

CITT Elects New Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

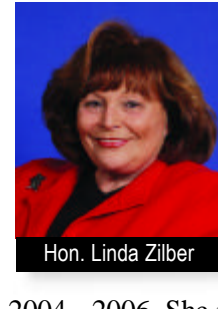
The Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (CITT) elected Miles E. Moss, P.E. as Chairperson and The Honorable Linda Zilber as Vice-Chairperson at the meeting of Wednesday, September 27, 2006.



Mr. Moss joined the CITT in July 2003, appointed by The Honorable Javier Souto, Commissioner for District 10. He is a Transportation Engineer and President of Miles Moss and Associates Inc., an engineering consultant firm specializing in forensic engineering and traffic impact studies.

Previously, Mr. Moss served as Chairman of the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee, was President of the Winston Park Homeowners Association and the Kendall Federation of Homeowners for many years. At the CITT,

he was Chairperson of the Project and Financial Review Committee from 2005-2006 and a member of the Community Outreach Committee.



The Honorable Linda Zilber has been a member of the CITT since 2004 appointed by The Honorable Sally Heyman, Commissioner from District 4. She is the former Mayor of the Town of Bay Harbor Islands, where she also served as a Councilwoman for seven years. Mayor Zilber was Chairperson of the CITT Community Outreach Committee from 2004 - 2006. She ran a design firm for 25 years and served as spokeswoman for Metro Transportation, a family-owned business specializing in transportation for the disabled.



CITT Honors Former Chairperson

On Wednesday, September 27, 2006, members of the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (CITT) were joined by family, friends, colleagues, municipal officials and former staff of the late Hon. John F. Cosgrove at the unveiling of a plaque honoring his tenure as the Inaugural Chairperson of the CITT.

Mrs. Bernice Cosgrove, the wife of John Cosgrove, and his younger brother Frank were present to receive the good wishes of those who respected and admired him. State Representative Rep. Julio Robaina, Commissioner Carlos Gimenez, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners Regional Transportation Committee and The Honorable Sally Heyman, District 4 Commissioner, were also in attendance to share remembrances of Mr. Cosgrove.



Miles E. Moss, P.E., was elected Chairperson of the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (CITT) on September 27, 2006 becoming the third person to hold this office. Mr. Moss was nominated to the CITT by Commissioner Javier Souto of District 10 in 2003. He brings with him wealth of knowledge and expertise in transportation as well as a distinguished record of civic activism. We took the opportunity recently to talk with Mr. Moss to gain his perspective of the CITT as its new Chairman:

Why did you want to become a member of the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (CITT)?

I wanted to help improve transportation in Miami-Dade County and make sure the funds collected from the half-cent transportation sales tax would be efficiently utilized and that the projects selected for implementation would be prioritized to benefit the greatest number of citizens.

Would you encourage others to consider serving on the CITT? Why?

Most definitely, this is a unique committee in that it is not strictly advisory as most committees in County government are. The decisions of the CITT are required for contracts to be administered, and for any changes in the list of approved projects that receive funding, which is known as the People's Transportation Plan (PTP).

What skills or experience do you bring to the table that you feel are helpful to

the CITT in fulfilling its goals?

My knowledge of the transportation industry, having earned a Bachelor and Master Degree in engineering, and being a registered Professional Engineer helps me understand the technical aspects of the projects. Having worked professionally in transportation in Miami-Dade County for over 36 years gives me knowledge of the problems and what types of solutions work. My civic activities as President of Winston Park Homeowners Association for more than 20 years, President of the Kendall Federation of Homeowners Association for more than 7 years and as a prior appointee to the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee for over 10 years, has taught me how to work with and respect other board members and to join together to achieve common goals.

What are your top priorities as the newly elected CITT Chairperson?

I want to improve communication with individual members of the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). This began very successfully under Chairperson Marc Buoniconti's leadership, and I hope to continue and expand on this. We should also establish regular communication with and input from Mayor Carlos Alvarez and continue to keep the public informed of the success of the implementation of the PTP and provide realistic time schedules when the PTP projects will be completed. I also believe that we should continue defining what the Trust members feel is needed to establish true independence, and we should work to obtain approval and adoption by the BCC.

Are there changes that you would want to make to the PTP?

Yes, but these changes would impact the budget and I feel much more analysis is needed before these should be consid-

ered. Rapid transit, I feel, will be the real solution to the County's transportation problems. But, as recent articles in the Letters to the Editor of the Miami Herald indicate, most citizens really don't know or see how the Surtax money is being spent. Since rail projects take many years to implement, I feel that by extending the funding for public works projects beyond the ten years as indicated in the PTP will produce more projects for citizens to see.

Do you feel that you are facing a different set of challenges as the Chairperson than you did as a regular CITT member?

Yes, as Chairperson, I need to keep the interests of all CITT members clearly in mind and build consensus on issues.

Would you say that the CITT has finished its growing pains and has come into its own as an organization?

Much of the initial development of this new Trust has been accomplished. The CITT By-Laws and working committees have been established. We need to resolve the issues concerning the fair way to charge transit costs to the surtax and the CITT authority to control this issue still needs to be resolved in addition to the independence issue.

What would you wish your legacy to be when your term as Chairman is completed?

That I have served as honorably as the past Chairpersons the late John Cosgrove and Marc Buoniconti, that the current goals of independence and authority have been clearly agreed upon by the members, understood and supported by the BCC and the citizens. I would want the CITT to be viewed as an effective and needed Trust that the BCC and the citizens can rely on this group.

OCITT Staff Supports "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer"



The Office of the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (OCITT) took part in the American Cancer Society "Making Strides Against Cancer 5K Walk" on Saturday, October 7, 2006. Lead by Team Captain, Barbara Bravo, they joined thousands of other participants including representatives of other County departments to raise awareness and funds for this worthy cause. The CITT Executive Director, Nan Markowitz, very generously matched, dollar-for-dollar, all funds raised by the staff pushing the total amount to \$2,385.00.

Breast cancer impacts the entire community and those who support efforts to find a cure do so for various reasons and have personal and inspirational stories to tell including the OCITT staff...from one whose mother and two close friends survived breast cancer, and another who was inspired by a friend who, as a survivor, had dedicated her time to helping others.

City of North Miami Implements PTP Funded Projects

The City of North Miami is one of thirty-one municipalities that receive funds as part of the municipal component of the People's Transportation Plan (PTP). Incorporated in 1926, today it covers 9.5 square miles and is home to nearly 60,000 residents making it the 5th largest municipality in Miami-Dade County. Because of its size, North Miami qualifies for a seat on the Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization; the federally and state mandated organization responsible for guiding the transportation planning process for the County. North Miami receives more than \$1 million dollars annually in transportation surtax funds to spend exclusively on PTP-approved transit and transportation projects.

North Miami's transportation program is managed by Jeff Geimer who has worked for the City since 1987. As Transportation Manager Jeff oversees the City's transportation projects that are funded by the transportation surtax. We sat down with Mr. Geimer recently to discuss how the City of North Miami is using its PTP funds:

What challenges does your city face in the area of transportation?

Mr. Geimer: The major challenge facing the City of North Miami is the continuous regional growth occurring throughout Miami-Dade County. This growth places a strain on the City's transportation system resulting in increased traffic congestion on our major roadways. In addition, there are a number of development and redevelopment projects in the works that will place an even greater demand on the City's transportation network.

What is the City of North Miami doing to address these challenges?

Mr. Geimer: The City used PTP municipal funds to develop a Transportation Master Plan (TMP) which was adopted by the North Miami City Council. The TMP enables us to evaluate existing conditions and coordinate land use and transportation plans to address local mobility issues.

What are your municipality's most important accomplishments utilizing PTP surtax funds?

Mr. Geimer: Implementing the NoMi Express, North Miami's community bus service, is our most important accomplishment using transportation surtax funds. In operation since December, 2004, the NoMi Express averages approximately 750 boardings per day, which translates to 16,000 boardings per month or 190,000 boardings annually. A few other major accomplishments are the repaving of several miles of City streets, making public transportation more accessible by installing sidewalk ramps that link the streets to our sidewalk network, and the adoption of a Transportation Master Plan that sets the vision for the City's future transportation system. The PTP has provided the City a means to fund projects that have enhanced the quality of life of our residents and the residents of surrounding communities.

How did North Miami develop the routes for the NoMi Express?

Mr. Geimer: The initial routes for the NoMi Express were developed with input from the community. Meetings were held with residents and staff to assess the mobility needs of the

community and to help determine routes that would make public transit even more accessible using the NoMi Express. We hired a consultant to assist with the conceptual plan for the NoMi Express and to coordinate public outreach during the development stage.

During the first year the NoMi Express was in service, we gathered information on how it could be enhanced to better serve riders. A log was kept to track service requests and this information was combined with the daily passenger logs to determine what changes should be made to the four routes. In the end, all the routes were either slightly changed or completely modified.

What measures has the City of North Miami taken to market the NoMi Express?

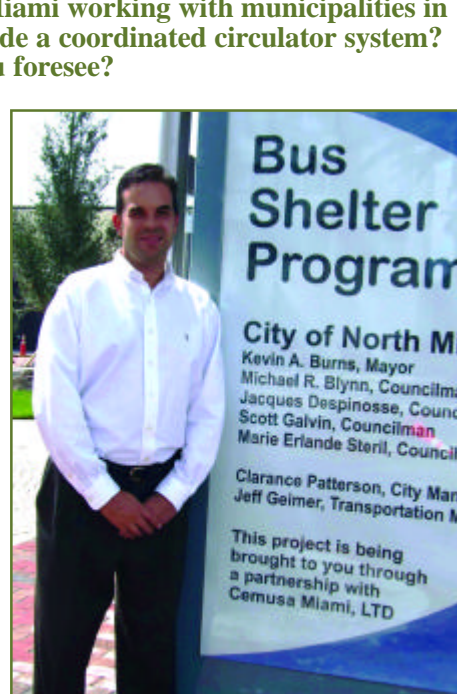
Mr. Geimer: One of the best marketing methods available to us is to include NoMi Express information in regular citywide mailings that are done through other City departments. Information on the bus service also appears on the program "North Miami Today", broadcast on the City's cable access channel. The NoMi Express was featured in the profile of the CITT on Miami-Dade TV show, "Inside". In addition, we published a detailed Route Guide which is distributed throughout the City to assist passengers in using the system.

What long-term impact will the PTP have on the public transportation system of the City of North Miami?

Mr. Geimer: Residents can expect to see a larger investment in non-automobile transportation systems as a means to address travel and mobility issues. The ultimate goal is to provide more transportation choices to our residents. The City also has plans to develop a designated bicycle route network, and enhance the existing roadways to create a better sense of community and create a transit hub for the NoMi Express.

Is the City of North Miami working with municipalities in the Northeast to provide a coordinated circulator system? And if so, what do you foresee?

Mr. Geimer: North Miami is currently working with several other municipalities within the region to coordinate bus circulator service. This project is only in the preliminary planning stages, the group is excited about the potential for developing a comprehensive regional transportation system. The City's goal for this project is to increase the number of local destinations that can be reached through the use of public transit.



Did you know...?

Since the transportation surtax was first approved in November 2002, Miami-Dade County has received more than \$581,356,886.22 in tax proceeds augmented by \$7,330,568.98 in interest that this money has earned. Dedicated exclusively to funding eligible transit and transportation projects, \$112,648,560.00 has been transferred to the thirty-one participating municipalities to implement transit and transportation improvements; Miami-Dade Transit has received \$306,510,164.54 for operations and Capital Projects including debt service payments, \$20,671,295.02 has been conveyed to the Miami-Dade Public Work Department for countywide roadway, lighting and signage improvement and the first series of PTP-funded bonds were issued for \$186 million in 2006.

Dates to Remember

CITT Project and Financial Review Committee
November 20, 2006, 2 P.M.
Stephen P. Clark Center
111 NW First Street
10th Floor Conference Room

Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust
November 29, 2006, 2 P.M.
Stephen P. Clark Center
111 NW First Street
County Commission Chambers

CITT Community Outreach Committee
December 13, 2006, 2 P.M.
Stephen P. Clark Center
111 NW First Street
10th Floor Conference Room

Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust
December 18, 2006, 2 P.M.
Stephen P. Clark Center
111 NW First Street
County Commission Chambers

Carlos Alvarez
Mayor

Board of County Commissioners
Joe A. Martinez, Chairman
Dennis C. Moss, Vice-Chairman

CITT Members
Miles Moss, P.E., Chairperson
Hon. Linda Zilber, Vice-Chairperson

Barbara J. Jordan District 1	Katy Sorenson District 8	Rodney Sanders
Dorrin D. Rolle District 2	Dennis C. Moss District 9	Harold Braynon
Audrey M. Edmonson District 3	Sen. Javier D. Souto District 10	Hon. Anna Ward, Ph.D.
Sally A. Heyman District 4	Joe A. Martinez District 11	Hon. Jorge Rodriguez-Chomat
Bruno A. Barreiro District 5	José "Pepe" Diaz District 12	Marc Buoniconti
Rebeca Sosa District 6	Natacha Seijas District 13	Paul J. Schweip, Esq.
Carlos A. Gimenez District 7		Henry Lee Givens
		Maureen O'Donnell, Esq.
		Antonio Colmenares
		Angelberto DeCoro
		Theodore Wilde
		Hon. James Reeder

Harvey Ruvin, Clerk of Courts
George M. Burgess, County Manager
Murray A. Greenberg, County Attorney