

Aviation Department Initiates Strategic Master Plan Study



On Wednesday, April 29, 2009 the Strategic Master Plan Study for Miami-Dade County's System of Airports commenced with a formal Kick-off Informational Briefing. This meeting represented the official start of a comprehensive assessment of the future air transportation needs for Miami-Dade County. The Strategic Master Plan Study (or SMP) will assist the Aviation Department in the identification and prioritization of long-term capital investment decisions for Miami International Airport (MIA) and its system of airports.



to position the County's airports to meet the future needs of the 21st century. The SMP will accomplish this. The last Master Plan Update prepared for

The briefing included a formal presentation by the SMP team followed by a cake-cutting ceremony. During his opening remarks Mr. Miguel Southwell, Deputy Aviation Director for Business Development and Retention, indicated that as the Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD) nears the completion of the current capital improvement program (CIP), it is now time to start defining strategies

MIA, which defined the CIP presently being implemented, was completed in 1991. Since 1991, much has changed in Miami-Dade County and within the aviation industry. The SMP offers the opportunity to look at the County's aviation needs and to also position the Airport System to capitalize on new aviation and other revenue-generating opportunities.

Sunil Harman, Division Director for Aviation Planning, Land-Use and Grants, thanked the Florida Department of Transportation for providing a grant to fund half of the \$4 million study. He also stressed the importance of stakeholder involvement during the SMP and encouraged airport staff, airlines and other airport tenants to participate throughout the multi-year study.



A formal presentation was given by Mr. Ramon Ricondo, President of Ricondo & Associates, Inc., the firm that is leading the SMP Study with support from the URS Corporation and a team of other aviation professionals and experts. Mr. Ricondo indicated that the study will be conducted in four distinct phases. The study will focus on a high-level strategic plan for MIA and the County's Airport System for a planning horizon that extends through the year 2050. It will then focus on establishing a master plan for MIA, as traditionally defined by the FAA, which establishes needs and priorities for a 20-year planning horizon. The third and last element of the study will include updates to the Airport Layout Plan for MIA and to the extent necessary, Miami-Dade County's general aviation airports, reflective of the recommendations derived during the study.

The Aviation Department's Management Team for this study will include Mr. Jose Ramos, AIA, MDAD's Chief of Planning and Development, who will oversee the SMP, with assistance from Ammad Riaz and Winfred So serving as the day-to-day managers. Information pertaining to the study, including the Kick-off Informational Briefing presentation, can be found on the SMP website at www.miamidadeairports-smp.com. The website is available to stakeholders and the public and will serve as a portal for submitting comments, suggestions and questions to the SMP team.