

Tampa Bay Times

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THE BUZZ

From the staff of the Tampa Bay Times

Miami Democrat, with support from Republican congressman, wants local roadway tolls suspended for Hurricane Matthew



Kristen M. Clark, Times/Herald Tallahassee Bureau

Tuesday, October 4, 2016 2:22pm

UPDATE: 5:45 p.m. -- In Gov. Scott's latest press release providing updated information on preparedness efforts for Hurricane Matthew, his office said: "If evacuation orders are given, the Florida Turnpike Enterprise is prepared to suspend tolls."

ORIGINAL STORY: 2:22 p.m.

With Hurricane Matthew threatening South Florida this week, Miami Democratic state Rep. **Kionne McGhee** says the Florida Department of Transportation and the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority should immediately stop collecting tolls on Miami-Dade roadways.

And McGhee has a high-profile Republican ally for his idea: Miami U.S. Rep. **Carlos Curbelo**.

McGhee issued his ask to FDOT and MDX through a Twitter video late this morning. "Alleviating this burden for those of us who are in the cone path of Hurricane Matthew will assist the great people of Miami-Dade County," he said.

" *@MDXway @MyFDOT @MiamiHerald - due to the projected path of storm, please help the people of our county and suspend all roadway tolls ASAP! pic.twitter.com/CA1QjmBgWv*

— *Kionne McGhee (@kionnemcghee) October 4, 2016* "

A little over two hours after that message, Curbelo retweeted McGhee's video, saying "good call" and tagging Florida Republican Gov. **Rick Scott** and Lt. Gov. **Carlos Lopez Cantera** to get their attention.



State Rep. Kionne McGhee, D-Miami, in 2015

myfloridahouse.gov

" *Good call @kionnemcgee cc @FLGovScott @LopezCantera
https://t.co/Naa2dz7Bsn*

— *Carlos Curbelo (@carloslcurbelo) October 4, 2016* "

"Our people shouldn't be forced to choose candles or tolls," McGhee replied in a tweet of thanks back to Curbelo.

" *@carloslcurbelo @FLGovScott @LopezCantera @MDXway @MyFDOT
@MiamiHerald Thanks! -Our People shouldn't be forced to choose candles
or tolls.*

— *Kionne McGhee (@kionnemcgee) October 4, 2016* "

McGhee was re-elected to a third term in the Florida Legislature this year when no one filed to run against him in House District 117. Curbelo, meanwhile, faces a competitive re-election this fall against Democrat **Joe Garcia** in Florida's 26th Congressional District.

Miami-Dade County Commissioner **Xavier Suarez** also endorsed McGhee's proposal on Twitter, saying: "Yes to that and anything that helps our commuters, emergency vehicles and visitors."

" *@kionnemcgee @MDXway @MyFDOT @FrancisSuarez @FLGovScott Yes
to that and anything that helps our commuters, emergency vehicles and
visitors.*

— *Xavier L. Suarez (@XavierLSuarez1) October 4, 2016* "

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