

**MIAMI-DADE
LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE
(to the Year 2035)**

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 13

MEETING SUMMARY

**Stephen P. Clark Government Center
111 N. W. 1st Street
Miami, Fl 33128**

10th Floor CITT Conference Room

**Monday, February 23, 2009
10:00 A.M.**

Members Present

**Maria Batista
Alissa Escobar
Wilson Fernandez
Carl Filer
Jose Gonzalez
Shari Kamali
Joseph Quinty
Carlos Roa
Lewis Thaler
Phil Steinmiller
Vivian Villaamil
Norman Wartman**

Others Present

**Christine Bettin
Andrea Chao
Odalys Delgado
Karen Hamilton
Mily Lopez
Franco Saraceno
Myung Sung
Bob Schwarzreich.**

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I. Welcome – Introduction of Members

Carlos Roa welcomed Steering Committee members to the meeting.

II. Approval of Meeting #12 Summary (held January 9, 2009)

The meeting summary from the January 9th Steering Committee meeting was approved unanimously by the Steering Committee.

III. Public Involvement Meeting Results

Franco Saraceno, Gannett Fleming, briefed the Steering Committee on the public involvement meetings that were held in late January and early February (1/29, 2/3, 2/5). Six meetings were held, one in each of six planning areas with attendance at the meetings ranging from 16 to 28 (see table below).

Planning Area	Location	Meeting Date	Attendance
Beach/CBD	Miami Beach Regional Library	January 29, 2009	18
West	West Kendall Regional Library	January 29, 2009	19
Central	Coral Gables Library	February 3, 2009	16
South	Homestead Branch Library	February 3, 2009	16
North	Gwen Margolis Center	February 5, 2009	28
Northwest	Miami-Dade College West Campus	February 5, 2009	19

Mr. Saraceno informed the Steering Committee that the Option Finder was used at the meetings to provide the opportunity for participants to score projects in the Needs Plan on a scale from one to five based on whether they agree that a needs project is important to consider for inclusion in the LRTP:

1. Strongly Disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neutral
4. Agree
5. Strongly Agree

The results of the meeting participants' scores will be provided to Steering Committee members as a consideration in their own evaluation of projects. Mr. Saraceno stressed that the results in no way represent a statistical or scientific poll. Rather, they are the opinions of a limited number of citizens who have attended the meetings. He also notified the Steering Committee that an on-line version of the survey will be placed on the LRTP website and final results will be provided prior to the committee's evaluation of the Needs Plan in April. Preliminary results from the meetings were distributed to the Steering Committee for their review. Mr. Saraceno summarized the results in terms of two categories of needs improvements: Transit and Highway. The average score for transit projects was 4.0 (Agree), whereas the average score for highway projects was 3.7 (Neutral/Agree).

Shari Kamali, City of Homestead, commented that it would be beneficial to provide project cost information when asking members of the public to score projects. Her experience at the South Planning Area meeting is that people did not know enough about projects to effectively score them. Mily Lopez, a concerned citizen, inquired as to how she could add a project to construct a new Metrorail station in Coconut Grove. Mr. Roa responded that this project is a short range project being considered by Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) and that Ms. Lopez should speak to a representative of MDT.

Mr. Saraceno also presented a summary of projects suggested by participants at the meetings that are candidates for inclusion in the Needs Plan. Two projects on the suggested list were discussed by the Steering Committee. One of these projects is the water taxi from Downtown Miami to Watson Island. Mr. Roa advised that this project had been studied by the MPO and it was found to be infeasible for environmental reasons. Norman Wartman, MDX, suggested that FDOT should consider including docks and park-and-ride lots at waterfront parks for potential future water taxi service. The other project that was discussed is the East/West Connector between I-95 and the William Lehman Causeway. Mr. Wartman mentioned that this is an important project and that he has some specific thoughts on a potential concept for this type of improvement.

IV. Project Cost Information

Mr. Roa reminded the Steering Committee that today was the deadline for Steering Committee members to provide available project cost information, including a breakdown of right of way, planning/engineering and construction costs. As of yet, cost information has been provided for only a portion of projects. Mr. Roa stressed the importance of timely submittals of this information and noted that, in the absence of official project costs, the LRTP consultant would have to estimate project costs on a unit cost basis. Mr. Saraceno added that, if committee members were not prepared to submit right-of-way cost information, to please submit whether (and the amount of) right-of-way required for each project and the project team would estimate the costs.

V. Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM)

Mr. Roa explained the ETDM process and its purpose, which is to perform fatal flaw analysis on projects with the help of all the review agencies that participate in the process, including the public. He explained that ETDM is required for state highway system projects and that FDOT is the lead agency in charge of the process. Phil Steinmiller, FDOT, stated that a limited number of projects can be screened in ETDM at a given time and that projects should be submitted for ETDM screening in an order of importance or likelihood of making it into the Cost Feasible Plan. Odalys Delgado, HNTB, asked whether there would be time to screen all relevant projects in ETDM prior to the development of the Cost Feasible Plan. Mr. Saraceno answered that projects do not necessarily have to be screened in the Needs Plan phase, as long as they are screened prior to adoption of the LRTP by the MPO Governing Board.

VI. Needs Plan Status

Mr. Saraceno stated that the Needs Plan projects are currently being coded in the travel demand model by the regional modeling consultant and that model results should be available by the end of March. Evaluation of the Needs Plan improvements and the development of the Cost Feasible Plan will begin in April.

VII. Financial Resources Review Update

Mr. Saraceno briefed the Steering Committee on the status of the Financial Resources Review and reminded committee members that the timeliness of their submittal of respective revenue projections is critical. He stated that at the March Steering Committee meeting, a draft Financial Resources Review report will be presented and reviewed by the Steering Committee.

VIII. Regional LRTP Status Update

Wilson Fernandez, MPO, gave the committee a brief update on the Regional LRTP status. Steering Committee members should have submitted all necessary coding information by February 13, as the regional modeling consultant is currently coding the Needs Plan networks for the three counties. A meeting will take place with the three MPOs and the FDOT Districts 4 and 6 to coordinate the project definitions for projects of a regional nature. This includes projects like the FEC transit corridor, I-75, and I-95 improvements that span across county lines. Mr. Roa added that it will be critical for the Miami-Dade LRTP project schedule that model results be available sometime in mid to late March.

IX. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2009; 10:00 AM; 10th Floor CITT Conference Room.