



August 30, 2018

The Honorable Esteban Bovo  
Stephen P. Clark Center  
111 N.W. 1st Street, Suite 320  
Miami, Florida 33128

Dear Chairman Bovo:

As the voice of business in Miami-Dade, the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce has been involved in supporting and developing important initiatives for businesses and for our community. Finding transit solutions to the ever-growing traffic problem is our number one priority. The congestion that ensnares our roads leads to great loss of productivity for almost every business in our county. It is time something is done about it.

We have been very encouraged by the comprehensiveness of the County's SMART Plan. It presents an overarching view of the important transit corridors and interconnections which, if achieved, would go a long way to easing the current traffic congestion. However, the debate over which corridor should go first and what technology should be pursued, rail or bus rapid transit (BRT), has stalled movement toward solutions.

Now, as the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) prepares for an important vote on August 30, 2018, to decide upon the locally preferred alternative (LPA) for the South Dade transit corridor, it is important that an LPA be selected and that the community rally around that selection to open the door for the application of a Small Starts grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

After careful consideration, our Board of Directors, by an overwhelming 92% majority, voted in support of a Gold Standard BRT solution which leaves open the possibility of rail conversion later. Our Board has come to that conclusion after a great deal of study that included presentations from various experts and meetings with community and political leaders advocating both rail and BRT solutions. It has been our determination that a Gold Standard BRT solution offers:

1. The availability of significant funding in the short term from federal and state sources and still is open to public/private ventures
2. A timeline of 2-3 years for a solution to become operational vs. 6-10 years for rail
3. A reliable, dedicated and express service on an already existing pathway
4. Flexibility in conversion to rail later when ridership warrants and funds are available
5. Momentum for the overall SMART Plan and leaves available funds for the other 5 corridors which still must be pressed forward for solutions

On behalf of the 1,000 businesses and 400,000 employees that the Greater Miami Chamber serves, we urge you, Mr. Chairman, and the entire TPO Board to vote in favor of a Gold Standard BRT solution which leaves open the possibility of rail conversion later and to continue to pursue solutions and funding for the rest of the SMART Plan.

Thank you for your time, consideration and service to our county.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "AS", is written over a circular scribble.

Alfred Sanchez  
President and CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carlos Orta", is written in a cursive style.

Carlos Orta  
Chair

CC: TPO Board  
Mayor Carlos Gimenez

**Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce**  
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