



Fact Sheet: PORTMIAMI TUNNEL FREIGHT MOBILITY EVALUATION STUDY

The PortMiami Tunnel represents a major infrastructure investment that has streamlined the freight connectivity between the port and the South Florida region. The tunnel evaluation study is aimed at developing a plan for monitoring the performance of the seaport's access and preserving its functionality for decades to come.

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THE PORTMIAMI TUNNEL HAS GREATLY IMPROVED ACCESS to this regional freight hub

upon its opening in August 2014 after a five-year period of construction and an investment of approximately \$700 million. The tunnel's purpose was to provide better access and increased capacity for freight and cruise traffic to PortMiami, and to shift traffic from the Port Boulevard Bridge and downtown Miami streets directly to the I-395 corridor. The tunnel project is the culmination of nearly three decades of planning and development.

This major investment is being operated under a concession agreement with "availability payments" being made to the contract by the Florida DOT based on the extent that performance metrics for the operation and maintenance of the tunnels are satisfied.

SEAPORT ACCESS

The tunnel provides direct access to I-395. The POMT consists of twin tunnel bores of ¾-mile each. Each tunnel is directional and has two lanes – the right lane for trucks and the left lane for cars. Vehicles carrying hazardous materials are generally not permitted in the tunnel under federal regulations.

PortMiami is the first seaport on the east coast to have direct Interstate access, Post-Panamax cranes, and dredging to a 50-52' channel depth, enabling it to serve larger Post-Panamax

container ships. Florida East Coast (FEC) Railroad connectivity was reintroduced in 2013, having been disrupted by damage to the rail bridge at the Intracoastal Waterway on the west end of the seaport from Hurricane Wilma. The FEC railroad provides rail access via Jacksonville and connecting railroads to all the US within four days. About 16,000 vehicles enter and exit the seaport each weekday; truck traffic makes up 28% of these vehicles.

ACCESS EVALUATION STUDY

The purpose of this evaluation program being advanced by the Florida DOT – District 6 is to define and implement a program to monitor and assess the transportation performance of the tunnel in view of preserving the investment in the facility and the economic value it represents to the freight and logistics community of South Florida. This program should use available data to the maximum extent, complemented by additional data collection, to assess the tunnel's overall effectiveness and benefits, incorporating ongoing systematic monitoring and evaluation.

This initiative is supported by High Priority Project funding provided through the Federal Highway Administration. This source has a special no year limitation such that the funding remains available until used. An amount of \$1,439,840 is available for this program, and was authorized for High Priority Project 1634 for "Conducting a Study for Port of Miami Tunnel" under Public Law 109-59 in 2005, the SAFETEA-LU transportation act.

The proposed approach to this initiative is to consider the utilization of not only the PortMiami Tunnel itself, but also of the Port Boulevard Bridge and the FEC RR connection. This strategy was adopted because the use of the tunnel is in part a function of how the other two portals to PortMiami function in terms of accommodating travel demand and cargo movement to and from the seaport. This unique situation of having only three access points facilitates a full accounting of seaport-related landside transportation movements. By tracking all three connections, the influence of the bridge and rail linkages upon the tunnel can be correlated and assessed. This integrated database will track all PortMiami access activity, with a focus on the tunnel.

A draft work plan for the evaluation program consists of these principal elements:

- Task 1: Project Management
 - Managing the program, schedule and budget
- Task 2: Project Purpose and Objectives
 - Establish framework for the program mission
- Task 3: Project Coordination
 - Maintain coordination with stakeholders, including FDOT units, PortMiami, Miami-Dade Transportation and Public Works, and others.
- Task 4: Data Collection
 - Assemble historical and ongoing available data.
 - Acquire new field data as needed per Task 5 analytical framework.
 - Develop integrated database.
- Task 5: Technical Analysis
 - Establish analytical framework, including established access performance criteria
 - Identify additional traffic monitoring hardware (vehicle weight, automatic traffic counters, etc.)
 - Develop seaport access simulation model
 - Assess access performance criteria
 - Develop automated summary report including statistics, charts and graphics
 - Identify annual update requirements
 - Develop contingency seaport access plan for incident and evacuation purposes

- Task 6: Program Documentation
 - Monitoring framework and structure
 - Data directory
 - Equipment recommendations
 - Recommendations for optimal seaport access and tunnel operations
- Task 7: Annual Program Updates
 - Maintain ongoing monitoring, evaluation and reporting for additional annual cycles (to be determined).

District 6 is seeking input from stakeholders involved with and interested in the PortMiami Tunnel and its continued high performance. Your thoughts and ideas for enhancing this draft work plan for the planned evaluation program of PortMiami access are welcome and appreciated.

In addition to visits with stakeholders, your comments and thoughts about those elements of the tunnel specifically and seaport access in general are needed and welcome. There is flexibility in the program definition to track parameters of importance to you, but we will need your input! Thanks for your assistance.

EVALUATION STUDY CONTACTS

For more information, to provide your input, or to discuss further, please contact:

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