

City of Homestead Downtown Area Transportation Plan Update



Technical Memorandum 1 Study Area Definition



Prepared by Metric Engineering, Inc. May 2004



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1.1 Introduction

Historic Overview

Homestead was incorporated in 1913. Since the city's inception its economy and culture have been key in its continued development. Homestead is situated in the southern fringes of Miami-Dade County, west of Biscayne National Park, east of the Everglades National Park and directly north of Florida City. Its geographic location provides easy access to the Florida Keys, Miami and the Florida Everglades.

For many years Homestead's economy relied on Homestead Air Force Base and the agricultural community as the backbone for its continued growth and prosperity. In 1992 hurricane Andrew destroyed the City of Homestead leaving thousands without jobs and homes. It was the costliest natural disaster in U.S. history. Almost twelve years later, hurricane Andrew is well remembered.

However, even though the Air Base has not returned to its pre-hurricane employment levels, the people of Homestead and the surrounding agricultural community have shown their resiliency by rebuilding Homestead's economy.

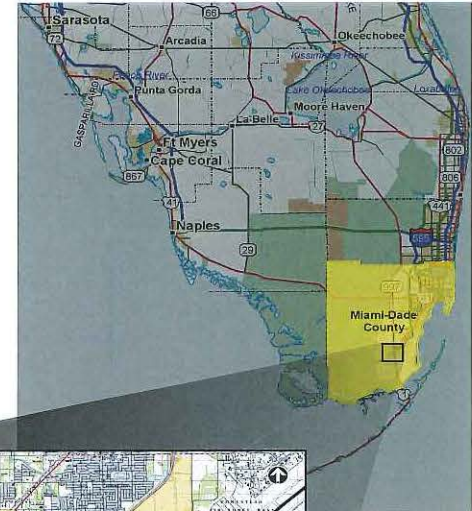


Figure 1-1: Location Map



Seminole Theater



Troops Marching Down Krome Avenue



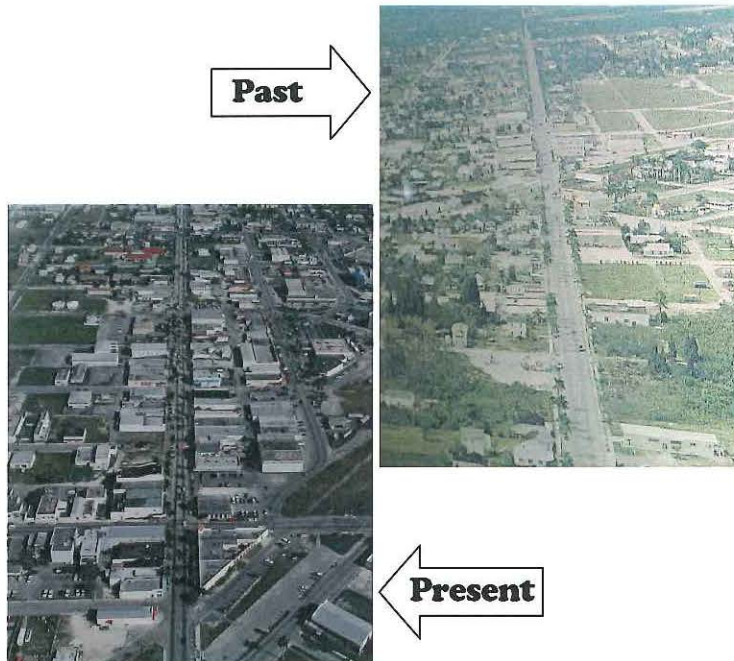
State Farmers Market



1927 Bank of Homestead

1.2 Goals and Objectives

Within five to seven years Homestead's population of 36,000 inhabitants is expected to double. In order to keep pace with this growing demand there are currently over 14,000 new homes being planned. As the population continues to increase, so are the number of local vehicular trips, thus creating a greater demand on the local street grid. The goal of this study is to analyze the traffic behavior and the transportation mobility and to develop recommendations on truck movement's accommodations, bicycle way alignments, traffic calming treatments and the role of the Miami-Dade transit Busway within the congested urban core.



The purpose of this analysis is to plan for an integrated multimodal transportation system providing a pedestrian friendly, motorized and un-motorized environment that will serve as the backbone for continued economic growth within Homestead. This will ensure that any issues dealing with congestion are properly addressed so that deteriorating traffic conditions do not serve as an impediment to the expansion and vitality of the community.

1.3 Purpose

Area Definition

Homestead's Downtown Area is situated just north of Florida City. The historic downtown area is confined to a relatively small area bounded by Flagler Ave. on the south and NW 4th St on the north, with Krome Avenue serving as the central artery of this historic area. In order to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the downtown area and to ensure that the traffic movements and associated land uses affecting the downtown area be given proper consideration, the study area was expanded beyond the core of downtown to include SW 8th St to the south, NW 15th St to the north, SW/NW 1st Ave to the west and US-1 to the east.

One of the major allurements in Homestead is the Historic Business District that attracts many residents and tourists to the heart of the city. The area provides a flashback to the rich historical background of Homestead. Figure 1-2 shows the study area which contains many historical structures including the Seminole Theater, Landmark Hotel, and the Chamber of Commerce.

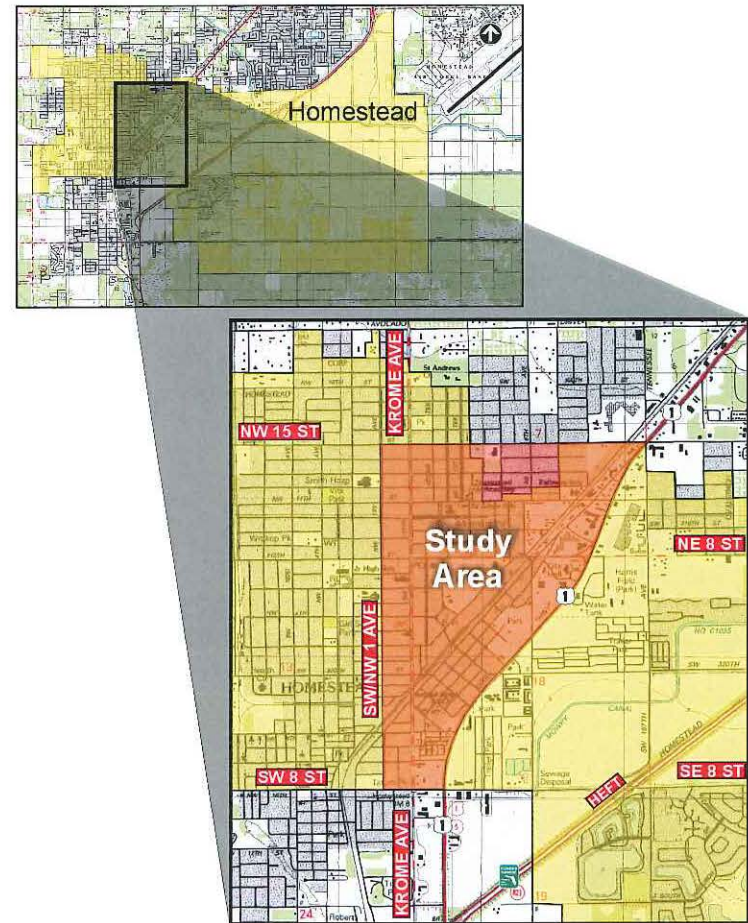


Figure 1-2: Study Area

HOMESTEAD'S POINTS OF INTEREST AND HISTORIC SITES



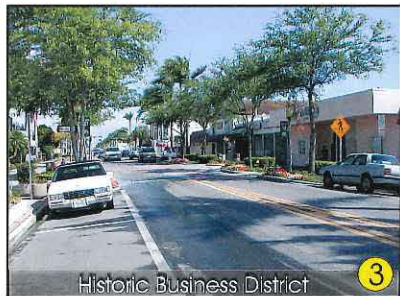
Chamber of Commerce

1



Landmark Hotel

2



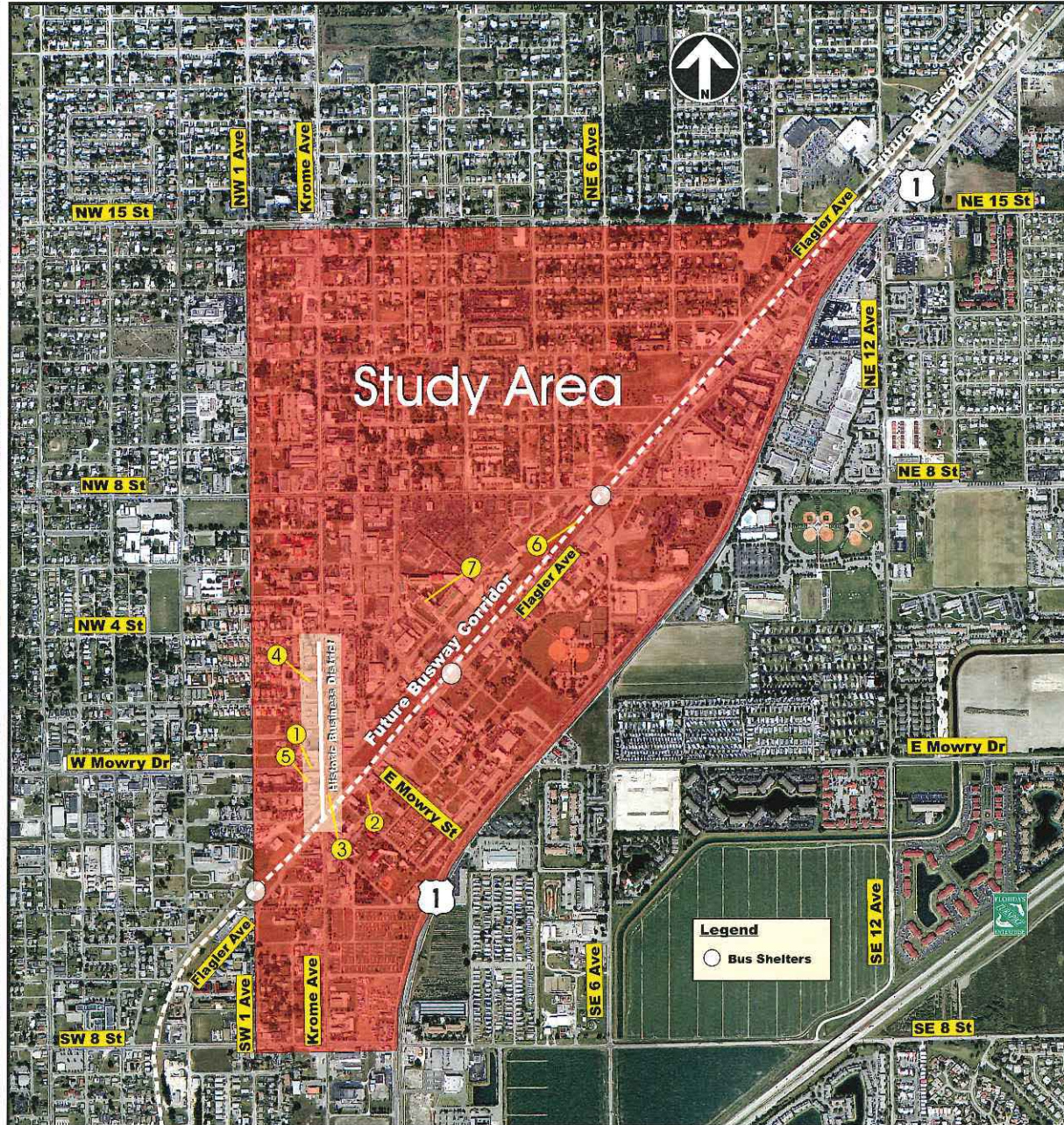
Historic Business District

3



First Baptist Church

4



Seminole Theater

5



Future Busway Corridor

6



MDC Homestead Campus

7





Metric Engineering Inc.