

City of Miami, Florida

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Vice Presidential Visit to the City of Miami *with Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood*

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Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

March 5th, 2009

IT IS MY HONOR THIS AFTERNOON TO WELCOME OUR VICE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION TO MIAMI.

TODAY, WE STAND AT THE SITE OF THE MIAMI INTER-MODAL CENTER, AN IMPORTANT AND PROMISING EXAMPLE OF THE TYPES OF TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS ENVISIONED BY THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT.

AMERICA'S MAYORS AND I WORKED VERY CLOSELY WITH THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN, SECRETARY LAHOOD AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS IN SECURING ITS APPROVAL.

WE DID SO BECAUSE IT WILL CREATE OR SAVE 3.5 MILLION JOBS.... AND WE MUST PUT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BACK TO WORK.

AND WE DID SO BECAUSE THESE ARE THE TYPES OF LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS - THE DOWN PAYMENTS IN CRITICAL AREAS SUCH AS TRANSPORTATION - THAT MIAMI AND AMERICA NEEDS.

MIAMI IS A CLEAR EXAMPLE OF WHY THESE INVESTMENTS ARE NECESSARY.

WE ARE ONE OF AMERICA'S TRUE GLOBAL CITIES - WHERE PEOPLE FROM THE NORTH, SOUTH, EAST AND WEST COME TO LIVE, WORK, INVEST AND PROSPER FROM THIS RELATIONSHIP.

OUR METRO ECONOMY IS THE 11TH LARGEST IN THE U.S., 40TH LARGEST IN THE WORLD, AND IS LARGER THAN THOSE OF EVERY COUNTRY IN THIS HEMISPHERE, EXCEPT CANADA, BRAZIL AND MEXICO.

OUR AIRPORT IS #1 IN INTERNATIONAL CARGO, #3 IN INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS, AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ONE OUT OF EVERY FOUR JOBS IN

SOUTH FLORIDA.

OUR TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE IS THE BACKBONE OF OUR ECONOMY, AND WE CANNOT REMAIN ECONOMICALLY COMPETITIVE WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD IF OUR TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS ARE INADEQUATE.

IN TODAY'S GLOBAL ECONOMY, THESE PROJECTS ALLOW US TO COMPETE NOT JUST WITH ATLANTA, HOUSTON AND NEW YORK, BUT WITH HONG KONG, SHANGHAI, NEW DELHI AND SAO PAULO.

THE MIC WILL PROVIDE US WITH A TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM FOR THE 21ST CENTURY –

IT WILL CONNECT ALL MODES OF TRANSPORTATION: AIR TRAVEL, TRI RAIL, AMTRAK, METRO RAIL, AND REGIONAL AND INTERCITY BUS SERVICE.

IT WILL ALLEVIATE CONGESTION AT THE AIRPORT AND ON OUR CITY ROADS.

IT WILL IMPROVE OUR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE, AND REDUCE OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY REDUCING THE NUMBER OF VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED.

AND IT WILL CREATE OR SAVE THOUSANDS OF JOBS NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

YES, THESE TYPES OF INVESTMENTS CREATE A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF JOBS, BUT THEY ARE ALSO A WINDOW INTO OUR FUTURE.....A FUTURE THAT WILL INCLUDE A STRONGER MIAMI...A STRONGER AND MORE COMPETITIVE AMERICA.

IT IS A NEW DAY IN WASHINGTON, AND I WANT TO THANK VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN FOR HIS SUPPORT OF A STRONGER PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, ESPECIALLY IN METROPOLITAN AREAS, LIKE MIAMI, WHICH ARE THE ENGINES OF AMERICA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH.

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