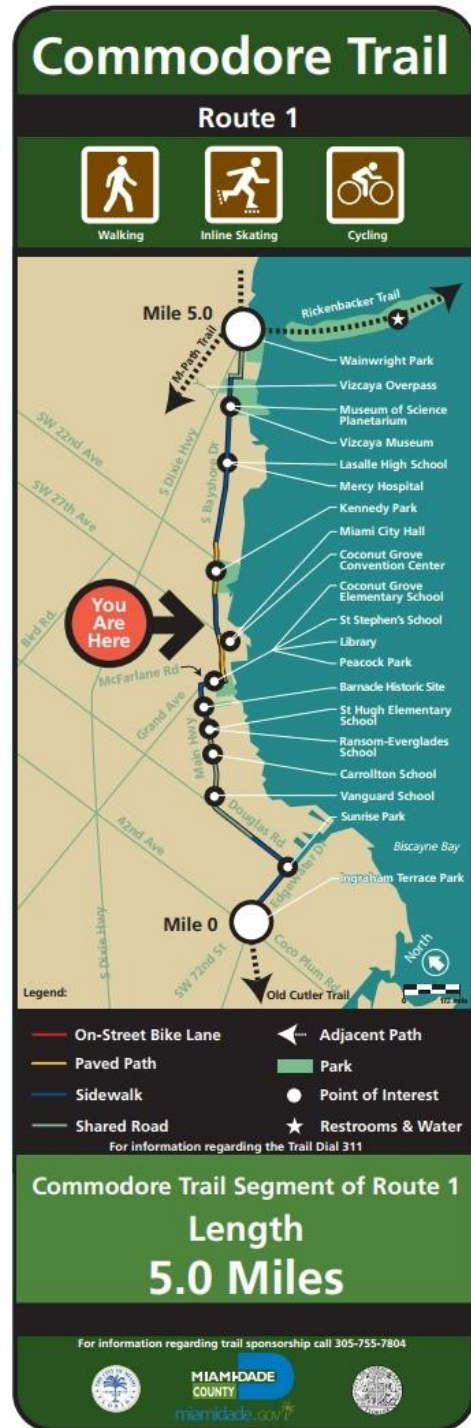




# THE COMMODORE TRAIL

**The Tragic Waste of a Precious City of Miami Asset**

**February 2019**



The Commodore Trail is recognized by the City of Miami and Miami-Dade County as one of the region's most important recreational facilities.

- 5 miles from Rickenbacker Causeway to Cocoplum Circle.
- Almost entirely within Coconut Grove and the City of Miami.
- Multiuse—cyclists, pedestrians, runners.
- Links with Rickenbacker Trail to the north and Old Cutler Trail to the south.
- Connects 6 major parks, numerous historic buildings, 7 public and private schools, and the commercial center of Coconut Grove.



To call it a “trail” is a big stretch. As the legend from the map at left clearly shows, sometimes it’s a bike lane. Sometimes it’s a sidewalk. Often it’s the shoulder of a busy road that carries an enormous amount of traffic. Occasionally it’s a safe, off-road multiuse path.

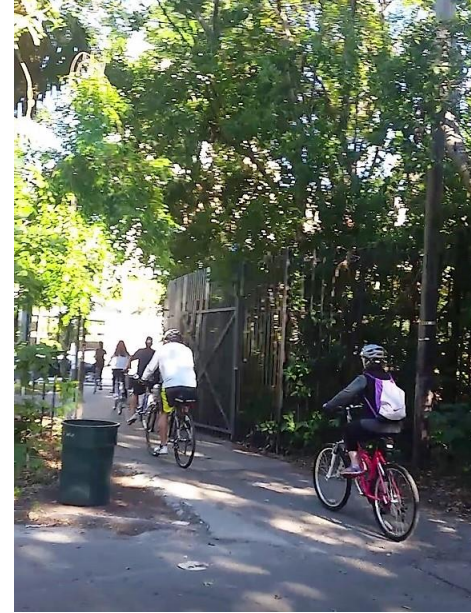
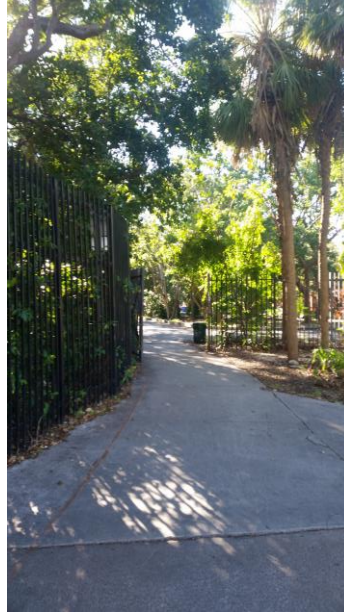
# Rickenbacker Causeway to Mercy Hospital



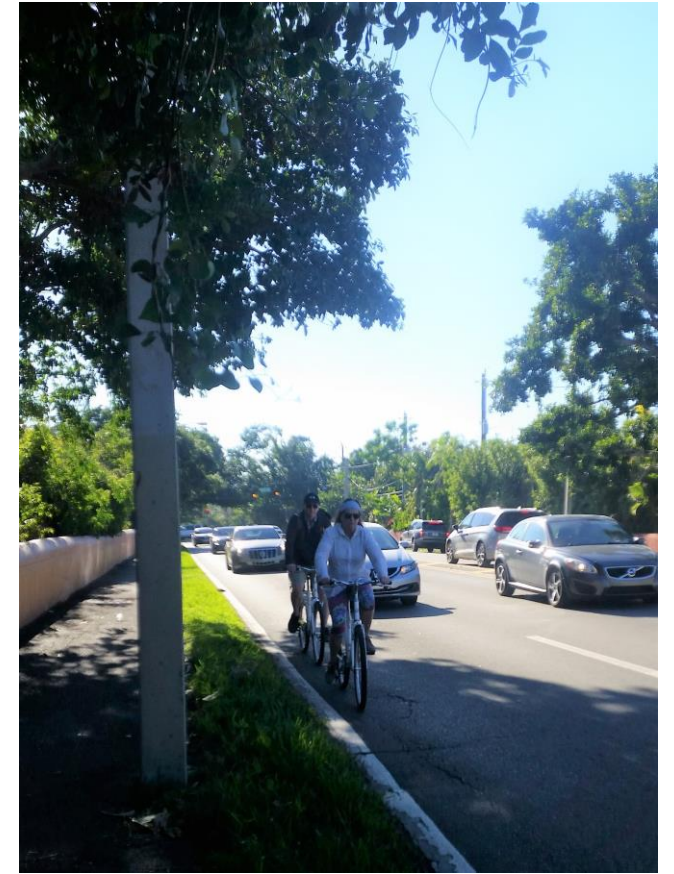
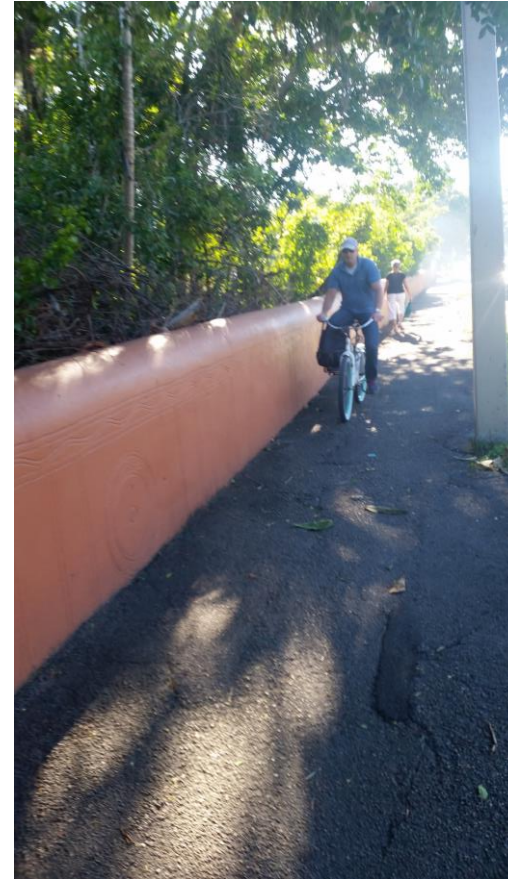


## Rickenbacker to Mercy Way.

Clockwise, gate to Brickell Ave.; cyclists heading through that gate to Rickenbacker Trail; turn sign onto 32<sup>nd</sup> Rd., Brickell Ave. shared roadway; 32<sup>nd</sup> Rd. leads to South Miami Ave.







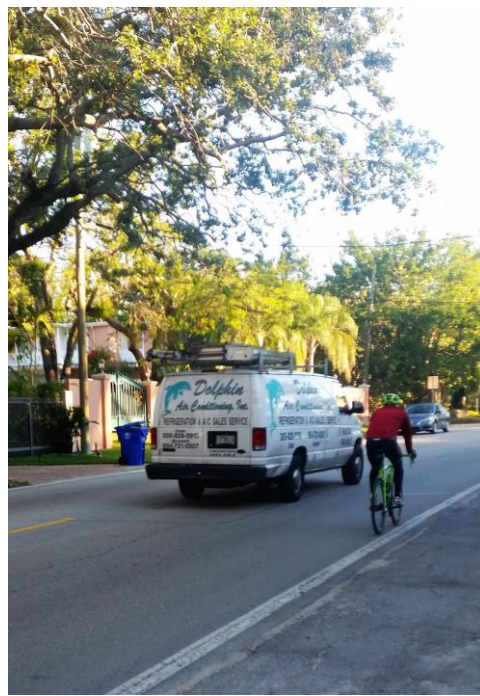
**Heading south toward Coconut Grove on South Miami Ave. L. to r., the sign tells you this is the Commodore Trail (it's also Miami-Dade Route 1). Runners use it and cyclists use it, but some cyclists are so unwilling to use it that they risk their lives by riding in the motor vehicle lane.**

# Kennedy Park Area



Note: Some parts of this map are out of date. The map does not include Regatta Park, and the Convention Center no longer exists.





**In and near Kennedy Park.** Clockwise from left, recycling can blocks the trail; a cyclist prefers the crowded roadway to the pitted shoulder; the trail narrows to a couple of feet next to speeding traffic; entrance to Siegendorf Bicycle Path, paved with bicycle-unfriendly rubber shavings; near the turn to Monty's the trail disappears entirely.



# Center Grove





**Center Grove.** Left: A peaceful moment in Myers Park. Bottom, l. to r.: Marker shows yes indeed it's the Commodore Trail; trail heads up sidewalk toward Harry's Pizza—and tables; turns corner—more tables. This is a trail?





# South of Center Grove







**Heading south.** Main Highway to Douglas Rd. to Edgewater to Cocoplum Circle. If a picture is worth a thousand words, many of the words for these photos wouldn't be printable.





# At Cocoplum Circle One Big Improvement



This bicycle-pedestrian bridge over the Coral Gables Waterway is the one major improvement to the Commodore Trail in recent decades. It's in Coral Gables, not Miami.

# History

Though not identified by name, the Commodore Trail has been in Miami-Dade County planning documents since at least 1969.

## OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION



*Prepared by:*  
METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT  
1331 N. W. 12th STREET MIAMI FLORIDA  
and  
METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY PARKS and RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
59 S. W. 32nd ROAD MIAMI FLORIDA  
FEBRUARY 1969

The preparation of this report was financed in part through an urban planning grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, under provisions of Section 701 of the Housing Act of 1954, as amended.

**PROPOSED  
MASTER PLAN FOR DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**



# Yet Little Was Done to Develop or Improve the Commodore Trail Until...

2003 Study by Kimley-Horn  
of bicycling priority projects  
for the Metropolitan Planning  
Organization, MPO (now  
Transportation Planning Organiza-  
tion, TPO).

The study ranked the Commodore  
Trail as the #1 priority and  
Included detailed recommenda-  
tions for improvements.





# The Beginning of Some Progress—2005-06

COCONUT GROVE | KEY BISCAYNE | BRICKELL | THE ROADS | LITTLE HAVANA | SHENANDOAH

## NEIGHBORS

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2006 | EDITOR: MARIKA LYNCH | 305-671-4342 | MiamiHerald.com

GRO7 The Miami Herald



### ROUGH RIDE

Bikers who frequent the Commodore Bike Trail, which winds through Coconut Grove, say the path is overgrown with plants and is rough in spots. Mark Losada and his wife Mary Jane Mark, pictured in front, and Hank Sanchez Resnick and John Edward Smith want to see it improved. **PAGE 3**

**KEY BISCAYNE**  
Parts of the Village Council's 20/20 Vision Plan sparks confusion and anger among residents, **3**

**SHENANDOAH**  
City commissioners will weigh in on the proposed expansion of Bryan Park's tennis program this week, **4**

**BRICKELL**  
Rides for NASDAQ-100 will be provided, **6**  
**POLICE REPORT, 12**  
**REAL ESTATE, 14**

MIAMI-DADE

## Faster work on bike trail urged

■ Cycling advocates are pushing for the county to expedite planned improvements to the Commodore Trail. The Coconut Grove council is supporting their efforts.

BY LAURA MORALES  
lmorales@miamiherald.com

Around the area where Ingraham Highway meets Douglas Road, the often-scenic, sometimes dangerous Commodore Trail is little more than a narrow strip of road shoulder.

"It's not a trail; it's barely a path; it's nothing," said Hank Sanchez-Resnick, community project coordinator for the cycling advocacy organization Bike Miami.

The group is one of several calling for the acceleration of improvements to the Commodore Trail, which begins near the Rickenbacker Causeway and winds its way south to the Cocoplum Circle.

During its March meeting, the Coconut Grove Village Council passed a resolution supporting the efforts of Bike Miami, Miami Feet, a runners' group, and the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee to expedite work on the corridor.

Project planning for the trail, for which the county's bond program has allocated \$1 million, is currently scheduled to begin in 2011, with work



CHARLOTTE SOUTHERN/FOR THE MIAMI HERALD

**PUSHING FOR IMPROVEMENTS:** Hank Sanchez-Resnick is one of the cycling enthusiasts advocating improvements to the Commodore Trail.

scheduled to begin in 2012.

Needed improvements to the trail were identified in a 2003 study, conducted by planning firm Kimley-Horn and Associates, which assessed the need for refurbishment at several bike trails in the county.

Planners identified the Commodore Trail as the most feasible and beneficial of the possible projects mentioned.

"It's a heavily used corridor by both cyclists and runners," said David Henderson, the county's bicycle/pedestrian coordinator. "We're trying to make the streets as inviting as possible and the pedestrian space more accommodating."

Cycling advocates have been pushing even harder for improvements in the past few weeks, ever since experienced cyclist Omar Otaola was killed on Key Biscayne after being forced onto the road by a traffic island that blocked his path.

The traffic island has since been cut back to help make the intersection safer.

Advocates also point out that the Commodore Trail connects a "best of Miami" list of attractions, including Ingraham, Peacock and Kennedy parks and the Grove's central commercial core and waterfront organizations.

At the March 7 Coconut Grove Village Council meeting, council members reminded the cycling advocates that some parts of the Commodore Trail overlap with areas under study for master plans, such as the parks in the Miami area and the Coconut Grove waterfront.

"The waterfront and parks master plans are processes that involved a great deal of public input," said Councilwoman Michelle Niemeyer, adding that it would be prudent for the bike groups to exchange ideas with planners involved in both master plans.

Sanchez-Resnick said he has checked into it. "On the waterfront master plan website, I saw that the Commodore Trail was identified by some residents as one of their priorities."

George Navarrete, of Miami-Dade County Transit, said Friday that to expedite the project, the County Commission would have to approve it because it's part of the general obligation bond program.

He suggested that cycling and running advocates meet with their county commissioner, which in this case would be Carlos Gimenez.

GR

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## Also important...

2016 Kimley Horn report to MPO on connectivity of existing trail networks (Non-Motorized Network Connectivity Plan).

Again, the Commodore Trail was rated among the highest-priority projects in the County.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1XNUYpzDmq6tGI8Hc3jl7PudSC7HVjG9d>

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1xJjejrAJdamFyW59erF63gUS5raceg-o>



## However...

Despite the Commodore Trail having been identified as a high priority for improvement....

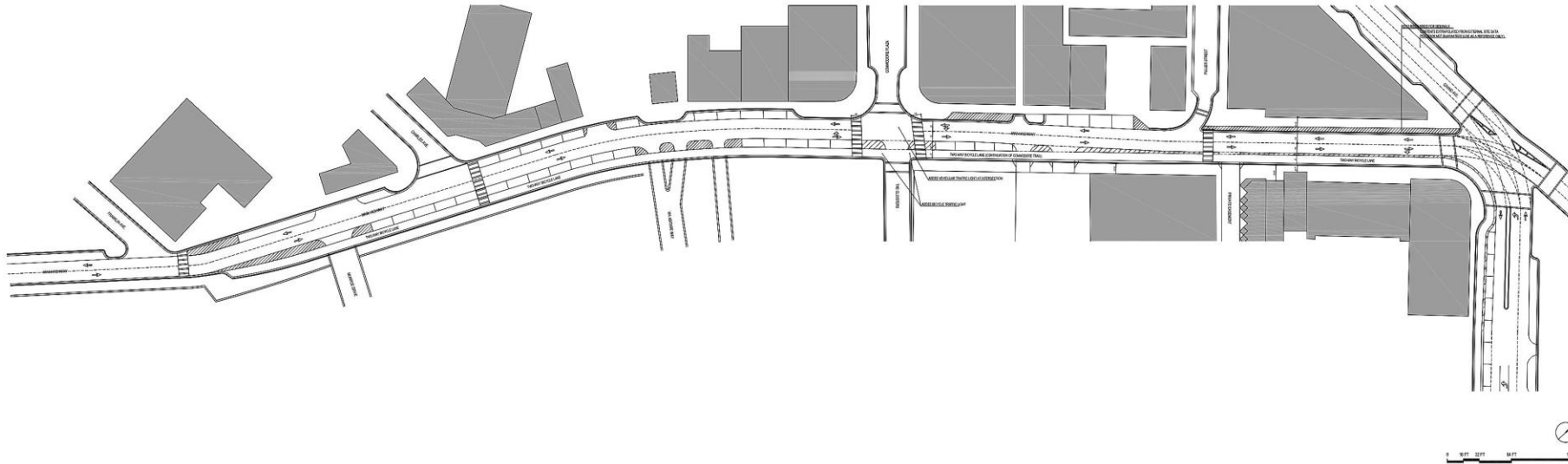
Despite the heavy use the Trail experiences by bicyclists, runners, joggers, and walkers (hundreds on weekdays, many hundreds or thousands on weekends)...

Despite the obvious and well-documented dangers the Trail poses to its users...

Very few improvements have been made to the Trail since County planners first considered it as an important multiuse facility in 1969.



# A Glimmer of Promise—The Proposed Cycle Track on Main Highway



COCONUT GROVE  
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

SITE PLAN  
MAIN HIGHWAY

2015.01.09  
A0.01

For the time being, the idea is dead. Well, it was worth a try.

# Spring 2018—Friends of the Commodore Trail

Co-chairs: Hank Sanchez-Resnik and Mary Munroe Seabrook



April 25 organizational meeting at Coconut Grove Sailing Club, formation of advisory group



May 12 Bike Ride to the Barnacle with Mayor Francis Suarez





## ALSO...

Petition to City and County decision-makers—more than 800 signatures as of January 2019

(<https://www.change.org/p/swilliamson-miamigov-com-build-the-commodore-trail>)

Bike rides and events in partnership with The Underline and Dade Heritage Trust

Focus on changes to South Miami Avenue as part of the redesign of Vizcaya Village

Spring 2019 semester studio class with FIU landscape architecture professor Ebru Ozer and her students to envision changes to the Trail

# Five Segments for Planning and Projects



1. South Miami Ave. segment: Federal Highway (U.S. 1) to Hallissee St. (includes Brickell Ave. to 32<sup>nd</sup> Rd. )
2. So. Bayshore Dr. segment: Hallissee St./Mercy Way to Aviation Ave. (City of Miami)
3. South Bayshore Dr./McFarlane Rd. segment
4. Central segment: Main Highway to Franklin Ave.
5. Southern segment—Franklin Ave. to Douglas Ave. to Edgewood Dr. to Cocoplum Circle



# What Can Be Done?

**Here are some steps we can all take so the Commodore Trail will be a resource for future generations.**

- Sign our petition (online or in print). Go to [friendsct.org](https://friendsct.org).
- Support the South Miami Ave./Vizcaya project.
- Insist that the City of Miami and Miami-Dade County complete the South Bayshore project as soon as possible. The project includes a key part of the Commodore Trail.
- Work with community leaders and neighborhood advocates to calm traffic on the entire Commodore Trail corridor. It isn't U.S. 1.
- Join Friends of the Commodore Trail, a project of Bike Coconut Grove. Learn more [here](#).
- Now that you know about the Commodore Trail, stay informed and involved.