

Re: Commissioner Rebeca Sosa's (District 6) Comments at today's TPO Meeting

Miami Riders Alliance would like to make it clear that we will not tolerate misinformation about modes of public transportation in our county. During today's Miami-Dade County Transit Planning Organization meeting, the Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) presented their plans for a dedicated bus lane for the East-West Corridor of Miami-Dade's Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Plan. During comments to this presentation, Commissioner Rebeca Sosa (District 6) made comments, which, not only are false, but are extremely detrimental to public transportation modes that have, time and time again, proven to be effective.

In a video provided to Miami Riders Alliance via Twitter from user @chico4890, Commissioner Sosa repeatedly advanced the false notion that a bus lane on Flagler would kill Miami-Dade by taking away a lane of traffic from cars; this idea has been debunked again and again in places like San Francisco (Embarcadero, 1), Seattle (Demolition of the Alaskan Way Viaduct, 2), New York (14th Street Busway, 3). In projects all around the country, cities and counties are redistributing their precious space in urban cores and giving more priority to pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders. In these extremely successful projects, traffic has **not** increased, and transit efficiency **has** increased (4). Promoting the false idea that dedicated lanes taken from normal traffic lanes increase traffic spillover is a mistruth not backed by statistics and the plain reality of the situation other cities who chose to put people over cars are experiencing.

Advancing falsehoods to strike down a project that will improve mobility options for disadvantaged residents of many commissioners' districts, especially those in Commissioner Sosa's district where many of whom are aging and may not have access to a vehicle, is very disappointing coming from a high-ranking official in our county. We hope that the commissioner will reconsider her position and side with the truth, not the fantasies and interests of the automobile industry.

**Kevin Amézaga**

Executive Director, Miami Riders Alliance

- (1) <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2015/06/05/san-franciscos-waterfront-freeway-was-removed-25-years-ago-no-one-misses-it.html>
- (2) <https://usa.streetsblog.org/2019/01/24/seattles-viadom-the-carmageddon-that-wasnt/>
- (3) <https://ny.curbed.com/2019/10/18/20919729/new-york-transportation-bus-lane-transit-priority>
- (4) <https://www.fastcompany.com/90414490/how-to-get-buses-to-run-on-schedule-restrict-other-traffic>