



SETH & MYRNA BRAMSON COLLECTION

## LOST LANDMARKS: MIAMI STREETCARS

From 1906 to 1940, rails ran through the center of key streets in Miami, Coral Gables and Miami Beach, with electric streetcars sharing the roads with automobiles. It was a popular and efficient way to get around that could return to some of those same streets in a modern form, as transportation planners look for ways to relieve growing traffic congestion.

The above photo from the late 1930s is of Southeast First Street looking east from Miami Avenue.

Streetcars were facing growing pressure at that time from auto and tire makers, who were looking to expand their markets. The lines were slowly scrapped and replaced with diesel-powered buses.

Today, plans are being ironed out to run trolleys between downtown Miami and the Design District, with an east-west loop. But as the cost and scope of the project swells, its future is uncertain.

MICHAEL HIBBLEN  
mhibblen@MiamiHerald.com

MIAMIHERALD.COM: ABSENCE OF PLACE: Remember a favorite spot in South Florida that was torn down? The Miami Herald is collecting photos and stories in a project called Absence of Place. E-mail your photos to [absenceofplace.cortada@buzznet.com](mailto:absenceofplace.cortada@buzznet.com) or mail them to Absence of Place, The Miami Herald, c/o newsroom, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, FL 33132. Go to [MiamiHerald.com](http://MiamiHerald.com) and click on Today's extras to see photos and add your own recollections.