

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY MPO

Improving Access ^{IN} Florida International University ^{BISCAYNE BAY CAMPUS AREA}

WORK ORDER #GPC IV-11

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Prepared for

Prepared by



Kimley-Horn
and Associates, Inc.

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Improving Access in Florida International University Biscayne Bay Campus Executive Summary

Prepared for:



**Miami-Dade County Metropolitan Planning Organization
(Miami-Dade MPO)**

Prepared by:



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and Associates, Inc.**

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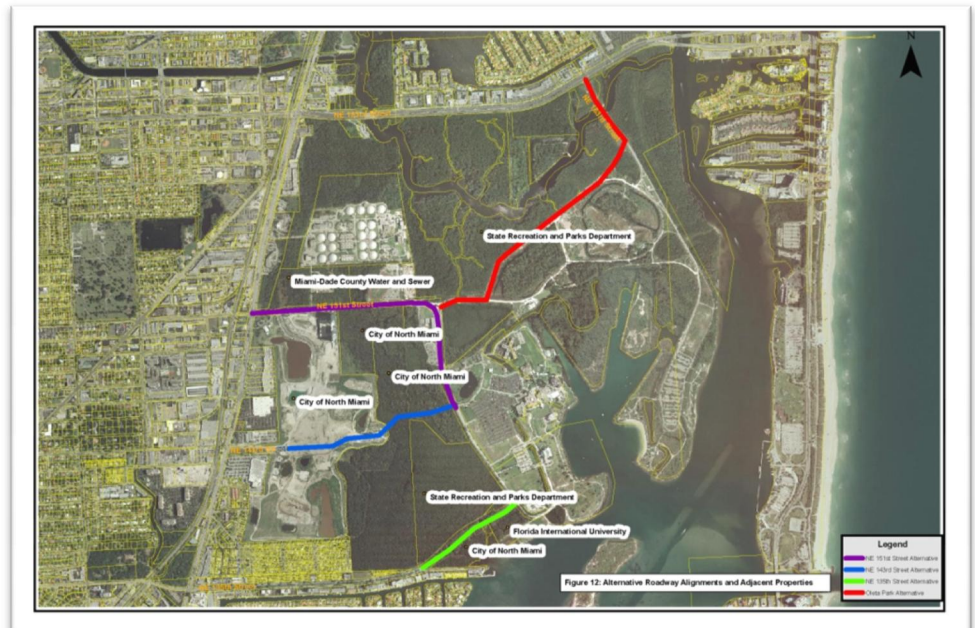
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BACKGROUND

At the request of MPO Governing Board, this study was conducted to evaluate the feasibility of adding another entrance to the Florida International University (FIU) Biscayne Bay Campus.

Currently, only one entrance is provided via NE 151st Street. Four alternatives were considered including:

- Bay Vista Boulevard/NE 135th Street
- NE 143rd Street
- NE 151st Street (Improvements)
- NE 163rd Street (Oleta River State Park)



SUMMARY

This study examined the feasibility of providing an additional access connection to the FIU Biscayne Bay Campus. Only one access connection is currently provided via NE 151st Street. NE 151st Street also serves as primary access to the 193-acre Biscayne Landing master planned community, as well as the only access connection to the David Lawrence Jr. K-8 School and the Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Senior High School. These conditions have resulted in heavy traffic congestion along NE 151st Street and Biscayne Boulevard.

Existing conditions in the study area and project needs were analyzed. This assessment included reviewing and evaluating transportation improvement plans, FIU Biscayne Bay Campus population projections and future expansion plans, area school enrollment, area transit accommodations, Biscayne Landing development proposals, the NE 135th Street pedestrian bridge replacement project, environmental constraints, and traffic operations. Several contributing factors demonstrate that additional access to the FIU Biscayne Bay Campus is needed. These factors are listed below in two categories, existing needs and future needs.

Existing Project Needs

- Only one existing access to the FIU Biscayne Bay Campus and adjacent public schools.
- Poor drainage along NE 151st Street.
- School zones along NE 151st Street and Bay Vista Boulevard slow traffic.
- Poor operating level of service of several intersections in the study area including Biscayne Boulevard and NE 151st Street and Biscayne Boulevard and NE 163rd Street.

Future Project Needs

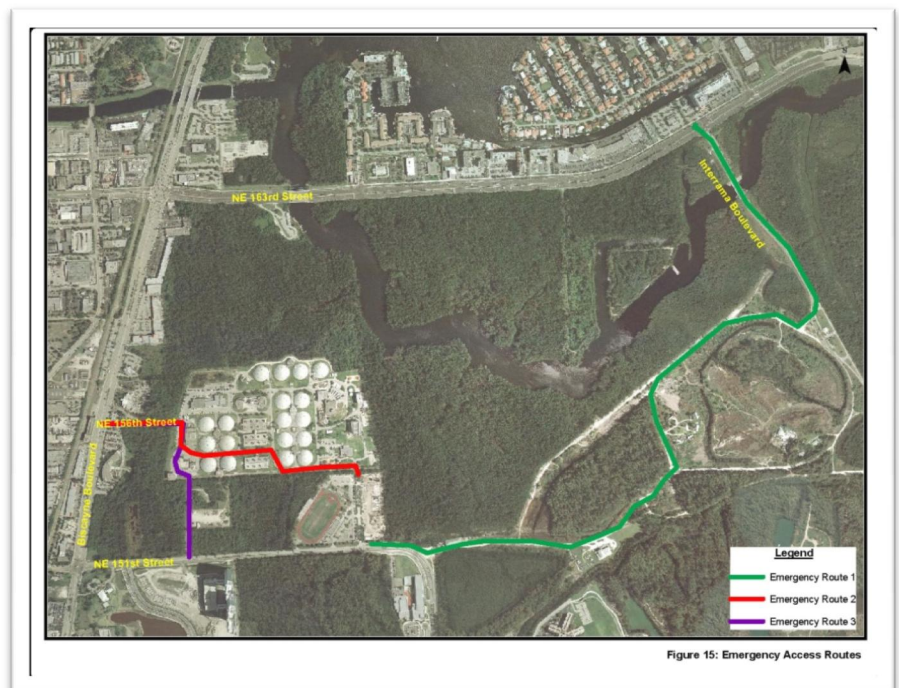
- No proposed future roadway capacity improvements in study area.
- Future FIU Biscayne Bay Campus growth.
- Future growth at the K-8 school and high school.
- Future degradation of level of service at Biscayne Boulevard and NE 151st Street.
- Future Biscayne Landing Development.

ALTERNATIVES SUMMARY/ACTION PLAN

The three (3) new corridor alternatives (Bay Vista Boulevard/NE 135th Street, NE 143rd Street, and NE 163rd Street/Oleta River State Park) evaluated during the development of this study are feasible possibilities to be used as additional access to FIU Biscayne Bay Campus. However, all of these alternatives present environmental concerns and funding issues that are beyond the scope of this study. Furthermore, these alternatives are not fully within the direct jurisdiction of Miami-Dade County.

Therefore, any decision to pursue one of these alternatives has to be coordinated between the City of North Miami, FIU, Miami Dade County Public Schools, and the private sector (Biscayne Landing Development).

During the development of this study, several issues were identified with the existing access provided via NE 151st Street. However, there are improvements that can be considered in order to alleviate traffic congestion in the area. An action plan was developed based on proposed



improvement/project time horizons. Time horizons defined for this study were short-term (0-2 years), medium-term (2-5 years), and long-term (5+ years). Table ES-1 provides a summary of short-term projects and recommended implementation tasks, Table ES-2 provides a summary of midterm projects and recommended implementation tasks, and Table ES-3 provides a summary of long-term projects and implementation tasks. Improvements/projects were prioritized based on needs as well as costs.

Since NE 151st Street is the only access to the FIU Biscayne Bay Campus and area schools, an emergency access route is proposed in case NE 151st Street is blocked due to an emergency or incident. An emergency access route through the North District Wastewater Treatment Plant is the preferred route, as this route is the shortest in length, provides access on paved facilities, and connects to Biscayne Boulevard via the signalized intersection with NE 156th Street.

Table ES-1: Short-Term Action Plan

Improvement	Implementation Tasks	Possible Funding Sources	Cost
1. Replace non-standard stop signs (Northbound Bay Vista Boulevard and FIU Biscayne Bay Campus Main Entrance)	City of North Miami Maintenance	City of North Miami	\$1,500
2. Improve drainage along NE 151 st Street	Currently part of a Miami-Dade County Public Works project	Miami-Dade County	N/A
3. Implement Emergency Access Plan via NE 156 th Street through the North District Wastewater Treatment Plant and/or via Oleta State River Park	Coordination with Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department and State Parks and Recreation Department	N/A	N/A
4. Relocate bus stops at High School next to crosswalk and provide bus shelters	Coordination with Miami-Dade Transit	Federal 5309 Grants – Bus Capital, MDT Local Option Gas Tax, Local Option Gas Tax	\$43,000
5. NE 151 st Street and Biscayne Boulevard Intersection Improvement (westbound left-turn lane)	Program improvements in TIP	County Fuel Tax, Local Option Gas Tax	\$120,000 ⁽¹⁾

Improvement	Implementation Tasks	Possible Funding Sources	Cost
6. NE 151 st Street and Biscayne Boulevard Intersection Improvement (westbound right-turn overlap phase)	Program improvements in TIP	County Fuel Tax, Local Option Gas Tax	\$60,000
7. NE 151 st Street and Biscayne Boulevard Intersection Improvement (southbound left-turn lane)	Program improvements in TIP and FDOT Work Program	FDOT: Other arterial construction and/or TMA Funds, County Fuel Tax, Local Option Gas Tax	\$130,000 ⁽¹⁾
8. Construct sidewalk (railing and canopy medium-term) along north side of NE 151 st Street from Biscayne Boulevard to FIU Biscayne Bay Campus	Program improvements in TIP	County Fuel Tax, Local Option Gas Tax	\$130,800 ⁽¹⁾
9. Extend sidewalk on south side of NE 151 st Street from K-8 School to FIU Biscayne Bay Campus (railing and canopy medium-term)	Program improvements in TIP	County Fuel Tax, Local Option Gas Tax	\$19,200 ⁽¹⁾
10. Construct bicycle lane along north side of NE 151 st Street from Biscayne Boulevard to FIU Biscayne Bay Campus	Program improvements in TIP	County Fuel Tax, Local Option Gas Tax	\$131,000 ⁽¹⁾
11. Construct bicycle lane along south side of NE 151 st Street from K-8 School to FIU Biscayne Bay Campus	Program improvements in TIP	County Fuel Tax, Local Option Gas Tax	\$63,000 ⁽¹⁾
12. Provide transit amenities for bus stops at Biscayne Boulevard and NE 151 st Street	Program improvements in TIP/TDP	Federal 5309 Grants – Bus Capital, MDT Local Option Gas Tax, Local Option Gas Tax	\$42,000
13. Examine transit transfer facility on southeast corner of Biscayne Boulevard and NE 151 st Street	Program improvements in TDP	State Grants – Bus, MDT Local Option Gas Tax, Local Option Gas Tax	N/A

Note: ⁽¹⁾ Does not include potential wetland mitigation costs along NE 151st Street.

Table ES-2: Medium-Term Action Plan

	Improvement	Implementation Tasks	Possible Funding Sources	Cost
1.	NE 151 st Street and Biscayne Boulevard Intersection Improvements (northbound right-turn lane) – requires additional right-of-way	Program improvements in TIP and FDOT work program	FDOT: Other arterial construction and/or TMA Funds, County Fuel Tax, Local Option Gas Tax	\$85,200 ⁽¹⁾
2.	NE 151 st Street and Biscayne Boulevard Intersection Improvements (extend eastbound left-turn lane)	Program improvements in TIP	FDOT: Other arterial construction and/or TMA Funds, County Fuel Tax, Local Option Gas Tax	\$9,600
3.	Sidewalk railing and canopy along north side of NE 151 st Street from Biscayne Boulevard to FIU Biscayne Bay Campus	Program improvements in TIP	County Fuel Tax, Local Option Gas Tax	\$1,094,400 ⁽¹⁾
4.	Sidewalk railing and canopy along south side of NE 151 st Street from Biscayne Boulevard to FIU Biscayne Bay Campus	Program improvements in TIP	County Fuel Tax, Local Option Gas Tax	\$1,094,400 ⁽¹⁾
5.	Construct transit transfer facility on southeast corner of Biscayne Boulevard and NE 151st Street (illustrated in Figures ES-1 and ES-2)	Program improvements in TIP	State Grants – Bus, MDT Local Option Gas Tax, Local Option Gas Tax, Road Impact Fee	TBD
6.	Provide shuttle service from transit transfer facility to FIU Biscayne Bay Campus	Coordinate with FIU	FIU Operating Budget	TBD

Note: ⁽¹⁾ Does not include potential wetland mitigation costs along NE 151st Street.

Table ES-3: Long-Term Action Plan

Improvement	Implementation Task	Possible Funding Sources	Cost
1. Widen NE 151 st Street to six (6) lanes from Biscayne Boulevard to Bay Vista Boulevard (High School and K-8 School).	Program improvements in TIP	County Fuel Tax, Local Option Gas Tax, Road Impact Fee	\$2,300,000 ⁽¹⁾
2. Implement Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) along Biscayne Boulevard	Fund project in TDP	FDOT Transit, PTP Sales Tax Revenue	TBD
3. Grade separate Biscayne Boulevard at NE 151 st Street	Include project in LRTP	FDOT: Other arterial construction, TMA Funds	\$38,500,000

Note: ⁽¹⁾ Does not include potential wetland mitigation costs along NE 151st Street.

The *Improving Access in Florida International University Biscayne Bay Campus Area Study* provides the framework for the programming of transportation improvements in the area of the FIU Biscayne Bay Campus. Agencies have been identified for implementing the improvements based on jurisdictional responsibility. The improvements should be adopted into the appropriate plans and programs of the specified agencies. Finally, the study should be examined periodically to assess the status of the implementation of the identified improvements.

The key stakeholders that will directly benefit from the proposed improvements include FIU, City of North Miami, Biscayne Landing, and Miami-Dade County Schools. Therefore, these stakeholders should contribute to the funding of the proposed improvements. Furthermore, stakeholder contribution would help in expediting these improvements toward implementation.



FIGURE ES-1 Transit Hub
NE 151st Street and Biscayne Boulevard



FIGURE ES-2 Transit Hub
NE 151st Street and Biscayne Boulevard