



miamidade.gov

Water and Sewer
PO Box 330316 • 3071 SW 38 Avenue
Miami, Florida 33233-0316
T 305-665-7471

Summary of Tunnel Boring Machine Naming Contest

In August 2014, Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (WASD) contacted the office of Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) Superintendent Alberto Carvalho regarding a contest with the goal of naming the WASD tunnel boring machine (TBM). The TBM arrived in early 2015 and will be used to build a new sewage pipeline connecting Fisher Island to the Central District Wastewater Treatment Plant on Virginia Key, known as the Norris Cut project. Members of MDCPS, led by Dr. Lupe Diaz, assisted WASD staff in identifying and reaching out to the County's thirteen STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) schools. The goal was to target schools that enroll students interested in engineering, as they would gain invaluable insight from a presentation about the project.

During September and October 2014, engineers from WASD and partner companies working on the Norris Cut project visited eight STEM schools across the County. Led by WASD Senior Engineer Victor Fernandez-Cuervo, P.E., the interactive presentation covered a multitude of topics that carried significance for aspiring engineers, specifically: engineering career fields, details of the project, the design-build process, and the operations and mechanics of the TBM.

Each participating STEM school then submitted a name, along with a detailed explanation of that name, which they deemed appropriate for this specific project. WASD assembled a board consisting of Department employees, engineers, and consultants to choose the best name, which was then confirmed by WASD Director Bill Johnson. The winning name, Dorsey, represents local historical significance and was developed by students of MAST Academy.

WASD is proud to have partnered with the County's STEM schools and is excited to share the TBM's historical namesake with County officials, MAST students, and relatives of Mr. Dorsey present at today's event.

