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Posted on Monday, 08.22.11



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TRANSPORTATION

Miami Mayor Regalado lends his support to train proposal

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OPEN MEDIA MIAMI

District 7 County Commissioner Xavier Suarez presented a [proposal for an integrated train/trolley system](#) during a commission meeting held Monday afternoon at county hall.

The system will use a train that can run on rail tracks and then transition to the streets ([watch a video](#)). Suarez described it as an effort to utilize the portion of the old FEC Port Lead line that goes from Midtown to downtown Miami, which hasn't

been used for passenger service in the last 40 years, to create a new public transportation option along the Biscayne Corridor.

The county commissioner said the dual-mode train would cost more than the the [city's proposed trolley buses](#), but he believes it will be a faster transportation method and will connect more areas of the city. The cost for the dual-mode vehicle would be \$250,000, as opposed to the \$200,000 for a trolley bus.

But Suarez didn't seem concerned about the price gap.

"We'll figure out where we'll get the extra \$50,000," he said

City of Miami Mayor Tomas Regalado, who was present at the meeting, said he supports the idea of a dual-mode train car that would give Miami residents more public transportation options.

"It will move the people [to] where the people are," Regalado said.

During the hour-long meeting, Suarez presented a map with the route for the vehicle and a rendering that showed a roundabout with a fountain and palm trees on 36th St. and Second Ave., where the service would begin.

Suarez's proposed system would use a section of the old FEC Port Lead line running from 36th St. and Second Ave. all the way to downtown Miami. The rail line doesn't go straight south but angles slightly west, passing through Wynwood and Overtown's Lyric Theatre, and then heading east to the Freedom Tower and Bayside.

It will now be up to city of Miami officials to continue with the project, who Suarez said have "agreed to consider it and almost accepted it."

Open Media Miami will follow-up on the progress of this project. Let us know what you think on our [Facebook page](#).

See our live blog of the meeting as it happened:

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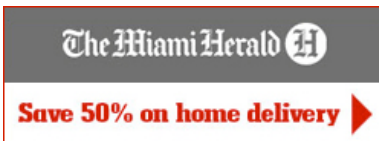
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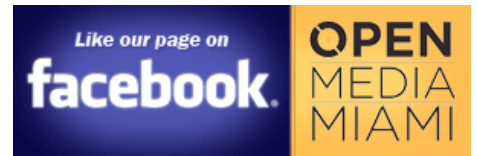
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monday

Just another way to spend tax \$\$ which the county and the miami can ill aford.wonder who is getting paid off on this deal, Better they should pave the streets as our cars are being damaged by pot holes and bumbs on the road.The metro and bus systems lose millions every year this iwill just put us more the hole.Nothing can change dade/miami know as a banana [republic.to](#) the rest of the country.

08/22/2011 04:31 PM 4 Likes Report Abuse

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Mike Moskos

Point taken, but unfortunately, the roads lose the most money of all since no one pays to use them.

08/22/2011 05:57 PM in reply to monday 4 Likes Report Abuse

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originalrat3

Isn't this entire line located within the city of Miami limits? Let the city use their revenues and 1/2 cent tax cut to pay for the entire thing, not the taxpayers of the whole county. Regalado and Suarez coming together is a nightmare for all taxpayers in this area. Neither one has much of a credible reputation.

08/22/2011 04:43 PM 3 Likes Report Abuse

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Mr. Gumsandals, sir!

Anything that gets "solutions" off of the traffic grid is a great idea. Trolleys and buses only become part of the problem by taking up space either by moving or breaking down. This doesn't happen when mass transit goes under or above the street grid or uses its own designated grade level track. Let's hope this comes to fruition-- and that a more streamlined design is chosen, preferably American.

08/22/2011 05:14 PM 4 Likes Report Abuse

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lucylu2011

Can even we afford this project? Doesnt sound very well planned or fiscally responsible, with the Suarez comment "We'll figure out where we'll get the extra \$50,000". Smells like more taxes from the Regalado regime.

08/22/2011 06:08 PM 5 Likes Report Abuse

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Bicoastal

One of the dumbest ideas I've ever seen here in Miami.

And it is not a train

08/22/2011 07:25 PM 6 Likes Report Abuse

Like Reply



Haywood Jablomey

I agree. What a stupid idea. I can't believe the Mayor thinks its worth paying for this thing.

08/22/2011 09:21 PM in reply to Bicoastal 2 Likes Report Abuse

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dadedude

How about amphibious vehicles that could use the waterways as well as the roadways ? Just asking.



lucylu2011

Yea, they use those in Seattle... for tourism – but why not as mass transportation in Miami.
<http://www.ridetheducksofseatt...>

08/23/2011 01:21 AM in reply to dadedude Report Abuse

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A_Constant_Reader , Last nerve wearing thin.

"We'll figure out where we'll get the extra \$50,000"

Just lay off more police. Who needs them anyway, what with crime being almost nonexistent.

08/23/2011 08:10 AM 3 Likes Report Abuse

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