-C-E.
6	COURT REPORTER: Your address?
7	MR. RICE: 801 Brickell Key Boulevard.
8	COURT REPORTER: What is your comment?
9	MR. RICE: So before this city reduces the
10	speed limit they should properly place and
11	enforce the current speed limit.
12	Secondly, before they consider widening
13	the sidewalks they should remove the signs
14	across the sidewalks because they take up half
15	of the sidewalk. Thank you.
16	(Thereupon, the hearing/meeting
17	<pre>proceeded as follows:)</pre>
18	MR. PEGO: Good evening, ladies and
19	gentleman and welcome to this public hearing.
20	We will get started as soon as you folks sit
21	down.
22	On behalf of the Florida Department of
23	Transportation and the District Six Team I want
24	to thank you all for joining us this evening.
25	My name is Gus Pego and I am the District

	Page 4
1	Secretary for the Florida Department of
2	Transportation District Six.
3	With me tonight we have Phil Steinmiller,
4	our District Six Planning Manager; Neil Lyn,
5	our District Statistics Administrator and
6	Harold Desdunes, our Director of Transportation
7	Development. We are here this evening to
8	listen to your comments and your opinions
9	regarding the transfer of Brickell Avenue from
10	the from the Florida Department of
11	Transportation to the City of Miami.
12	At this point in time I'd like to
13	recognize our elected officials. We have Mayor
14	Regalado, Commissioner Sarnoff, State
15	Representative, Jose Javier Rodriguez and we
16	have representatives from Senator Margolis'
17	office as well as representatives from
18	Commissioner Xavier Suarez's office here this
19	evening.
20	Most of you have had the chance to walk
21	around and talk to our team about the proposed
22	transfer. We will be here until 8:30 tonight
23	or as long it takes to answer your questions.
24	Feel free to speak to anyone of us from the
25	project team after this formal presentation.

	Page 5
1	With that said, let's go ahead and start
2	the presentation. Again, thank you all for
3	taking the time to come out tonight and
4	participate in this public hearing process.
5	(Thereupon, a video is being
6	viewed).
7	MR. PEGO: The floor is now open for
8	anyone who wants to provide comments regarding
9	the proposed transfer. We would like to remind
10	you that this is strictly a period for us to
11	receive comments from the public. We will have
12	staff available after the comment period to
13	address your questions one-on-one. Anyone
14	desiring to make a statement or a written views
15	or exhibits after this hearing has the
16	opportunity to do so. If you are holding a
17	speaker card, please hold them up and our staff
18	will collect them. If you have not received a
19	speaker card, please raise your hand and the
20	staff will provide one for you.
21	We also have a stenographer here in the
22	front of the auditorium. If you have a comment
23	or question and do not feel comfortable voicing
24	it in front of everyone, feel free to come over
25	and dictate it directly to her.

	Page 6
1	You may also submit a written comment
2	sheet by placing it in the comment box located
3	on the sign-in table or by mailing it in. Our
4	team will respond to everyone who has had
5	questions. All exhibits and statements
6	postmarked on or before February 3rd, 2014 will
7	become part of the public hearing record.
8	If we don't answer your question or
9	comments tonight, be sure to provide your
10	contact information so that we can respond to
11	you after the hearing. Thank you.
12	I will now ask Alicia Gonzalez to moderate
13	the open comment period.
14	(Thereupon, the open comment
15	period begins in which the
16	following proceedings were had).
17	MS. GONZALEZ: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.
18	I have it looks like four comments here.
19	Alexandra and Jeanette will continue to take
20	cards so if after these people speak, you would
21	like to then submit your card, that's fine. As
22	the secretary stated you do have an opportunity
23	to continue to submit your comments after and
24	ask questions to any of our staff throughout
25	the evening before we go.

	Page 7
1	With that said, I am going to call the
2	first person up. I'm going to call you in
3	order that I numbered them. I do need you to
4	state your name and address for the
5	stenographer although we have it here as well.
6	First person that I have here is Al Crespo.
7	MR. CRESPO: No, I'll go last.
8	MS. GONZALEZ: You'll go last, okay. How
9	about William Fitch. Mr. Fitch, thank you. If
10	you could just state your name and address for
11	the record and I believe you represent an
12	organization so we would like for you to state
13	that for the record.
14	MR. FITCH: My name is William Fitch. I
15	live at 31 Southeast 5th Street, Apartment
16	3815, Miami 33131. That is Brickell on the
17	River, North Tower and I am president of the
18	Board of Directors of that association. I am
19	also a member of the executive committee of the
20	Brickell Home Owner's association. Although my
21	comments are my own and not for either of those
22	organizations.
23	I moved here to Miami 8 years ago. I have
24	lived all over the country in a dozen different
25	cities in every part of the country. I came

	Page 8
1	here to Miami looking for a place to live out
2	my life and one of the primary things I wanted
3	is to have a walking lifestyle where
4	pedestrians were safe where we can live and
5	move about freely. One of the things that
6	concerned me the most when I got here was the
7	conditions of the crosswalks
8	MS. GONZALEZ: Let us know in the back if
9	you can hear better now.
10	MR. FITCH: the condition of the
11	crosswalks, the sidewalks which are all broken
12	up. They are slanted. They are difficult to
13	maneuver. I want a walking lifestyle and I
14	know that the city and Commissioner Sarnoff
15	have been working hard to get that
16	accomplished. When we had meetings with FDOT
17	they have blatantly stated that their concern
18	is moving traffic and they don't care about
19	pedestrian safety. We do. This is our
20	community. This is our city.
21	We need to have control of the streets and
22	the sidewalks ourselves. I strongly support,
23	you know, turning this part of the Brickell
24	Avenue over to the city. Since I live on 5th
25	Street I would prefer that the tradeoff

Page 9 extended all the way up to the river to include 1 2 the parts of Brickell Avenue that I deal with. 3 Quite frankly, my opinion is that we ought to run the state out of all of the city 4 5 streets. City streets should be under the 6 control of the city. It's our community. It's 7 our livelihood. It's our safety. It's our 8 city. It's not the state's. They are not 9 here. They don't care. They are up in 10 Tallahassee and they don't deal with what we do 11 on a day-to-day basis. We need to control our 12 speed limits. We need to control our sidewalks. We need to control our crossings. 13 14 We need to control our city streets. I would 15 urge definitely to support this tradeoff and 16 hopefully many more. Thank you. 17 MS. GONZALEZ: Thank you very, Mr. Fitch. 18 The next person that I have here is Ramiro 19 Ortiz. I do want to remind you tonight that 20 it's very important for the department to 21 receive the comments specific to the transfer and that there is definitely lots of staff here 22 23 to answer questions on any other issues that 24 you have. If we don't answer them, we'll make 25 sure that we bring that back to you.

	Page 10
1	MR. ORTIZ: Good evening. My name is
2	Ramiro Ortiz. I'm president and CEO of
3	HistoryMiami. We are located at 101 West
4	Flagler Avenue. Brickell Avenue is much, much
5	more than just the street. The jurisdiction
6	and the watch over Brickell Avenue needs to
7	concern itself with much more than just moving
8	traffic. Brickell Avenue is a name that's
9	synonomous with all the good and wonderful
10	things that you associate Miami with. I
11	therefore encourage you strongly to support the
12	transfer of Brickell Avenue to the City of
13	Miami. That needs to me managed and overseen
14	by an entity that has the best of interest of
15	all of the things that we associate Miami, not
16	just with the narrow view of moving traffic.
17	Thank you.
18	MS. GONZALEZ: Thank you very much, Mr.
19	Ortiz. Gail Feldman.
20	MS. FELDMAN: I'm Gail Feldman, Bristol
21	Tower, Vice President of the Board of Directors
22	at 2127 Brickell Avenue. Also Vice President
23	of the Brickell Home Owner's Association. For
24	nearly the entire two decades of Brickell
25	Home Owner's Association residents have asked

	Page 11
1	for improvements to Brickell Avenue for safety
2	and quality of life. They have asked for a
3	lower consistent speed limit for all of
4	Brickell Avenue, 30 miles per hour like all
5	other neighborhoods. They have asked for
6	improved signalization and more crosswalks for
7	the safety of all using the roadway. They have
8	asked for better sidewalks and maintenance
9	befitting this important avenue of the city,
10	but the Florida Department of Transportation
11	which controls Brickell Avenue as part as US
12	Highway 1 has resisted our requests. Despite
13	the dramatic changes in Brickell's
14	transformation to an urban neighborhood.
15	Despite the many pedestrians including children
16	throughout the area. Despite the fatality of a
17	resident crossing the street in front of her
18	building. Despite our pleads to improve safety
19	measures.
20	Well, we know the City of Miami is not
21	without its challenges and short comings its
22	administrators and elected officials have been
23	responsive to the Brickell community's needs in
24	the past several years. We know that they
25	share our interest in promoting a vibrant,

	Page 12
1	active urban core where people walk to
2	amenities, activities and restaurants. This is
3	distinct from FDOT's mission which is to move
4	traffic through corridors quickly, but Brickell
5	Avenue is no longer a highway. Highways don't
6	have people jogging, walking, pushing
7	strollers, walking dogs or children playing.
8	Our neighborhood road should not either.
9	We want to see and we believe the city and
10	the county will work with us to see lower speed
11	limit for all of Brickell, a uniform 30 mile
12	per hour all the way from Southeast 26th Road
13	to the river. Change in the hybrid
14	malfunctioning hideous traffic beacon in front
15	of 1814 Brickell Park to a standard pedestrian
16	activated signal that is universally recognized
17	understood and obeyed and I might add that
18	works. More signals and crosswalks to allow
19	for safe pedestrians crossing. Left turn
20	arrows at Southeast 15th Avenue and Brickell
21	Avenue intersection. Not as formal I want to
22	mention that on Sunday I took a walk to Simpson
23	Park with my grandchildren, my daughter and her
24	husband. We went to the crosswalk indicator at
25	the Santa Maria. We pushed it and pushed it

	Page 13
1	and pushed it and it didn't turn red. It was a
2	continuous blinking yellow which nobody knew
3	how to respond to. We had to wait until the
4	traffic stopped. The light didn't work. We
5	crossed the street. On the way back my
6	daughter commented that a Maserati went down
7	the street probably at about 70 miles per hour.
8	Our police cannot be spending every single
9	waking moment of their day sitting on Brickell
10	trying to catch these perpetrators. If the
11	speed limit was the proper speed limit and
12	people understood and were educated about how
13	this crosswalk light works, maybe it would be a
14	little safer. We appeal to you to let the
15	street become that of the city's. Thanks.
16	MS. GONZALEZ: Thank you, Ms. Feldman.
17	Mr. Lawrence Inbur. I hope I'm saying that
18	correctly.
19	MR. INBUR: Good evening. Dr. Lawrence
20	Richard Inbur (phonetic), retired oral surgeon
21	and periodontist. Resident at 1541 Brickell
22	Avenue, The Palace Condominiums. Presently the
23	President of the Condo Association, past
24	president of Brickell Home Owner's Association,
25	Vice president and now on the Board of

	Page 14
1	Directors. The last part I want to make is
2	that I'm also a 60-year resident of Miami. For
3	those of you who don't remember I do when there
4	were only five houses on Brickell. I remember
5	when there was only four tall buildings in
6	Downtown Miami, traffic was a lot easier then,
7	okay. I've also been active in the past in the
8	Fairchild Tropical Gardens and in the one of
9	the things that I've noticed is that this
10	should be the entrance way for tourist and
11	people of a beautiful city that has emerged,
12	it's not. You would remember the disastrous
13	fountains that were there now torn down. If
14	you would remember and they still are the
15	Erectasets that are being hidden by the bushes
16	of which the bushes are half dead to start
17	with. If you would remember the Ixora's that
18	are supposed to mark the intersections which
19	are now yellow and dead. This is not Park
20	Avenue of the south. This Brickell Avenue
21	corridor should be the beautification of Park
22	Avenue, The Champs-Elysees in Paris. All of
23	the most common places and it's not. All it is
24	is a bunch of rocks that the lawnmowers move
25	the rocks around, blow the weeds back into the

Page 15 street and it has no irrigation, no nothing. 1 2 I think that's disastrous and so therefore 3 I think what people want and one of the things I will mention also if my figures are correct 4 5 that approximately 73 percent of the city base taxes come from the residents from 15th to 6 7 I think the residents deserve better for their money of which they are not getting and 8 9 so therefore again, I agree with Gail and I 10 think that it's time that we turn it over to the city where the people have more voice in 11 12 saying what they have. Thank you. MS. GONZALEZ: Thank you very much, Dr. 13 14 Inbur. Mr. Daniel Ponce. 15 MR. PONCE: Good evening. I'm Danny Ponce with Brickell Area Association and Brickell Key 16 17 as well as Suraya Properties, representing all three of them. My address is 501 Brickell Key 18 19 Drive, Suite 600. We're basically quite 20 interested in this transfer. Happy that this is being considered. I'd like to send our full 21 22 support of the transfer of Brickell Avenue to 23 the City of Miami. We trust our city officials 24 and they understand what our needs are so 25 please do so. Thank you.

	Page 16
1	MS. GONZALEZ: Thank you, Mr. Ponce. Mr.
2	Crespo. Before Mr. Crespo speaks I don't have
3	any other speaker cards. Is there someone that
4	would like to speak after Mr. Crespo speaks?
5	MR. CRESPO: Come on. You all get up.
6	You came all the way over here to speak.
7	My name is Al Crespo. I do remember when
8	there were only five houses on Brickell. As a
9	matter of fact I remember when they built the
10	first TV station on Brickell Avenue. How many
11	of you remember that? I don't live on Brickell
12	and while I support the opinions of everybody I
13	just have a couple questions to ask. How much
14	money does the State of Florida right now
15	currently spent for the maintenance of Brickell
16	Avenue? How much money is projected over the
17	next 10 years for maintenance and upgrade and
18	improvements of the current infrastructure on
19	Brickell Avenue? So that's a question that I
20	think tax payers should know and whether they
21	are going to bite the whole bullet or whether
22	that money is spread out across the state.
23	MS. GONZALEZ: Yes, Mr. Crespo. Our DOT
24	representatives are here. They can answer that
25	after the formal comment.

	Page 17
1	MR. CRESPO: That's one question I had.
2	MS. GONZALEZ: Yes. We'll get that
3	answered.
4	MR. CRESPO: The second question I have
5	is, this is a trade so the city is going to
6	receive Brickell Avenue. What is the city
7	given for Brickell Avenue?
8	MS. GONZALEZ: Right. Mr
9	MR. CRESPO: There are streets so what
10	streets are being given by the city for
11	Brickell Avenue?
12	MS. GONZALEZ: Right, right. Mr.
13	Steinmiller or Mr. Lyn or Mr. Desdunes, they
14	can answer that for you. We have to do by our
15	guidelines do this as a formal comment period
16	and answer you, but we would absolutely get
17	those questions answered. Do you want put into
18	the record a support or not for this particular
19	transfer?
20	MR. CRESPO: No. I just have some
21	questions. I'm always interested in the money.
22	MS. GONZALEZ: Not a problem. We'll get
23	those questions answered for you, Mr. Crespo.
24	We have one more person. Can I ask you to come
25	to the mic just so she can record your she

Page 18 1 needs to be able to record it. 2 MR. DURAN: My name is Alfredo Duran 3 (phonetic). I live at 200 Southeast 15th Road, Apartment 4C, Brickell Harbour Condominium. 4 Ι 5 don't have a title. I'm only a taxpayer. 6 MS. GONZALEZ: It's important. 7 MR. DURAN: He addressed most of the 8 questions that I have regarding budget and 9 where the revenues are going to come from and 10 if the City of Miami is going to be paying for 11 it or if the revenues are going to be coming 12 from the state. Another thing I would like to add regarding the 30 mile limit is that if you 13 14 don't have proper traffic enforcement, it's not 15 going to buy. Particularly I know for a fact 16 that there is a no turn on red coming eastbound 17 on Brickell and 15th Road. At least eight of nine cars on a daily basis just run that light 18 19 so if you don't have proper traffic 20 enforcement, it's just not going to fly. know that we need enforcement and we need 21 22 enforcement coming from the police department 23 so everything is nice and neat if we 24 pedestrians, but enforcement has to come with I'm more concerned about the revenues like 25

	Page 19
1	Mr. Crespo. I'll give you my address and my
2	email. I'm not going to circle around for
3	someone to answer the questions, but you can
4	email me later.
5	MS. GONZALEZ: Absolutely, Mr. Duran. If
6	we can get that from you, that would be
7	wonderful. Thank you so much, Mr. Duran.
8	Anyone else that would like to speak? Can I
9	ask you to come to the mic I need to have it
10	formally on the record. Thank you. She's just
11	asking me to record her comment.
12	MS. JOHNSTON: Hi, my name is Nelly
13	Johnston.
14	COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry?
15	MS. JOHNSTON: J-O-H-N-S-T-O-N.
16	MS. GONZALEZ: Your address please, Nelly.
17	MS. JOHNSTON: 465 Brickell Avenue. I'm
18	here in representation of the Icon Brickell
19	Master Association. Icon Brickell is three
20	buildings and it's a little bit over 1,800
21	units. I'm here because the President of the
22	Association of the Masters Association which is
23	the one that handles the common elements of the
24	three buildings asked me to come and pay
25	attention. She would like me to talk about

also some people have touched this subject the danger in crossing the streets coming out of 465 Brickell Avenue crossing. From Icon Brickell to where Finnegan's which I think 5th Street. The light that gives the pedestrian crossing is also the light that tells the car to go and there is always a big conflict. That is something that we would like to know if this changes from the FDOT to the city would be also, you know, taken care of. Who is going to be in charge of that? Is anybody paying attention to the changes that are necessary to increase the pedestrian safety? There is always somebody fighting with the driver and the mother that is crossing the street with the kids and it has become quite a safety issue that the lights go green at the same time for pedestrians and for cars, that's one. The second is something that we always wonder about we are three buildings and the footprint is not that big, but like I said, we have over 1,800 units just in that corner that is right by the Brickell Bridge. Now, there is more buildings coming up. Is there anything being addressed from the transfer, from the		Page 20
465 Brickell Avenue crossing. From Icon 4 Brickell to where Finnegan's which I think 5th 5 Street. The light that gives the pedestrian 6 crossing is also the light that tells the car 7 to go and there is always a big conflict. That 8 is something that we would like to know if this 9 changes from the FDOT to the city would be 10 also, you know, taken care of. Who is going to 11 be in charge of that? Is anybody paying 12 attention to the changes that are necessary to 13 increase the pedestrian safety? There is 14 always somebody fighting with the driver and 15 the mother that is crossing the street with the 16 kids and it has become quite a safety issue 17 that the lights go green at the same time for 18 pedestrians and for cars, that's one. 19 The second is something that we always 20 wonder about we are three buildings and the 21 footprint is not that big, but like I said, we 22 have over 1,800 units just in that corner that 23 is right by the Brickell Bridge. Now, there is 24 more buildings coming up. Is there anything	1	also some people have touched this subject the
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crossing is also the light that tells the car to go and there is always a big conflict. That is something that we would like to know if this changes from the FDOT to the city would be also, you know, taken care of. Who is going to be in charge of that? Is anybody paying attention to the changes that are necessary to increase the pedestrian safety? There is always somebody fighting with the driver and the mother that is crossing the street with the kids and it has become quite a safety issue that the lights go green at the same time for pedestrians and for cars, that's one. The second is something that we always wonder about we are three buildings and the footprint is not that big, but like I said, we have over 1,800 units just in that corner that is right by the Brickell Bridge. Now, there is more buildings coming up. Is there anything	4	Brickell to where Finnegan's which I think 5th
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wonder about we are three buildings and the footprint is not that big, but like I said, we have over 1,800 units just in that corner that is right by the Brickell Bridge. Now, there is more buildings coming up. Is there anything	18	pedestrians and for cars, that's one.
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is right by the Brickell Bridge. Now, there is more buildings coming up. Is there anything	21	footprint is not that big, but like I said, we
24 more buildings coming up. Is there anything	22	have over 1,800 units just in that corner that
	23	is right by the Brickell Bridge. Now, there is
being addressed from the transfer, from the	24	more buildings coming up. Is there anything
	25	being addressed from the transfer, from the

Page 21 FDOT to the City of Miami in reference to the 1 2 increasing population that these buildings are 3 having, the impact that they are having. everybody goes up to their house they are off 4 5 the street. When everybody starts coming out 6 there is no more street. Where else are we 7 going to go? There is always the same problem 8 with the Brickell Bridge that drops from 9 Biscayne Boulevard going south and also going north and the connection right there is 10 impossible. Something needs to be done in 11 12 reference to improving the traffic and then somebody decides to go out in the boat and the 13 14 bridge goes up and there is 20 minutes that, 15 you know, nobody can go anywhere from there. 16 That's the only place really that you can get 17 through. You could go to Miami Avenue or whatever, but not really. Most things are one 18 19 way and you get stuck. 20 What are the changes that this transfer is 21 going to bring in those aspects? Also, one 22 more thing is to touch into what are the tax either effects, you know, like in the positive 23 24 or the negative to the residents of the city? 25 Is this transfer is this going to cost them any

Page 22 type of tax increase? 1 2 MS. GONZALEZ: Thank you so much for those 3 questions. I think again because of the unique nature anything that is related to the existing 4 5 Department of Transportation I think the staff 6 is over here. I think the City of Miami staff 7 is throughout and they will make sure that we 8 get you that question answered after we finish 9 here from the city's prospective on your second 10 question. We've recorded it so if we don't answer them correctly, we'll make sure that we 11 12 get you that information. I also want recognize State Senator, Miguel Diaz de la 13 14 Portilla that has joined us. Thank you so much 15 for being here with us. I don't know if you 16 would like to make a comment. 17 SENATOR DIAZ DE LA PORTILLA: Just here to listen and help out in whatever I can. 18 19 you. 20 MS. GONZALEZ: Thank you for being here. 21 Do we have another few comments? Can you get 22 them their cards so I can make sure we get 23 them. Do you want to go ahead and come up and 24 then we'll get your card after? I just need to 25 make sure I have the speaker cards recorded so

Page 23 1 I appreciate everyone dealing with the formal 2 regulations that we are guided by here. 3 MR. RAMIREZ: Good evening. My name is David Ramirez. I live at 1824 Brickell Avenue, 4 5 Apartment 1A 33129. I'm here basically as a 6 citizen representing others. What I basically 7 want to say that I would support a motion for 8 the transfer to the city under the assumption 9 that the city is going to do a much better job 10 than what the state has done so far. I second all the motions that have heard before in order 11 12 to make Brickell Avenue a more amicable street to pedestrians and for that you need to control 13 14 the speed. You need to improve the quality of 15 the sidewalks and you need to put more lights, 16 more enforcement for traffic speed so that's 17 basically my statement. I as many others from what I've heard came here also to understand 18 better what's the -- I don't know how the 19 20 hearing process goes. From what I get from you 21 it seems that it's one-on-one questions and 22 answers, but I would suggest that if it doesn't 23 go against your rules you make the answers to many people because what they have asked so far 24 25 I'm interested to know. If you can make that

Page 24 1 public. 2 MS. GONZALEZ: Well, I appreciate that. 3 Unfortunately, we are guided to hold the public hearing as a formal comment period. We do 4 5 answer the questions before and after just 6 because that is the way the procedure and the 7 guidelines guide our hearings, but we are very 8 happy to be able to make those answers more 9 public. I think that there would be plenty 10 staff here to address that. The other thing I just want to remind is that if you do leave 11 12 here because you have to time wise without your questions answered, if you would just leave us 13 14 this card with the question, then we will 15 absolutely return -- we will answer you in a 16 formal letter. So you can absolutely put your 17 comments in the comment sheets and questions and then we will go ahead and send you the 18 19 response as well. Some of the questions asked 20 are more for the city and so if that's needed 21 the city will join us in answering your 22 questions. 23 MR. RAMIREZ: Thank you. 24 MS. GONZALEZ: Thank you so much, Mr. 25 Ramirez. The next person I have is Ben

	Page 25
1	Launerts.
2	MR. LAUNERTS: Good evening. I'm Ben
3	Launerts. I'm not currently a Brickell
4	resident although I have been in the past. I
5	am also the owner Parksman Parking. We do
6	valet service for about seven luxury
7	condominiums in the area representing about
8	4,000 residents. I employ over 100 people that
9	come in and out of this area. I'm speaking as
10	an employer it's very important for our people
11	to get to work on time and one of the growing
12	issues right now of course is traffic that's
13	being brought about by all the construction.
14	It's my opinion that if the city had a control
15	of the roadway along with the others, they can
16	probably design a better traffic flow and help
17	move around these areas and make it easier for
18	our residents and also for our employees to
19	come back and forth in and out of the city
20	every day. We're in support of this happening.
21	Thank you.
22	MS. GONZALEZ: Thank you very much. I
23	appreciate your comment. Mr. George Valle.
24	MR. VALLE: Yes. Hi, good evening. I'm a
25	citizen of 1408 Brickell Bay Drive. I'm

	Page 26
1	speaking for myself. I've heard everyone be in
2	favor of the transfer. From my personal
3	experience and I was born and raised in Miami.
4	I've worked on Brickell for 30 years. I've
5	seen a deterioration of Brickell. I think we
6	do have laws. It's just the lack of
7	enforcement of the laws. I've seen buildings
8	go up. I've seen variances. When I started
9	out on Brickell I could look down the
10	boulevard. We had a beautiful boulevard here.
11	That doesn't exist anymore. I believe that
12	this is a great country because we have checks
13	and balances. If you turn everything over to
14	the city, it's just going to be more of the
15	same. I think the state should be involved in
16	it and we should have checks and balances and
17	just as proof as you move up the state you see
18	that the cities are more organized then we are
19	down here. Why is that? I'd like to have
20	someone answer that question so anyway that's
21	what I have to say. Thank you very much.
22	MS. GONZALEZ: Thank you, Mr. Valle. Do I
23	have any other comments? Anyone else that
24	would like to speak this evening? Yes, would
25	you like to come up to speak again?

	Page 27
1	MR. FITCH: May I?
2	MS. GONZALEZ: Sure, absolutely.
3	MR. FITCH: Again, my name is William
4	Fitch. I live here on 5th Street on Brickell
5	on the River North. I've had a number meetings
6	with Commissioner Sarnoff and with the mayor to
7	address your questions. If you look at what's
8	happened on Brickell and it's obvious that the
9	state is doing nothing and the city will take
10	that over and will be responsive to the
11	citizens here. The city has the money, has the
12	funds available to do a proper maintenance of
13	it. The state has ignored us. We need to take
14	control of it so I urge this turnover. Thank
15	you.
16	MS. GONZALEZ: Thank you, Mr. Fitch.
17	Anyone else that would like to speak? Please
18	state your name and address, for the record.
19	MS. DEPPMAN: Good evening. My name is
20	Barbara Deppman, D-E-P-P-M-A-N. I live at the
21	Bristol Tower 2127 Brickell Avenue, Apartment
22	1902. I feel very compelled to speak tonight
23	because I'm very much in support of turning
24	this over to the City of Miami. I am a runner
25	and there's a lot of us here in Brickell

	Page 28
1	Avenue. The sidewalks especially those of us
2	that run very early in the morning they are
3	really in horrible conditions. They are
4	marked, but you can't see the marks and so
5	there's incredible cracks and I have seen a lot
6	of people fall. One of them was a very dear
7	friend of mine who is 66, not great. She did
8	fall and hurt herself.
9	Also, another thing in consideration is if
10	you look at the buildings and you look at the
11	median it's a very, very sharp contrast there.
12	It doesn't look like a boulevard. There's
13	I'm all about trees. However, they are not
14	very well taken care of and they actually
15	should be replaced. Some of them are really
16	sick. Yet the individual previous to me that
17	indicated as you go further up the state well
18	if you go down the state towards the South Dade
19	area, there's amazing medians and expressways.
20	Why we can't do the same thing on that's my
21	talk. Thank you.
22	MS. GONZALEZ: Thank you very much. Yes
23	please.
24	MR. RIGGS: Good evening. My name is
25	George Riggs (phonetic). I'm a resident of

Page 29 1 1925 Brickell Avenue and I speak for myself. 2 So US-1 is historic highway; is it not? 3 MS. GONZALEZ: I apologize. You can go 4 ahead with your comment. 5 MR. RIGGS: My question concerns is if it 6 is a federal highway running north to south the 7 old postal road, I don't see how you can 8 un-designate a section of that road that 9 travels from Key West to Maine. It has 10 historically preserved and maintained by maybe 11 even the federal government to some extent, but 12 I'm not real familiar with the forum and the way this is supposed to accomplish anything 13 14 whatsoever. You can send me the answers to my 15 concerns, but how do I get the answers to the 16 other concerns that have been expressed as a resident? I have pros and cons both ways so I 17 18 would say that I think that there needs to be a 19 lot of improvement. I think the Trolleys are a 20 big step in that direction. I think that 21 there's still some improvements that could be 22 made there. We like the Trolley. We like to be able to take the Trolley down to Brickell. 23 24 We've done that, but sometimes we would have to 25 wait 45 minutes for that Trolley.

Page 30 1 suppose to go a long way to alleviate the 2 traffic issues so I don't know that the city is 3 actually doing everything that they can do to hear the citizens out as to how the Trolley can 4 5 be improved. That would be a big step to see 6 that they are actually actively involved in 7 making our lives better in Brickell. We've been residents in Brickell for 15 years and we 8 9 would like to see it continue to improve and be safer and we also would like to see some 10 control exhibited by the city in the 11 12 development. I mean, this new complex going across the street from Icon is going to -- I 13 14 mean, the whole landscape is going to be 15 unrecognizable in 5 years if all these projects 16 get done. I just don't know how people are 17 going to move around. I'd also like to see the printed comments and answers to all the 18 19 concerns expressed here tonight in some form or 20 fashion. Thank you very much. 21 MS. GONZALEZ: Absolutely. Let me address 22 very quickly the handout that you have does 23 show the redesignation that the gentleman is referring to. Our staff is here to answer 24 25 those questions. If indeed you want a copy of

	Page 31
1	the questions and answers that were asked here
2	today, please like I said before go ahead and
3	document that. I understand the process is
4	little bit difficult to go through so our
5	intention of the department more than anything
6	is to make sure everybody's questions are
7	answered. You have a 10-day comment period.
8	If you give your email, we'll make sure to get
9	it to you as quickly as possible so that you
10	still have some time if you would like after to
11	make some additional decisions or put in any
12	additional comments. I think I can speak on
13	behalf of the department that we can return
14	those questions and answers. If you don't get
15	them here today, very quickly within the next
16	few days so that you're still within comment
17	period that goes into our public hearing
18	record. Having said that, I don't know if I
19	have any more comments. I'll ask one more
20	time.
21	Does anybody have any more comments for
22	the formal comment period of our public hearing
23	this evening? Having heard none this concludes
24	our public hearing. Please be sure though to
25	submit your speaker cards if you spoke and we

	Page 32
1	didn't have a card for you, please fill that
2	out for us so we can make sure that the
3	spelling and all the information is correct in
4	our record. Please do turn in your comment
5	sheets which can be done right here in the box
6	or you can give them to any one of our staff
7	members. Of course we do have our stenographer
8	here until we close our hearing tonight that
9	can take your comments directly. If you want
10	to get some questions answered and then come
11	back over to the stenographer and write a
12	comment, your absolutely welcomed to do that.
13	We thank you again tremendously for coming
14	out this evening, for battling the weather. I
15	want to remind you that your city staff is here
16	as well. Did you have a comment, sir?
17	PUBLIC SPEAKER: Does the process allow
18	for a show of hands of how many people are in
19	favor of the transfer and how many are opposed?
20	Many people sat here and we don't know what the
21	real feeling is. We would know with a show of
22	hands.
23	MS. GONZALEZ: We can go ahead and do that
24	and we can verbalize it for the record, but
25	again, we want to make sure that no one feels

	Page 33
1	like they have to participate in that. You're
2	welcome to go ahead and, you know, give us your
3	comment individually, but to the gentleman's
4	point he would like to if you would like to
5	raise your hand in favor of the transfer of
6	Brickell Avenue from these limits from the
7	Department of Transportation to the City of
8	Miami. If you would raise your hand and we
9	will have someone count that because I have to
10	enter that into the record somehow. Will
11	someone count that for me? Sorry to keep your
12	hands raised, but as long as it's part of the
13	formal period, I have to document it. Let the
14	record show that there is a majority I believe
15	of the residents that are here raising their
16	hands. Let me go ahead and the last thing that
17	we're going to do if there's anyone that is
18	against the transfer. Let the record show
19	approximately four people.
20	For the record, I have to close the
21	comment period. If anybody wants to make a
22	comment formerly, please by all means come up
23	to the mic and we will take your comment. We
24	will reflect the record of, I believe, the
25	number I'm getting 45 people were in favor and

	Page 34
1	4 people are against. We're not able to get
2	would you like to make a comment?
3	MS. MERINO: Yes.
4	MS. GONZALEZ: Can I have you come to the
5	mic, please.
6	MS. MERINO: Hi, my name is Miriam Merino
7	and I live at 1408 Brickell Bay Drive.
8	MS. GONZALEZ: Yes, ma'am.
9	MS. MERINO: I cannot vote yes or no
10	because many of the questions that were done
11	are the questions that I had are not answered.
12	I'm undecided until I get the answer. That's
13	my comment.
14	MS. GONZALEZ: Absolutely. Let me just
15	reflect for the record that that vote is just a
16	comment that is entered into the record. It
17	does not it reflects the voice of the folks
18	that have attended. We open this for another
19	10 days so and actually a couple of days extra
20	because of the weekend so on February 3rd let
21	me just remind you is when we will close the
22	comment period for this particular hearing. We
23	then prepare a formal public hearing record
24	that you're welcome to look at and then you
25	will be continuously informed. You are

	Page 35
1	welcomed to contact our staff over the next few
2	days and throughout the rest of the process.
3	With that I'm sorry, Mr. Duran?
4	MR. DURAN: Who has the final say so? Is
5	this a done deal?
6	MR. CRESPO: Yeah.
7	MS. GONZALEZ: Let me just remind you
8	please that we can answer those questions. We
9	shared with you the next steps. We need to
10	close the formal comment period so we can get
11	all your questions answered. We would really
12	appreciate that.
13	MR. PEGO: Let me just go through the next
14	steps. Again, my name is Gus Pego. I'm the
15	District Secretary for the Department of
16	Transportation. Our staff is here to answer
17	any questions that you have. Those that you
18	have written and we don't have the answer for
19	tonight we'll get back to you with the answers.
20	Certainly, your point is well taken that
21	an answer today may spur additional questions,
22	please feel free to talk to our staff. A
23	response to anybody who wanted documents from
24	this hearing as well as our answers back will
25	be provided all who wish to receive copies. We

	Dago 26
1	Page 36
	are here to serve you and it's certainly not a
2	done deal. We are having the public hearing in
3	order to hear the input from the public
4	regarding this potential transfer. The city
5	has already gone through their process passing
6	a resolution requesting the department move
7	forward for this transfer, but this is part of
8	the formal process in order to hear not only
9	the concerns of the public, but also the wishes
10	from the public so we can take it into
11	consideration.
12	The next steps are formalizing the public
13	hearing document as well as, you know, if
14	everyone is in favor and it looks pretty much
15	everyone is that we will then move forward with
16	the official transfer of the jurisdiction to
17	the City of Miami.
18	PUBLIC SPEAKER: Do you use the box where
19	people made their comments?
20	MS. GONZALEZ: Yes.
21	MR. PEGO: Yes. You could put your
22	questions directly into the box.
23	MS. JOHNSTON: We want to know how are we
24	going to find out?
25	
∠ ⊃	MR. PEGO: We will respond if you put

	Page 37
1	your contact information, we will respond to
2	you by email. If you put your email address,
3	we'll provide you the direct questions and the
4	direct answers back. We will provide
5	MS. JOHNSTON: Only to those questions?
6	MR. PEGO: No, to all of them.
7	MS. JOHNSTON: To everybody's questions?
8	MR. PEGO: To everyone's questions. That
9	way everyone has everyone's questions and
10	everyone's answers. That way we are well
11	informed. This concludes the formal part of
12	public hearing. Thank you very much for
13	attending. I hope we have a lot of questions
14	and I know that we have a lot of answers and
15	the city staff is also here tonight. Thank
16	you.
17	(This concludes the Brickell
18	Avenue Public Hearing/meeting)
19	(Thereupon, a resident of
20	Brickell Avenue made his/her
21	comment on the record).
22	COURT REPORTER: Please state your name.
23	MS. MERINO: Miriam Merino, M-E-R-I-N-O is
24	the last name.
25	COURT REPORTER: Your address?

	Page 38
1	MS. MERINO: 1408 Brickell Bay Drive, Unit
2	709, Miami, Florida 33131. I am very
3	disappointed about the way this public hearing
4	process finished. I devoted my personal time
5	to come here to have my voice heard and also to
6	have the answers to the many questions that I
7	was going to make as well as my other resident
8	neighbors. But at the end of the questions I
9	was surprised to find out that no answers were
10	going to be given to the public and instead
11	each person that wrote a physical note was
12	going to receive an email back. Many people
13	are afraid to speak up and all they wanted was
14	to come here to listen to the answers and none
15	were given. There has to be a better way for
16	this process to be more democratic. I hope
17	that the person in charge reconsiders changing
18	the rules of this process so when questions are
19	asked answers are given at the moment. Thank
20	you.
21	COURT REPORTER: What is your name?
22	MS. CAPUTO: My name is Michelle with two
23	L's Caputo, C-A-P-U-T-O.
24	COURT REPORTER: Your address?
25	MS. CAPUTO: I live on Key Biscayne, 575

Page 39 Brandon Boulevard, 904, Key Biscayne, Florida 1 I have lots of friends on Brickell and 2 33149. 3 that's why I spend a lot of time on Brickell and that's why I'm here because I basically 4 5 almost live here. I asked Mr. Sarnoff today 6 why didn't he represent us in such a 7 clandestine way? His response was he did not. That he informed us in the Miami Herald, in the 8 9 Miami Today and the Home Owner's Association. I said well, I go what specific date and time 10 11 was it recorded in the paper? He says well, I 12 can't give you that information. I don't know 13 when they put it. I said, your the 14 commissioner or whatever you do and he said 15 that -- I kept asking him why not? He kept 16 saying well, your obviously not informed and 17 you don't read. I was taken back that, by his 18 response because I thought it was a little bit 19 demoralizing. I read very, very much. Then he 20 went on to say you don't need me, you don't 21 need to vote for me and you don't need to 22 represent me. I was just appalled by his 23 response and I'm thinking if this is the man 24 that's going to represent me and take over this 25 project obviously he's not the man to do it. Ι

Page 40 was informed -- the only way I was informed was 1 2 because the trees were being torn down and 3 then -- I forgot how I was informed, but the 4 only way we got it stopped was by a few people 5 that wanted it stopped. We wanted a meeting in 6 September. I went to that meeting in 7 September. He did not show up which I thought 8 was unbelievable. There was a lot of people 9 angry about the meeting and when were there we went over a lot of stuff and then we kept 10 asking them where did you put the information 11 12 in? We want to know. They were very, very vague about it. They wouldn't tell us. 13 14 actually would not tell us where. I actually 15 did a little bit of research on my own and I 16 only found information in the Home Owner's 17 Association which does not represent everybody 18 in Brickell Avenue. At the end of the meeting 19 all of a sudden they go well, the people that 20 were representing Sarnoff have to go home to 21 their families and they just got up and they 22 left in the middle of the meeting. I just sat 23 there and I'm like what? I cannot believe that 24 this is actually happening. We're in a middle 25 of a meeting and they have to go see their

	Page 41
1	families and we are all sitting here like 7, 8
2	o'clock at night and we're not with our
3	families. This is how things are run. I want
4	people to FDOT to really know what is going on
5	here because this is just not this man is
6	not representing us at all.
7	Also, he said that he chopped trees down
8	because Arborist said the trees were diseased.
9	Well, apparently they got an Arborist from
10	Fairchild Tropical Gardens and he said the
11	trees were not diseased. They were chopped
12	down because they wanted them chopped down
13	obviously for their specific needs. If you
14	look on Brickell Avenue, if you look on Coral
15	Way they've done a lot designing along that way
16	and it looks horrible because it's not kept up.
17	The trees and the bushies are dead, you know,
18	it looks disgusting. The other thing is we
19	questioned him why was he taking a company from
20	Atlanta, Georgia and not one locally? They
21	would not answer us so why weren't these
22	questions answered to us. It's obvious that
23	this is for political gain. I don't like it
24	and a lot of people don't like it, sincerely
25	yours.

		Page 42
1		
2	(Thereupon, the Brickell	Avenue
3	resident comments have	
4	concluded).	
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Page 43
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                       TRANSCRIPT CERTIFICATE
 2
 4
        STATE OF FLORIDA
        COUNTY OF MIAMI-DADE )
             I, ONEIDA DEL TORO, Reporter, certify that
 8
        I was authorized to and did digitally
 9
        report the foregoing proceedings and that the
10
        transcript is a true and complete record of my
11
        digital notes.
12
13
        DATED this 27th day of January
14
15
        ONEIDA DEL TORO, REPORTER
16
17
        Notary Public - State of Florida
18
        Commission No.: EE 172290
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20
        Expires: February 22, 2016
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A	22:11 24:5,15	39:9 40:17	believe 7:11 12:9	Brickell's 11:13
able 18:1 24:8	26:20 30:24 34:12	assumption 23:8	26:11 33:14,24	bridge 20:23 21:8
29:23 34:1	35:8,16,18,21	Atlanta 41:20	40:23	21:14
absolutely 17:16	41:21	attended 34:18	Ben 24:25 25:2	bring 9:25 21:21
19:5 24:15,16	answered 17:3,17	attending 37:13	best 10:14	Bristol 10:20 27:21
27:2 30:21 32:12	17:23 22:8 24:13	attention 19:25	better 8:9 11:8 15:7	broken 8:11
34:14	31:7 32:10 34:11	20:12	23:9,19 25:16	brought 25:13
accomplish 29:13	35:11 41:22	auditorium 5:22	30:7 38:15	budget 18:8
accomplished 8:16	answering 24:21	authorized 43:8	big 20:7,21 29:20	building 11:18
activated 12:16	answers 23:22,23	available 5:12	30:5	buildings 14:5
active 12:1 14:7	24:8 29:14,15	27:12	Biscayne 21:9	19:20,24 20:20,24
actively 30:6	30:18 31:1,14	avenue 1:6,10,18	38:25 39:1	21:2 26:7 28:10
activities 12:2	35:19,24 37:4,10	3:2 4:9 8:24 9:2	bit 19:20 31:4	built 16:9
add 12:17 18:13	37:14 38:6,9,14	10:4,4,6,8,12,22	39:18 40:15	bullet 16:21
additional 31:11,12	38:19	11:1,4,9,11 12:5	bite 16:21	bunch 14:24
35:21	anybody 20:11	12:20,21 13:22	blatantly 8:17	bushes 14:15,16
address 3:6 5:13	31:21 33:21 35:23	14:20,20,22 15:22	blinking 13:2	bushies 41:17
7:4,10 15:18 19:1	anymore 26:11	16:10,16,19 17:6	blow 14:25	buy 18:15
19:16 24:10 27:7	anyway 26:20	17:7,11 19:17	Board 7:18 10:21	-
27:18 30:21 37:2	Apartment 7:15	20:3 21:17 23:4	13:25	
37:25 38:24	18:4 23:5 27:21	23:12 27:21 28:1	boat 21:13	call 7:1,2
addressed 18:7	apologize 29:3	29:1 33:6 37:18	born 26:3	Caputo 38:22,23
20:25	appalled 39:22	37:20 40:18 41:14	boulevard 3:7 21:9	38:25
Administrator	apparently 41:9	42:2	26:10,10 28:12	car 20:6
2:16 4:5	appeal 13:14	B	39:1	card 5:17,19 6:21 22:24 24:14 32:1
administrators	APPEARANCES	back 8:8 9:25 13:5	box 6:2 32:5 36:18	cards 6:20 16:3
11:22	2:1	14:25 25:19 32:11	36:22	22:22,25 31:25
afraid 38:13	appreciate 23:1	35:19,24 37:4	Brandon 39:1	care 8:18 9:9 20:10
ago 7:23	24:2 25:23 35:12	38:12 39:17	Brickell 1:6,10,18	28:14
agree 15:9	approximately	balances 26:13,16	3:2,7 4:9 7:16,20	cars 18:18 20:18
ahead 5:1 22:23	15:5 33:19	Barbara 27:20	8:23 9:2 10:4,6,8	catch 13:10
24:18 29:4 31:2	Arborist 41:8,9	base 15:5	10:12,22,23,24	CEO 10:2
32:23 33:2,16	area 11:16 15:16	basically 15:19	11:1,4,11,23 12:4 12:11,15,20 13:9	certainly 35:20
Al 7:6 16:7	25:7,9 28:19	Dasically 13.13	1 17:11 15 711 13:0	i Certainiy 33.20 - i
	· ·			•
Alexandra 6:19	areas 25:17	23:5,6,17 39:4	13:21,24 14:4,20	36:1
	areas 25:17 arrows 12:20	23:5,6,17 39:4 basis 9:11 18:18	13:21,24 14:4,20 15:16,16,18,22	36:1 CERTIFICATE
Alexandra 6:19 Alfredo 18:2 Alicia 6:12	areas 25:17 arrows 12:20 asked 10:25 11:2,5	23:5,6,17 39:4 basis 9:11 18:18 battling 32:14	13:21,24 14:4,20 15:16,16,18,22 16:8,10,11,15,19	36:1 CERTIFICATE 43:1
Alexandra 6:19 Alfredo 18:2 Alicia 6:12 alleviate 30:1	areas 25:17 arrows 12:20 asked 10:25 11:2,5 11:8 19:24 23:24	23:5,6,17 39:4 basis 9:11 18:18 battling 32:14 Bay 25:25 34:7	13:21,24 14:4,20 15:16,16,18,22 16:8,10,11,15,19 17:6,7,11 18:4,17	36:1 CERTIFICATE 43:1 certify 43:7
Alexandra 6:19 Alfredo 18:2 Alicia 6:12 alleviate 30:1 allow 12:18 32:17	areas 25:17 arrows 12:20 asked 10:25 11:2,5 11:8 19:24 23:24 24:19 31:1 38:19	23:5,6,17 39:4 basis 9:11 18:18 battling 32:14 Bay 25:25 34:7 38:1	13:21,24 14:4,20 15:16,16,18,22 16:8,10,11,15,19 17:6,7,11 18:4,17 19:17,18,19 20:3	36:1 CERTIFICATE 43:1 certify 43:7 challenges 11:21
Alexandra 6:19 Alfredo 18:2 Alicia 6:12 alleviate 30:1 allow 12:18 32:17 amazing 28:19	areas 25:17 arrows 12:20 asked 10:25 11:2,5 11:8 19:24 23:24 24:19 31:1 38:19 39:5	23:5,6,17 39:4 basis 9:11 18:18 battling 32:14 Bay 25:25 34:7 38:1 beacon 12:14	13:21,24 14:4,20 15:16,16,18,22 16:8,10,11,15,19 17:6,7,11 18:4,17 19:17,18,19 20:3 20:4,23 21:8 23:4	36:1 CERTIFICATE 43:1 certify 43:7 challenges 11:21 Champs-Elysees
Alexandra 6:19 Alfredo 18:2 Alicia 6:12 alleviate 30:1 allow 12:18 32:17 amazing 28:19 amenities 12:2	areas 25:17 arrows 12:20 asked 10:25 11:2,5 11:8 19:24 23:24 24:19 31:1 38:19 39:5 asking 19:11 39:15	23:5,6,17 39:4 basis 9:11 18:18 battling 32:14 Bay 25:25 34:7 38:1 beacon 12:14 beautification	13:21,24 14:4,20 15:16,16,18,22 16:8,10,11,15,19 17:6,7,11 18:4,17 19:17,18,19 20:3 20:4,23 21:8 23:4 23:12 25:3,25	36:1 CERTIFICATE 43:1 certify 43:7 challenges 11:21 Champs-Elysees 14:22
Alexandra 6:19 Alfredo 18:2 Alicia 6:12 alleviate 30:1 allow 12:18 32:17 amazing 28:19 amenities 12:2 amicable 23:12	areas 25:17 arrows 12:20 asked 10:25 11:2,5 11:8 19:24 23:24 24:19 31:1 38:19 39:5 asking 19:11 39:15 40:11	23:5,6,17 39:4 basis 9:11 18:18 battling 32:14 Bay 25:25 34:7 38:1 beacon 12:14 beautification 14:21	13:21,24 14:4,20 15:16,16,18,22 16:8,10,11,15,19 17:6,7,11 18:4,17 19:17,18,19 20:3 20:4,23 21:8 23:4 23:12 25:3,25 26:4,5,9 27:4,8,21	36:1 CERTIFICATE 43:1 certify 43:7 challenges 11:21 Champs-Elysees 14:22 chance 4:20
Alexandra 6:19 Alfredo 18:2 Alicia 6:12 alleviate 30:1 allow 12:18 32:17 amazing 28:19 amenities 12:2 amicable 23:12 angry 40:9	areas 25:17 arrows 12:20 asked 10:25 11:2,5 11:8 19:24 23:24 24:19 31:1 38:19 39:5 asking 19:11 39:15 40:11 aspects 21:21	23:5,6,17 39:4 basis 9:11 18:18 battling 32:14 Bay 25:25 34:7 38:1 beacon 12:14 beautification 14:21 beautiful 14:11	13:21,24 14:4,20 15:16,16,18,22 16:8,10,11,15,19 17:6,7,11 18:4,17 19:17,18,19 20:3 20:4,23 21:8 23:4 23:12 25:3,25 26:4,5,9 27:4,8,21 27:25 29:1,23	36:1 CERTIFICATE 43:1 certify 43:7 challenges 11:21 Champs-Elysees 14:22 chance 4:20 Change 12:13
Alexandra 6:19 Alfredo 18:2 Alicia 6:12 alleviate 30:1 allow 12:18 32:17 amazing 28:19 amenities 12:2 amicable 23:12 angry 40:9 answer 4:23 6:8	areas 25:17 arrows 12:20 asked 10:25 11:2,5 11:8 19:24 23:24 24:19 31:1 38:19 39:5 asking 19:11 39:15 40:11 aspects 21:21 associate 10:10,15	23:5,6,17 39:4 basis 9:11 18:18 battling 32:14 Bay 25:25 34:7 38:1 beacon 12:14 beautification 14:21 beautiful 14:11 26:10	13:21,24 14:4,20 15:16,16,18,22 16:8,10,11,15,19 17:6,7,11 18:4,17 19:17,18,19 20:3 20:4,23 21:8 23:4 23:12 25:3,25 26:4,5,9 27:4,8,21 27:25 29:1,23 30:7,8 33:6 34:7	36:1 CERTIFICATE 43:1 certify 43:7 challenges 11:21 Champs-Elysees 14:22 chance 4:20 Change 12:13 changes 11:13 20:9
Alexandra 6:19 Alfredo 18:2 Alicia 6:12 alleviate 30:1 allow 12:18 32:17 amazing 28:19 amenities 12:2 amicable 23:12 angry 40:9 answer 4:23 6:8 9:23,24 16:24	areas 25:17 arrows 12:20 asked 10:25 11:2,5 11:8 19:24 23:24 24:19 31:1 38:19 39:5 asking 19:11 39:15 40:11 aspects 21:21 associate 10:10,15 association 7:18,20	23:5,6,17 39:4 basis 9:11 18:18 battling 32:14 Bay 25:25 34:7 38:1 beacon 12:14 beautification 14:21 beautiful 14:11 26:10 befitting 11:9	13:21,24 14:4,20 15:16,16,18,22 16:8,10,11,15,19 17:6,7,11 18:4,17 19:17,18,19 20:3 20:4,23 21:8 23:4 23:12 25:3,25 26:4,5,9 27:4,8,21 27:25 29:1,23 30:7,8 33:6 34:7 37:17,20 38:1	36:1 CERTIFICATE 43:1 certify 43:7 challenges 11:21 Champs-Elysees 14:22 chance 4:20 Change 12:13 changes 11:13 20:9 20:12 21:20
Alexandra 6:19 Alfredo 18:2 Alicia 6:12 alleviate 30:1 allow 12:18 32:17 amazing 28:19 amenities 12:2 amicable 23:12 angry 40:9 answer 4:23 6:8	areas 25:17 arrows 12:20 asked 10:25 11:2,5 11:8 19:24 23:24 24:19 31:1 38:19 39:5 asking 19:11 39:15 40:11 aspects 21:21 associate 10:10,15 association 7:18,20 10:23,25 13:23,24	23:5,6,17 39:4 basis 9:11 18:18 battling 32:14 Bay 25:25 34:7 38:1 beacon 12:14 beautification 14:21 beautiful 14:11 26:10 befitting 11:9 begins 6:15	13:21,24 14:4,20 15:16,16,18,22 16:8,10,11,15,19 17:6,7,11 18:4,17 19:17,18,19 20:3 20:4,23 21:8 23:4 23:12 25:3,25 26:4,5,9 27:4,8,21 27:25 29:1,23 30:7,8 33:6 34:7 37:17,20 38:1 39:2,3 40:18	36:1 CERTIFICATE 43:1 certify 43:7 challenges 11:21 Champs-Elysees 14:22 chance 4:20 Change 12:13 changes 11:13 20:9 20:12 21:20 changing 38:17
Alexandra 6:19 Alfredo 18:2 Alicia 6:12 alleviate 30:1 allow 12:18 32:17 amazing 28:19 amenities 12:2 amicable 23:12 angry 40:9 answer 4:23 6:8 9:23,24 16:24	areas 25:17 arrows 12:20 asked 10:25 11:2,5 11:8 19:24 23:24 24:19 31:1 38:19 39:5 asking 19:11 39:15 40:11 aspects 21:21 associate 10:10,15 association 7:18,20	23:5,6,17 39:4 basis 9:11 18:18 battling 32:14 Bay 25:25 34:7 38:1 beacon 12:14 beautification 14:21 beautiful 14:11 26:10 befitting 11:9	13:21,24 14:4,20 15:16,16,18,22 16:8,10,11,15,19 17:6,7,11 18:4,17 19:17,18,19 20:3 20:4,23 21:8 23:4 23:12 25:3,25 26:4,5,9 27:4,8,21 27:25 29:1,23 30:7,8 33:6 34:7 37:17,20 38:1	36:1 CERTIFICATE 43:1 certify 43:7 challenges 11:21 Champs-Elysees 14:22 chance 4:20 Change 12:13 changes 11:13 20:9 20:12 21:20

				. 1
checks 26:12,16	comments 4:8 5:8	30:9	D	4:7 30:12
children 11:15 12:7	5:11 6:9,18,23	continuous 13:2	Dade 28:18	devoted 38:4
chopped 41:7,11,12	7:21 9:21 22:21	continuously 34:25	daily 18:18	Diaz 2:4 22:13,17
Church 1:18	24:17 26:23 30:18	contrast 28:11	danger 20:2	dictate 5:25
circle 19:2	31:12,19,21 32:9	control 8:21 9:6,11	Daniel 15:14	different 7:24
cities 7:25 26:18	36:19 42:3	9:12,13,14 23:13	Danny 15:15	difficult 8:12 31:4
citizen 23:6 25:25	Commission 43:19	25:14 27:14 30:11	date 39:10	digital 43:11
citizens 27:11 30:4	commissioner 2:7	controls 11:11	DATED 43:13	digitally 43:8
city 1:11 3:9 4:11	2:8 4:14,18 8:14	copies 35:25	daughter 12:23	direct 37:3,4
8:14,20,24 9:4,5,6	27:6 39:14	copy 30:25	13:6	direction 29:20
9:8,14 10:12 11:9	committee 7:19	Coral 41:14	David 23:4	directly 5:25 32:9
11:20 12:9 14:11	common 14:23	core 12:1	day 13:9 25:20	36:22
15:5,11,23,23	19:23	corner 20:22	43:13	Director 2:18 4:6
17:5,6,10 18:10	community 8:20	correct 15:4 32:3	days 31:16 34:19	Directors 7:18
20:9 21:1,24 22:6	9:6	correctly 13:18	34:19 35:2	10:21 14:1
23:8,9 24:20,21	community's 11:23	22:11	day-to-day 9:11	disappointed 38:3
25:14,19 26:14	company 41:19	corridor 14:21	de 2:4 22:13,17	disastrous 14:12
27:9,11,24 30:2	compelled 27:22	corridors 12:4	dead 14:16,19	15:2
30:11 32:15 33:7	complete 43:10	cost 21:25	41:17	diseased 41:8,11
36:4,17 37:15	complex 30:12	count 33:9,11	deal 9:2,10 35:5	disgusting 41:18
city's 13:15 22:9	concern 8:17 10:7	country 7:24,25	36:2	distinct 12:3
clandestine 39:7	concerned 8:6	26:12	dealing 23:1	District 2:12,14,16
close 32:8 33:20	18:25	county 1:24 12:10	dear 28:6	2:18 3:23,25 4:2,4
34:21 35:10	concerns 29:5,15	43:5	decades 10:24	4:5 35:15
collect 5:18	29:16 30:19 36:9	couple 16:13 34:19	decides 21:13	document 31:3
come 5:3,24 15:6	concluded 42:4	course 25:12 32:7	decisions 31:11	33:13 36:13
16:5 17:24 18:9	concludes 31:23	Court 1:23 3:4,6,8	definitely 9:15,22	documents 35:23
18:24 19:9,24	37:11,17	19:14 37:22,25	DEL 1:23 43:7,16	dogs 12:7
22:23 25:9,19	condition 8:10	38:21,24	democratic 38:16	doing 27:9 30:3
26:25 32:10 33:22	conditions 8:7 28:3	cracks 28:5	demoralizing 39:19	DOT 16:23
34:4 38:5,14	Condo 13:23	Crespo 7:6,7 16:2,2	department 1:11	Downtown 14:6
comfortable 5:23	Condominium	16:4,5,7,23 17:1,4	2:10 3:22 4:1,10	dozen 7:24
coming 18:11,16,22	18:4	17:9,20,23 19:1	9:20 11:10 18:22	Dr 13:19 15:13
20:2,24 21:5	condominiums	35:6	22:5 31:5,13 33:7	dramatic 11:13
32:13	13:22 25:7	crossed 13:5	35:15 36:6	Drive 15:19 25:25
comings 11:21	conflict 20:7	crossing 11:17	Deppman 27:19,20	34:7 38:1
comment 3:3,8	connection 21:10	12:19 20:2,3,6,15	Desdunes 2:17 4:6	driver 20:14
5:12,22 6:1,2,13	cons 29:17	crossings 9:13	17:13	drops 21:8
6:14 16:25 17:15	consider 3:12	crosswalk 12:24	deserve 15:7	Duran 18:2,2,7
19:11 22:16 24:4	consideration 28:9	13:13	design 25:16	19:5,7 35:3,4
24:17 25:23 29:4	36:11	crosswalks 8:7,11	designing 41:15	D-E-P-P-M-A-N
31:7,16,22 32:4	considered 15:21	11:6 12:18	desiring 5:14	27:20
32:12,16 33:3,21	consistent 11:3	current 3:11 16:18	Despite 11:12,15	
33:22,23 34:2,13	construction 25:13	currently 16:15	11:16,18	<u>E</u>
34:16,22 35:10	contact 6:10 35:1	25:3	deterioration 26:5	early 28:2
37:21	37:1	C-A-P-U-T-O	development 2:18	easier 14:6 25:17
commented 13:6	continue 6:19,23	38:23	_	eastbound 18:16

educated 13:12 expressways 28:19 Florida 1:10,19,25 gentleman's 33:3 great 26:12 28:7 extended 9:1 3:22 4:1,10 11:10 **George 25:23** green 20:17 **EE** 43:19 **effects** 21:23 **extent** 29:11 28:25 **growing** 25:11 16:14 38:2 39:1 **eight** 18:17 extra 34:19 43:4,18 Georgia 41:20 **guide** 24:7 either 7:21 12:8 **flow** 25:16 **getting** 15:8 33:25 **guided** 23:2 24:3 F guidelines 17:15 21:23 flv 18:20 give 19:1 31:8 32:6 fact 16:9 18:15 elected 4:13 11:22 folks 3:20 34:17 33:2 39:12 24:7 Fairchild 14:8 given 17:7,10 38:10 Gus 2:11 3:25 elements 19:23 following 6:16 41:10 email 19:2,4 31:8 **follows** 3:17 38:15,19 35:14 fall 28:6.8 footprint 20:21 **gives** 20:5 37:2,2 38:12 H familiar 29:12 foregoing 43:9 **emerged** 14:11 **go** 5:1 6:25 7:7,8 half 3:14 14:16 families 40:21 41:1 **forgot** 40:3 **employ** 25:8 20:7,17 21:7,13 41:3 hand 5:19 33:5,8 form 30:19 employees 25:18 21:15,17 22:23 far 23:10,24 **handles** 19:23 employer 25:10 **formal** 4:25 12:21 23:23 24:18 26:8 **fashion** 30:20 **handout** 30:22 encourage 10:11 16:25 17:15 23:1 28:17,18 29:3 fatality 11:16 hands 32:18,22 enforce 3:11 30:1 31:2,4 32:23 24:4,16 31:22 favor 26:2 32:19 33:12,16 enforcement 18:14 33:13 34:23 35:10 33:2,16 35:13 33:5,25 36:14 happened 27:8 18:20,21,22,24 36:8 37:11 39:10 40:19,20,25 **FDOT** 8:16 20:9 happening 25:20 goes 21:4,14 23:20 23:16 26:7 formalizing 36:12 21:1 41:4 40:24 enter 33:10 formally 19:10 31:17 **FDOT's** 12:3 happy 15:20 24:8 formerly 33:22 **entered** 34:16 **going** 7:1,2 16:21 Harbour 18:4 **February** 6:6 34:20 forth 25:19 **entire** 10:24 17:5 18:9,10,11 43:20 hard 8:15 **entity** 10:14 **forum** 29:12 18:15,20 19:2 **federal** 29:6,11 **Harold** 2:17 4:6 entrance 14:10 **forward** 36:7,15 20:10 21:7,9,9,21 feel 4:24 5:23,24 hear 8:9 30:4 36:3 **Erectasets** 14:15 **found** 40:16 21:25 23:9 26:14 27:22 35:22 36:8 especially 28:1 fountains 14:13 30:12,13,14,17 **feeling** 32:21 heard 23:11,18 evening 3:18,24 4:7 four 6:18 14:5 33:17 36:24 38:7 feels 32:25 26:1 31:23 38:5 4:19 6:25 10:1 33:19 38:10,12 39:24 Feldman 10:19,20 **hearing** 1:6 3:19 13:19 15:15 23:3 frankly 9:3 41:4 10:20 13:16 5:4,15 6:7,11 free 4:24 5:24 **Gonzalez** 6:12,17 25:2,24 26:24 **fighting** 20:14 23:20 24:4 31:17 27:19 28:24 31:23 35:22 7:8 8:8 9:17 figures 15:4 31:22,24 32:8 32:14 freely 8:5 10:18 13:16 15:13 **fill** 32:1 34:22,23 35:24 everybody 16:12 **friend** 28:7 16:1,23 17:2,8,12 **final** 35:4 36:2,13 37:12 21:4,5 40:17 friends 39:2 17:22 18:6 19:5 find 36:24 38:9 38:3 evervbody's 31:6 **front** 5:22,24 11:17 19:16 22:2,20 **fine** 6:21 hearings 24:7 37:7 12:14 24:2,24 25:22 **finish** 22:8 hearing/meeting everyone's 37:8,9 full 15:21 26:22 27:2,16 finished 38:4 3:16 37:18 37:10 **funds** 27:12 28:22 29:3 30:21 Finnegan's 20:4 help 22:18 25:16 executive 7:19 **further** 28:17 32:23 34:4,8,14 first 1:18 7:2,6 Herald 39:8 exhibited 30:11 35:7 36:20 \mathbf{G} Hi 19:12 25:24 34:6 16:10 **exhibits** 5:15 6:5 **good** 3:18 10:1,9 Fitch 7:9,9,14,14 **Gail** 10:19,20 15:9 **hidden** 14:15 exist 26:11 13:19 15:15 23:3 8:10 9:17 27:1,3,4 gain 41:23 **hideous** 12:14 25:2,24 27:19 existing 22:4 Gardens 14:8 highway 11:12 12:5 27:16 experience 26:3 28:24 **five** 14:4 16:8 41:10 29:2.6 Expires 43:20 government 29:11 Flagler 10:4 gentleman 3:19 Highways 12:5 expressed 29:16 grandchildren historic 29:2 floor 5:7 30:23 30:19 12:23

				Page 47
histori U 20 10		Vor. 2.7 15:16 10	1: 1 7:04	
historically 29:10	individually 33:3	Key 3:7 15:16,18 29:9 38:25 39:1	lived 7:24	matter 16:9
HistoryMiami 10:3	information 6:10	kids 20:16	livelihood 9:7	mayor 2:3 4:13
his/her 3:2 37:20	22:12 32:3 37:1		lives 30:7	27:6
hold 5:17 24:3	39:12 40:11,16	knew 13:2	locally 41:20	ma'am 34:8
holding 5:16	informed 34:25	know 8:8,14,23	located 6:2 10:3	mean 30:12,14
home 7:20 10:23,25	37:11 39:8,16	11:20,24 16:20	Location 1:18	means 33:22
13:24 39:9 40:16	40:1,1,3	18:15,21 20:8,10	long 4:23 30:1	measures 11:19
40:20	infrastructure	21:15,23 22:15	33:12	median 28:11
hope 13:17 37:13	16:18	23:19,25 30:2,16	longer 12:5	medians 28:19
38:16	input 36:3	31:18 32:20,21	look 26:9 27:7	meeting 40:5,6,9
hopefully 9:16	intention 31:5	33:2 36:13,23	28:10,10,12 34:24	40:18,22,25
horrible 28:3 41:16	interest 10:14	37:14 39:12 40:12	41:14,14	meetings 8:16 27:5
hour 11:4 12:12	11:25	41:4,17	looking 8:1	member 7:19
13:7	interested 15:20	Kyle 3:5	looks 6:18 36:14	members 32:7
house 21:4	17:21 23:25	K-Y-L-E 3:5	41:16,18	mention 12:22 15:4
houses 14:4 16:8	intersection 12:21		lot 14:6 27:25 28:5	Merino 34:3,6,6,9
hurt 28:8	intersections 14:18		29:19 37:13,14	37:23,23 38:1
husband 12:24	involved 26:15	la 2:4 22:13,17 lack 26:6	39:3 40:8,10	Miami 1:11,18,19
hybrid 12:13	30:6	ladies 3:18	41:15,24	4:11 7:16,23 8:1
I	irrigation 15:1		lots 9:22 39:2	10:10,13,15 11:20
Icon 19:18,19 20:3	issue 20:16	landscape 30:14	lower 11:3 12:10	14:2,6 15:23
30:13	issues 9:23 25:12	Large 1:25 Launerts 25:1,2,3	luxury 25:6	18:10 21:1,17
	30:2	lawnmowers 14:24	Lyn 2:15 4:4 17:13	22:6 26:3 27:24
ignored 27:13 impact 21:3	Ixora's 14:17	Lawrence 13:17,19	L's 38:23	33:8 36:17 38:2
impact 21.3 important 9:20	$oxed{J}$	laws 26:6,7	M	39:8,9
11:9 18:6 25:10	January 1:14 43:13	leave 24:11,13	mailing 6:3	Miami-Dade 1:24
impossible 21:11	Javier 2:5 4:15	left 12:19 40:22	Maine 29:9	43:5 mic 17:25 19:9
improve 11:18	Jeanette 6:19	letter 24:16	maintained 29:10	33:23 34:5
23:14 30:9	job 23:9	let's 5:1	maintenance 11:8	Michelle 38:22
improved 11:6	jogging 12:6	life 8:2 11:2	16:15,17 27:12	middle 40:22,24
30:5	Johnston 19:12,13	lifestyle 8:3,13	majority 33:14	7
improvement	19:15,17 36:23	light 13:4,13 18:18	making 30:7	Miguel 2:4 22:13 mile 12:11 18:13
29:19	37:5,7	20:5,6	malfunctioning	
improvements 11:1	join 24:21	lights 20:17 23:15	12:14	miles 11:4 13:7 mine 28:7
16:18 29:21	joined 22:14	limit 3:10,11 11:3	man 39:23,25 41:5	minutes 21:14
improving 21:12	joining 3:24	12:11 13:11,11	managed 10:13	29:25
Inbur 13:17,19,20	Jose 2:5 4:15	18:13	Manager 2:14 4:4	Miriam 34:6 37:23
15:14	jurisdiction 10:5	limits 9:12 33:6	maneuver 8:13	mission 12:3
include 9:1	36:16	listen 4:8 22:18	Margolis 2:6 4:16	moderate 6:12
including 11:15	J-O-H-N-S-T-O-N	38:14	Maria 12:25	moment 13:9 38:19
increase 20:13 22:1	19:15	little 13:14 19:20	mark 14:18	
increasing 21:2		31:4 39:18 40:15	marked 28:4	money 15:8 16:14
incredible 28:5	K	live 7:15 8:1,4,24	marks 28:4	16:16,22 17:21 27:11
indicated 28:17	keep 33:11	16:11 18:3 23:4	Maserati 13:6	morning 28:2
indicator 12:24	kept 39:15,15	27:4,20 34:7	Master 19:19	morning 28:2 mother 20:15
individual 28:16	40:10 41:16	38:25 39:5	Masters 19:22	
individual 20.10		30.23 37.3	111asuls 17.22	motion 23:7

motions 23:11 notes 43:11 Park 12:15,23 physical 38:11 proceeded 3:17 noticed 14:9 14:19,21 **place** 3:10 8:1 proceedings 6:16 move 8:5 12:3 14:24 25:17 26:17 **number** 27:5 33:25 Parking 25:5 21:16 43:9 30:17 36:6,15 numbered 7:3 Parksman 25:5 **places** 14:23 process 5:4 23:20 placing 6:2 **moved** 7:23 part 6:7 7:25 8:23 31:3 32:17 35:2 0 moving 8:18 10:7 11:11 14:1 33:12 **Planning** 2:14 4:4 36:5,8 38:4,16,18 **obeyed** 12:17 10:16 36:7 37:11 playing 12:7 **project** 4:25 39:25 **obvious** 27:8 41:22 M-E-R-I-N-O participate 5:4 **pleads** 11:18 projected 16:16 **obviously** 39:16,25 37:23 **please** 5:17,19 projects 30:15 33:1 41:13 particular 17:18 15:25 19:16 27:17 promoting 11:25 N office 4:17,18 34:22 28:23 31:2.24 **proof** 26:17 name 3:4,25 7:4,10 **official** 36:16 Particularly 18:15 32:1,4 33:22 34:5 **proper** 13:11 18:14 7:14 10:1,8 16:7 officials 4:13 11:22 parts 9:2 35:8,22 37:22 18:19 27:12 18:2 19:12 23:3 15:23 passing 36:5 **plenty** 24:9 properly 3:10 okay 7:8 14:7 27:3,18,19 28:24 point 4:12 33:4 pay 19:24 **Properties** 15:17 34:6 35:14 37:22 **old** 29:7 **payers** 16:20 35:20 **proposed** 4:21 5:9 37:24 38:21,22 **ONEIDA** 1:23 43:7 paying 18:10 20:11 **police** 13:8 18:22 pros 29:17 **narrow** 10:16 43:16 pedestrian 8:19 political 41:23 prospective 22:9 nature 22:4 **one-on-one** 5:13 **Ponce** 15:14,15,15 **provide** 5:8,20 6:9 12:15 20:5,13 nearly 10:24 23:21 pedestrians 8:4 37:3.4 16:1 neat 18:23 open 5:7 6:13,14 population 21:2 11:15 12:19 18:24 provided 35:25 necessary 20:12 34:18 **Portilla** 2:4 22:14 20:18 23:13 **public** 1:6,24 3:19 need 7:3 8:21 9:11 opinion 9:3 25:14 **Pego** 2:11 3:18,25 22:17 5:4,11 6:7 24:1,3 9:12,13,14 18:21 opinions 4:8 16:12 5:7 35:13,14 positive 21:23 24:9 31:17,22,24 18:21 19:9 22:24 opportunity 5:16 36:21,25 37:6,8 possible 31:9 32:17 34:23 36:2 23:13,14,15 27:13 6:22 people 6:20 12:1,6 postal 29:7 36:3,9,10,12,18 35:9 39:20,21,21 **opposed** 32:19 13:12 14:11 15:3 postmarked 6:6 37:12,18 38:3,10 needed 24:20 oral 13:20 15:11 20:1 23:24 potential 36:4 43:18 needs 10:6,13 order 7:3 23:11 25:8,10 28:6 **prefer** 8:25 **pushed** 12:25,25 11:23 15:24 18:1 36:3.8 30:16 32:18,20 **prepare** 34:23 13:1 21:11 29:18 41:13 organization 7:12 33:19,25 34:1 Presbyterian 1:18 pushing 12:6 negative 21:24 organizations 7:22 36:19 38:12 40:4 presentation 4:25 **put** 17:17 23:15 neighborhood organized 26:18 40:8,19 41:4,24 5:2 24:16 31:11 36:21 11:14 12:8 Ortiz 9:19 10:1,2 Presently 13:22 36:25 37:2 39:13 percent 15:5 neighborhoods 10:19 **period** 5:10,12 6:13 preserved 29:10 40:11 11:5 ought 9:3 6:15 17:15 24:4 **president** 7:17 10:2 **p.m** 1:14 overseen 10:13 neighbors 38:8 31:7,17,22 33:13 10:21,22 13:23,24 Q Neil 2:15 4:4 owner 25:5 33:21 34:22 35:10 13:25 19:21 quality 11:2 23:14 **Nelly** 19:12,16 **Owner's** 7:20 periodontist 13:21 **pretty** 36:14 new 30:12 10:23,25 13:24 **question** 5:23 6:8 perpetrators 13:10 previous 28:16 39:9 40:16 nice 18:23 16:19 17:1,4 22:8 person 7:2,6 9:18 primary 8:2 night 41:2 o'clock 41:2 22:10 24:14 26:20 17:24 24:25 38:11 **printed** 30:18 nine 18:18 29:5 probably 13:7 38:17 P north 7:17 21:10 questioned 41:19 personal 26:2 38:4 25:16 **Palace** 13:22 27:5 29:6 questions 4:23 5:13 **Phil** 2:13 4:3 problem 17:22 **paper** 39:11 **Notary** 1:24 43:18 6:5,24 9:23 16:13 phonetic 13:20 21:7 **Paris** 14:22 **note** 38:11 17:17,21,23 18:8 procedure 24:6 18:3 28:25

referring 30:24

19:3 22:3 23:21 reflect 33:24 34:15 responsive 11:23 6:17,22 35:15 24:5,13,17,19,22 reflects 34:17 section 29:8 27:10 27:7 30:25 31:1,6 **Regalado** 2:3 4:14 rest 35:2 see 12:9,10 26:17 31:14 32:10 34:10 **regarding** 4:9 5:8 restaurants 12:2 28:4 29:7 30:5,9 18:8,13 36:4 34:11 35:8,11,17 **retired** 13:20 30:10,17 40:25 35:21 36:22 37:3 regulations 23:2 return 24:15 31:13 seen 26:5,7,8 28:5 37:5,7,8,9,13 38:6 related 22:4 revenues 18:9,11 **Senator** 2:4,6 4:16 38:8,18 41:22 **remember** 14:3,4 18:25 22:13,17 quickly 12:4 30:22 14:12,14,17 16:7 **Rice** 3:5,5,7,9 send 15:21 24:18 31:9,15 **Richard** 13:20 29:14 16:9,11 quite 9:3 15:19 remind 5:9 9:19 **Riggs** 28:24,25 **September** 40:6,7 20:16 24:11 32:15 34:21 29:5 **serve** 36:1 35:7 **right** 16:14 17:8,12 service 25:6 R remove 3:13 17:12 20:23 21:10 seven 25:6 raise 5:19 33:5,8 replaced 28:15 25:12 32:5 **share** 11:25 raised 26:3 33:12 report 43:9 river 7:17 9:1 **shared** 35:9 raising 33:15 **Reporter** 1:23 3:4 12:13 27:5 **sharp** 28:11 **Ramirez** 23:3,4 3:6,8 19:14 37:22 road 12:8,12 18:3 sheet 6:2 24:23,25 37:25 38:21,24 18:17 29:7,8 **sheets** 24:17 32:5 **Ramiro** 9:18 10:2 43:7,16 roadway 11:7 **short** 11:21 read 39:17,19 **represent** 7:11 39:6 25:15 **show** 30:23 32:18 real 29:12 32:21 39:22,24 40:17 rocks 14:24,25 32:21 33:14,18 really 21:16,18 representation **Rodriguez** 2:5 4:15 40:7 28:3,15 35:11 19:18 rules 23:23 38:18 sick 28:16 41:4 Representative 2:5 run 9:4 18:18 28:2 sidewalk 3:15 receive 5:11 9:21 4:15 41:3 **sidewalks** 3:13,14 17:6 35:25 38:12 representatives 2:6 runner 27:24 8:11,22 9:13 11:8 received 5:18 2:8 4:16,17 16:24 running 29:6 23:15 28:1 recognize 4:13 representing 15:17 **R-I-C-E** 3:5 **signal** 12:16 22:13 23:6 25:7 40:20 signalization 11:6 S recognized 12:16 41:6 signals 12:18 safe 8:4 12:19 reconsiders 38:17 requesting 36:6 **signs** 3:13 safer 13:14 30:10 **record** 3:3 6:7 7:11 requests 11:12 **sign-in** 6:3 7:13 17:18,25 safety 8:19 9:7 11:1 research 40:15 **Simpson** 12:22 18:1 19:10,11 11:7,18 20:13,16 resident 3:1 11:17 sincerely 41:24 27:18 31:18 32:4 Santa 12:25 13:21 14:2 25:4 **single** 13:8 Sarnoff 2:7 4:14 32:24 33:10,14,18 28:25 29:17 37:19 sir 32:16 33:20,24 34:15,16 8:14 27:6 39:5 38:7 42:3 sit 3:20 34:23 37:21 43:10 40:20 residents 10:25 sitting 13:9 41:1 **recorded** 22:10,25 sat 32:20 40:22 15:6,7 21:24 25:8 Six 2:12,14 3:23 saying 13:17 15:12 39:11 25:18 30:8 33:15 4:2,4 red 13:1 18:16 39:16 resisted 11:12 slanted 8:12 redesignation savs 39:11 resolution 36:6 somebody 20:14 second 17:4 20:19 30:23 respond 6:4,10 21:13 reduces 3:9 22:9 23:10 13:3 36:25 37:1 soon 3:20 **reference** 21:1,12 Secondly 3:12 response 24:19 sorry 19:14 33:11

south 14:20 21:9 28:18 29:6 Southeast 7:15 12:12,20 18:3 speak 4:24 6:20 16:4,6 19:8 26:24 26:25 27:17,22 29:1 31:12 38:13 **speaker** 5:17,19 16:3 22:25 31:25 32:17 36:18 **speaking** 25:9 26:1 speaks 16:2,4 **specific** 9:21 39:10 41:13 **speed** 3:10,11 9:12 11:3 12:10 13:11 13:11 23:14,16 spelling 32:3 **spend** 39:3 spending 13:8 **spent** 16:15 **spoke** 31:25 **spread** 16:22 **spur** 35:21 staff 5:12,17,20 6:24 9:22 22:5,6 24:10 30:24 32:6 32:15 35:1,16,22 37:15 standard 12:15 start 5:1 14:16 **started** 3:20 26:8 starts 21:5 state 1:24 2:5,6 4:14 7:4,10,12 9:4 16:14,22 18:12 22:13 23:10 26:15 26:17 27:9,13,18 28:17,18 37:22 43:4,18 stated 6:22 8:17 statement 5:14 23:17 statements 6:5 state's 9:8 **station** 16:10

secretary 2:12 4:1

35:3

35:23 39:7,18,23

Statistics 2:16 4:5	27:13 29:23 32:9	39:3,10	true 43:10	views 5:14
Steinmiller 2:13	33:23 36:10 39:24	title 18:5	trust 15:23	voice 15:11 34:17
4:3 17:13	taken 1:14,23	today 31:2,15	trying 13:10	38:5
stenographer 5:21	20:10 28:14 35:20	35:21 39:5,9	turn 12:19 13:1	voicing 5:23
7:5 32:7,11	39:17	tonight 4:3,22 5:3	15:10 18:16 26:13	vote 34:9,15 39:21
step 29:20 30:5	takes 4:23	6:9 9:19 27:22	32:4	,
steps 35:9,14 36:12	talk 4:21 19:25	30:19 32:8 35:19	turning 8:23 27:23	W
stopped 13:4 40:4,5	28:21 35:22	37:15	turnover 27:14	wait 13:3 29:25
street 7:15 8:25	tall 14:5	torn 14:13 40:2	TV 16:10	waking 13:9
10:5 11:17 13:5,7	Tallahassee 9:10	TORO 1:23 43:7	two 10:24 38:22	walk 4:20 12:1,22
13:15 15:1 20:5	tax 16:20 21:22	43:16	type 22:1	walking 8:3,13
20:15 21:5,6	22:1	touch 21:22		12:6,7
23:12 27:4 30:13	taxes 15:6	touched 20:1	U	want 3:23 8:13
streets 8:21 9:5,5	taxpayer 18:5	tourist 14:10	unbelievable 40:8	9:19 12:9,21 14:1
9:14 17:9,10 20:2	team 3:23 4:21,25	Tower 7:17 10:21	undecided 34:12	15:3 17:17 22:12
strictly 5:10	6:4	27:21	understand 15:24	22:23 23:7 24:11
strollers 12:7	tell 40:13,14	trade 17:5	23:18 31:3	30:25 32:9,15,25
strongly 8:22 10:11	tells 20:6	tradeoff 8:25 9:15	understood 12:17	36:23 40:12 41:3
stuck 21:19	thank 3:15,24 5:2	traffic 8:18 10:8,16	13:12	wanted 8:2 35:23
stuff 40:10	6:11,17 7:9 9:16	12:4,14 13:4 14:6	Unfortunately 24:3	38:13 40:5,5
SUAREZ 2:8	9:17 10:17,18	18:14,19 21:12	uniform 12:11	41:12
Suarez's 4:18	13:16 15:12,13,25	23:16 25:12,16	unique 22:3	wants 5:8 33:21
subject 20:1	16:1 19:7,10 22:2	30:2	Unit 38:1	watch 10:6
submit 6:1,21,23	22:14,18,20 24:23	transcript 43:1,10	units 19:21 20:22	way 9:1 12:12 13:5
31:25	24:24 25:21,22	transfer 1:6,10 4:9	universally 12:16	14:10 16:6 21:19
sudden 40:19	26:21,22 27:14,16	4:22 5:9 9:21	unrecognizable	24:6 29:13 30:1
suggest 23:22	28:21,22 30:20	10:12 15:20,22	30:15	37:9,10 38:3,15
Suite 15:19	32:13 37:12,15	17:19 20:25 21:20	un-designate 29:8	39:7 40:1,4 41:15
Sunday 12:22	38:19	21:25 23:8 26:2	upgrade 16:17	41:15
support 8:22 9:15	Thanks 13:15	32:19 33:5,18	urban 11:14 12:1	ways 29:17
10:11 15:22 16:12	thing 18:12 21:22	36:4,7,16	urge 9:15 27:14	weather 32:14
17:18 23:7 25:20	24:10 28:9,20	transformation	use 36:18	weeds 14:25
27:23	33:16 41:18	11:14	US-1 29:2	weekend 34:20
suppose 30:1	things 8:2,5 10:10	Transportation	$\overline{\mathbf{v}}$	welcome 3:19 33:2
supposed 14:18	10:15 14:9 15:3	1:11 2:10,18 3:23	vague 40:13	34:24
29:13	21:18 41:3	4:2,6,11 11:10	valet 25:6	welcomed 32:12
Suraya 15:17	think 15:2,3,7,10	22:5 33:7 35:16	Valle 25:23,24	35:1
sure 6:9 9:25 22:7	16:20 20:4 22:3,5	travels 29:9	26:22	went 12:24 13:6
22:11,22,25 27:2	22:6 24:9 26:5,15	trees 28:13 40:2	variances 26:8	39:20 40:6,10
31:6,8,24 32:2,25	29:18,19,20 31:12	41:7,8,11,17	variances 20.8 verbalize 32:24	weren't 41:21
surgeon 13:20	thinking 39:23	tremendously	verbanze 32.24 vibrant 11:25	West 10:3 29:9
surprised 38:9	thought 39:18 40:7	32:13	Vice 10:21,22	we'll 9:24 17:2,22
synonomous 10:9	three 15:18 19:19	Trolley 29:22,23,25	13:25	22:11,24 31:8
	19:24 20:20	30:4	video 5:5	35:19 37:3
table 6:3	time 4:12 5:3 15:10	Trolleys 29:19	view 10:16	we're 15:19 25:20
	20:17 24:12 25:11	Tropical 14:8	viewed 5:6	33:17 34:1 40:24 41:2
take 3:14 6:19 27:9	31:10,20 38:4	41:10	vieweu J.U	41.2
	1	1	1	1

				rage J.
We've 22:10 29:24	172290 43:19	66 28:7		
30:7	1814 12:15	00 20.7		
whatsoever 29:14	1824 23:4	7		
		741:1		
widening 3:12	1902 27:22	70 13:7		
William 7:9,14	1925 29:1			
27:3	2	709 38:2		
wise 24:12		73 15:5		
wish 35:25	20 21:14	8		
wishes 36:9	200 18:3			
wonder 20:20	2014 1:14 6:6 43:13			
wonderful 10:9	2016 43:20	8:30 4:22		
19:7	21 1:14	801 3:7		
work 12:10 13:4	2127 10:22 27:21			
25:11	22 43:20	9		
worked 26:4	26th 12:12 15:7	904 39:1		
working 8:15	27th 43:13			
works 12:18 13:13				
works 12.18 13.13 wouldn't 40:13	3			
write 32:11	3rd 6:6 34:20			
	30 11:4 12:11 18:13			
written 5:14 6:1	26:4			
35:18	31 7:15			
wrote 38:11	33129 23:5			
X	33131 1:19 7:16			
Xavier 2:8 4:18	38:2			
Y	33149 39:2			
	3815 7:16			
Yeah 35:6	4			
years 7:23 11:24				
16:17 26:4 30:8	4 34:1			
30:15	4C 18:4			
yellow 13:2 14:19	4,000 25:8			
	45 29:25 33:25			
1	465 19:17 20:3			
1 11:12	<u></u>			
1A 23:5	5			
1,800 19:20 20:22	5 30:15			
10 16:17 34:19	5th 7:15 8:24 20:4			
10-day 31:7	27:4			
100 25:8	501 15:18			
101 10:3	575 38:25			
1408 25:25 34:7				
38:1	6			
15 30:8	6:00 1:14			
15th 12:20 15:6	60-year 14:2			
18:3,17	600 15:19			
1541 13:21	609 1:18			
1341 13.41				
	1	l	<u> </u>	