

Richard Mendez, PE, LEED AP, CGC

Richard Mendez, with a career spanning four decades, is a well-respected civil engineering authority. He specializes in program/project and construction management overseeing large multiple projects, particularly for governmental agencies.

“I got into civil engineering because I thought it was a really challenging profession that dealt with handling big scale projects in both the design and construction phases,” says Mendez. “I was always attracted to complex projects since I was young.”

Mendez, who is a certified Florida registered Professional Engineer, LEED AP certified professional, and a licensed Miami-Dade General Building and Engineering Contractor, launched his career in the late Seventies, working as an engineer for the Miami-Dade County Public Works Department. He began as an assistant supervisor of the Plans Review Section, Highway Division where he coordinated, developed and reviewed roadway projects in various stages of design and construction. His expertise, hard work and dedication did not go unnoticed. Within a year, he became Consultant Coordinator, a position that made him responsible for all engineering consultant selections for the County. His duties included advertising and drafting scope of services for professional consulting projects. The role also required him to conduct meetings and public hearings, prepare minutes and reports for the County Manager on selections and conduct negotiations with consultants and certifying firms for professional engineering service.

For the next decade and a half, he would continue his service with Public Works, serving as an Assistant Chief of Traffic Engineering, as Secondary Road Project Coordinator and Chief of Engineering Services Division, a position he held for ten years.

As an Assistant Chief of Traffic Engineering, Mendez was responsible for supervisory professional work in the Traffic Engineering Division, which required engineering and administrative oversight in the planning, engineering and implementation of all traffic engineering plans. In his role of Secondary Road Project Coordinator, he coordinated and supervised the completion of construction for state-funded roadway projects. His leadership skills, along with his acquired expertise, led to him being named Chief of Engineering Services Division.

In this position, he managed the Department’s construction program, overseeing a yearly budget of \$70-\$100 million, which also included construction of several state FDOT roadway projects and miscellaneous projects for other County agencies. He was also responsible for all countywide subdivision reviews & approvals, including platting, paving & drainage, traffic concurrency, impact fees, permitting and inspections. During his tenure, he was responsible for coordinating all debris removal caused by Hurricane Andrew. A stellar career with Public Works led to the opportunity to work with the Miami-Dade County Aviation Department, where for four years, he served as the Assistant Aviation Director, Facilities Development for Miami International Airport (MIA).

This major role required demanding responsibilities, including overseeing a staff of 700+ aviation employees as well as the general consultant, Dade Aviation Consultants, with approximately another 100 employees. His Department consisted of six areas - Planning and Development, Maintenance, Environmental Engineering, Facilities (Design & Construction), Terminal North Coordination and Contracts Administration for MIA along with six general aviation airports in Miami-Dade County. His leadership in more than 250 construction projects was pivotal. These projects fell under the \$4.7 billion capital expansion program at MIA. His responsibilities were vast and under his tenure, 118 projects with a value of more than \$1.1 billion were successfully completed. Projects included all types of aviation-related facilities: terminal/concourse construction, cargo facilities for freighter and belly cargo, airside paving (aprons, taxiways, runways) and storm drainage, parking structures, environmental studies and remediation, life safety, strategic planning and much more.

In 1999, Mendez launched his own firm: Richard Mendez & Associates, Inc., which provided services for the aviation, transportation, commercial, industrial, land development and public works sectors. The firm specialized in planning, design, program/project/construction management for development of large facilities.

“After working for four years at the aviation department, I had developed national and international contacts in the aviation sector, particularly in private program management of major projects,” he says. There was a need for his expertise, not only in aviation, but also for other major capital projects. He also consulted for major airlines in foreign countries that were flying into different airports in Latin America. He oversaw their capital development programs to make sure what the airlines wanted to develop and pay was in sync with construction projects and budgets.

Most recently, Mendez took his talents to ADA Engineering, Inc. where he worked for seven years as both a senior project manager and director in the company’s Civil Engineering & Transportation Departments. He lent his expertise to a number of projects ranging from initial project planning and development to construction management. “We [company] ran the gamut, from planning through construction, of civil engineering, transportation and related engineering fields: airports, water resources, solid waste, highways/roadways, water and sewer, environmental, land development, program management and construction management.”

Despite his demanding schedule, Mendez has consistently been active in the community. He was an adjunct professor at Florida A&M University’s School of Engineering for 15 years. He’s also worked on various pro-bono projects. He served as chairman of the building committee that built Miami’s St. Agatha Catholic Church and was also the building committee co-chair for two churches being built, St. Catherine of Siena and Alta Gracia in Miami, FL.

Mendez has been involved with numerous professional organizations and is currently a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and a previous member of the Airports Council International. He’s also a participating member of the Dispute Review Board and is also certified by the Florida Department of Education in State Requirements in Educational Facilities.

Mendez, who is fluent in English and Spanish, graduated from the University of Miami with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. He is married with three children and four beautiful granddaughters.

As for future goals, Mendez is proud to be working on his own as a consultant on Design-Build and Public Private Partnership (P3) projects for the past two years, which he says is the trend of the future for clients to build large/mega infrastructure projects.

Contact Information:

Richard Mendez, PE, LEED AP, CG
Infrastructure & Development Consultant
P.O. Box 565128
Miami, FL 33256-5128
rmendezpe@outlook.com
rmendezpe@aol.com
305-987-5566 Cell
305-667-9356 Fax

