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Officials Announce Financial Close of the Port of Miami Tunnel Project



Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Alvarez and City of Miami Mayor Manny Diaz sign Port of Miami Tunnel agreements

(Miami, FL) City of Miami Mayor Manny Diaz, Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez and members of the Board of County Commissioners in partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) gathered on October 15, 2009 for a signing ceremony signifying the financial close of the Port of Miami Tunnel project.

“Today is a proud day for the City of Miami, Miami-Dade County and the entire state of Florida,” said City of Miami Mayor Manny Diaz. “The Port of Miami Tunnel Project is an investment in our City’s future, bringing jobs, economic prosperity, and environmental sustainability to our community, as well as maintaining our global competitiveness.”

“I want to thank our partners in the County, the State, the Miami-Dade the Miami-Dade Delegation in Tallahassee and our State Representatives, as well as U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood for their continued support of this project and for recognizing that

investments in our country's infrastructure is the most effective means to revitalize our economy," added Mayor Diaz.

"Just as a manmade shipping channel called Government Cut transformed the Port of Miami for the 20th Century, the Port Tunnel will transform our seaport for the 21st Century," said County Mayor Carlos Alvarez. "The Port Tunnel's significance cannot be understated, downplayed or dismissed – particularly in this economic time. As we build it, we will create hundreds of jobs, keep our seaport competitive and transform Downtown Miami."

Construction, which is expected to begin in seven months, includes a tunnel under Government Cut, roadway work on Dodge and Watson Islands and MacArthur Causeway Bridge widening. Twin tubes, each 3,900 feet long and 41 feet in diameter, will reach a depth of 120 feet below the water. The project will improve access to and from the Port of Miami, serving as a dedicated roadway connector linking the Port with the MacArthur Causeway (State Road A1A) and I-395. The tunnel is expected to be open to traffic by 2014.

For more information on the Port of Miami Tunnel project, please log onto <http://www.portofmiamitunnel.com>.