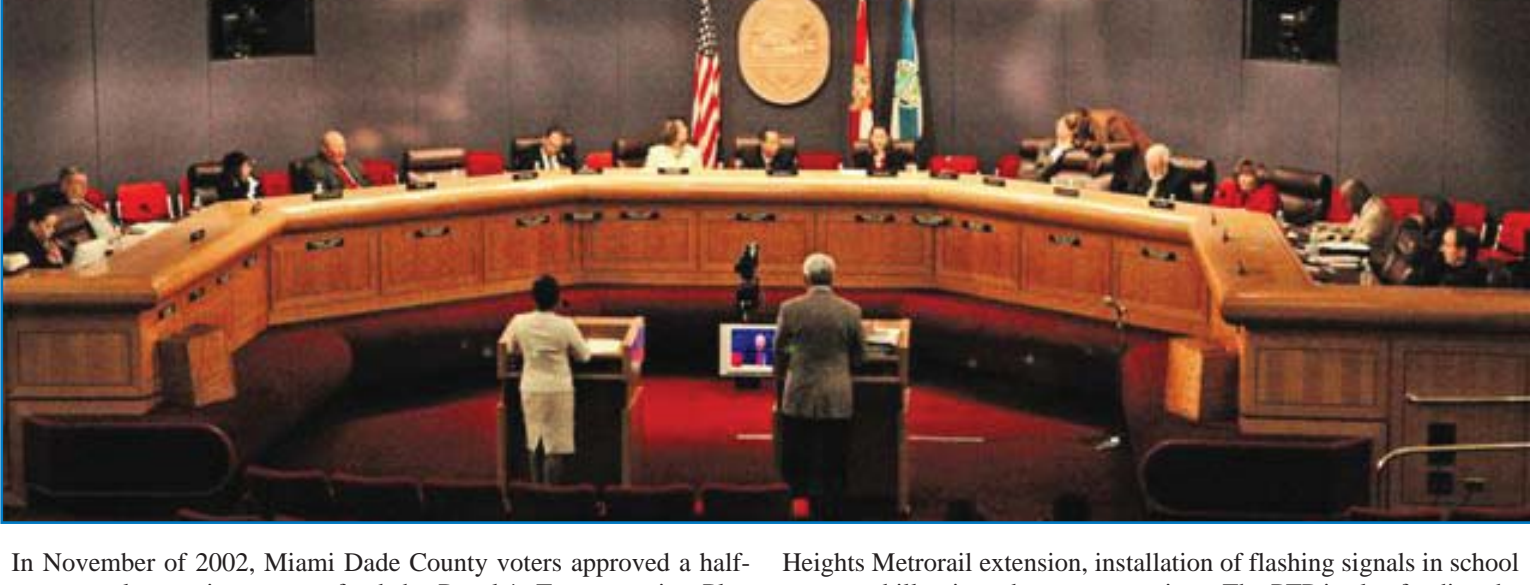


PTP Celebrates 5th Anniversary



In November of 2002, Miami Dade County voters approved a half-percent sales tax increase to fund the People's Transportation Plan (PTP), the comprehensive program of transportation improvements. The adoption of the PTP, along with the Charter County Transit System Sales Surtax (Surtax), has allowed Miami-Dade County and local municipalities to address much needed improvements to our public transportation system. Miami-Dade County developed the PTP in close coordination with the community to insure that the proposed projects would enhance and improve public transportation county-wide and reflect the public's mobility needs.

The Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (CITT) is the 15 member board created to monitor the implementation of the PTP and to oversee the expenditure of the Surtax. Its fifteen members represent a cross-section of the community and are committed to maintaining the integrity of the PTP.

CITT members work closely with the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) to review and act on a wide variety of legislation. These include BCC approved contracts and amendments to the PTP initiated by the CITT. Since the passage of the PTP, the Trust has held over fifty full Trust meetings, and well over one hundred committee meetings.

The full Trust meets monthly and most meetings are held in the Miami-Dade County Commission Chambers in downtown Miami. However, in an effort to encourage all segments of the community to participate, meetings are also held at other locations throughout the County on a quarterly basis. All CITT meetings are open to the public and citizens are welcome to attend and address the Trust.

Over the past five years, CITT actions have resulted in significant improvements to the County's public transportation system. Among them are expanding the Metrobus fleet, completion of numerous roadway projects, providing the local funding for the MIC/Earlington

Heights Metrorail extension, installation of flashing signals in school zones and illuminated street name signs. The PTP is also funding the mid-life overhaul of the County's Metrorail and Metromover vehicles and the replacement of 12 Metromover vehicles that have reached their useful life. In addition to enhancing the safety and capacity of the public transportation system, these improvements have generated new jobs in the community.

The CITT manages the municipal component of the PTP, which dedicates 20 percent of surtax proceeds to municipalities that were incorporated in Miami-Dade County by November 5, 2002. Each city receives a share of PTP funds based on the ratio of its population to the total population in all cities. To date more than \$150 million in Surtax proceeds has been transferred to eligible municipalities to improve transit and transportation within their jurisdictions.

The PTP addresses the ever worsening roadway congestion in Miami-Dade County by directing funds to projects designed to improve traffic flow. Among these projects is the state of the art Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) which electronically controls and synchronizes the County's 2,648 traffic signals. PTP dollars were also allocated for a countywide public outreach campaign for the MOVN, Meeting Our Vehicular Needs, the public-private coalition that seeks to educate motorists about countywide initiatives that help solve congestion on local streets.

Traffic congestion and the high cost of developing rapid transit systems will continue to challenge the County's ability to provide the type of public transportation system that can transport people and goods to their destination on time and with a minimum of interruptions. However, the projects in the PTP offer this community an excellent opportunity to achieve this laudable goal.

For more information about the CITT and the PTP, call 305-375-1357 or visit www.miamidade.gov/citt.

A Message from the Chairperson



Miles E. Moss, P.E.

Good ideas are not necessarily big ideas. There's no telling how great the impact will be if you turn the rudder of a big ship only a degree or two; you could alter the final destination by many miles. Such is the case with passage of the People's Transportation Plan (PTP) where the infusion of the relatively modest half-penny transportation surtax dollars has translated into enormous changes for public transportation throughout the community.

We are celebrating the five-year anniversary of the PTP this November, and from the start, the level of activity instigated by the passage of the PTP challenged the County's ability to simultaneously coordinate the planning and implementation of multiple transportation projects in accordance with the requirements of the PTP. As we mark this milestone, I believe we're now seeing that it's all been worth the effort. If you've ever put yourself through any kind of fitness program, you know how this feels; first there is pain, then there is gain. In this instance the gain is the County mov-

ing closer to its goal of implementing an efficient, comprehensive and coordinated public transit system that will give citizens an alternative to driving.

As soon as PTP funds were available, transportation officials were able to actively plan projects that would expand and enhance the countywide rapid transit and roadway systems. Starting the day after the 2002 election with the implementation of promised new bus routes, free Metromover fare and expansion of the Golden Passport Program. Development of the PTP continued with transit fleet expansion, a new electronic traffic control system that will coordinate the county's traffic signals, new street signage, advancement of rapid transit lines and completion of many projects by the municipalities.

In the end, I believe that the success of the PTP is due in large part to involvement, engagement and awareness of citizens in the oversight of the surtax funds. This is one of the reasons that the CITT was created, to foster a public process that is open and inclusive and encourages citizen involvement in implementation of the PTP.

We have a great deal of hard work before us, but just as we have arrived where we are today by continuous, proactive scrutiny and adherence to the intent of the PTP; we will continue with the work that has to be done.

PTP Funds at Work in the Municipalities

The Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust is responsible for administering a key part of the People's Transportation Plan (PTP), the 20% of surtax revenue dedicated to municipalities. This amounts to more than \$30,000,000 annually to be divided among the 31 municipalities that existed on November 5, 2002. The initial transfer of funds was made to the City of Hialeah in May 2003 and, since then, more than \$157,433,825 have been allocated to these municipalities; each receiving an equivalent share based on population.

Working as partners and separately, the participating municipalities have created a network of local bus systems that operate on routes designed to meet the mobility needs of transit riders as well as improved roadways that enhance the County's overall transportation system. Some examples of these projects are:



Miami Shores Village has made good use of its PTP allotment by implementing a community circulator bus service that serves the activity centers throughout the area. Riders are also experiencing a smoother and safer trip on neighborhood roadways thanks to the resurfacing and drainage projects that are being implemented.

Sunny Isles Beach, a town of some 18,000 inhabitants, has experienced tremendous growth over the last several years, and in some instances, outstripping the existing infrastructure of what was essentially a tourist area prior to incorporation in 1997. A tour of the city now would show examples of careful planning and sound development and a visitor would clearly see the impact that PTP funds have had on this process. Sunny Isles Beach now operates a community shuttle bus service and has completed a number of roadway improvements with the \$640,000 it receives annually from the PTP.



The **City of Miami** has sought to meet the mobility needs of its residents by pursuing a conceptual plan to implement a streetcar system to serve some of its most congested areas. Numerous roadway projects have been completed including the reconstruction of Grand Avenue, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and the Miami River Greenway Project. Because the PTP allotment is based on population, Miami is projected to receive about \$13 million this year based on its 391,355 residents.

Coral Gables operates one of the most successful PTP funded local circulators, the Coral Gables Trolley. It was implemented in November 2003 using a combination of low emission diesel and diesel/electric powered minibuses painted to resemble a vintage trolley, adding a historic flavor to the city streets. The Trolley serves passengers along busy Ponce de Leon Boulevard connecting them to the Douglas Road Metrorail Station. The Trolley now transports almost 4,700 riders per day and recently surpassed the 3 million lifetime passenger total.

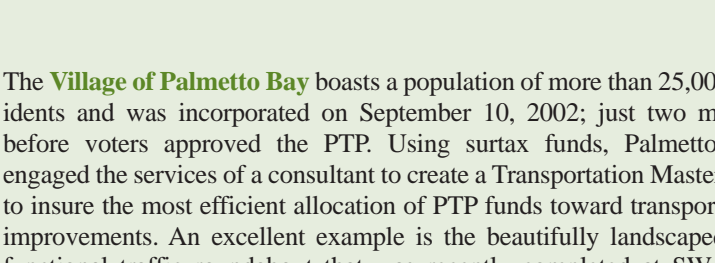


The **City of Hialeah** has successfully used PTP funds to expand the Hialeah Transit System (HTS), which boards approximately 2,700 passengers per day on its Marlin and Flamingo routes. Hialeah has formed an agreement with its neighbor, Hialeah Gardens, to provide transit service on the Marlin route to the residents of that city. In addition Hialeah has completed more than 70 PTP funded roadway projects.



Though small in size having a population of just over 20,000 residents, the **City of Hialeah Gardens** has developed ambitious plans to enhance its public transportation system using PTP funds. An agreement with the City of Hialeah provides reliable bus transportation to activity centers throughout the city, links riders to other local routes and also connects to the Okeechobee Metrorail Station. Hialeah Gardens used its PTP share in an innovative way by leveraging a \$2 million loan to advance completion of a number of roadway projects.

The **Village of Palmetto Bay** boasts a population of more than 25,000 residents and was incorporated the September 10, 2002; just two months before voters approved the PTP. Using surtax funds, Palmetto Bay engaged the services of a consultant to create a Transportation Master Plan to insure the most efficient allocation of PTP funds toward transportation improvements. An excellent example is the beautifully landscaped and functional traffic roundabout that was recently completed at SW 82nd Avenue and 162nd Street to manage traffic at that busy intersection.



Homestead and Florida City, the southernmost municipalities in Miami-Dade County, are looking at ways to implement a joint bus circulator system to serve both cities and connect them to the South Miami-Dade Busway when it opens later this year. In addition, Homestead has received \$300,000 of the \$1.3 million PTP funds it invests annually, toward design enhancements for the busway segment within its boundaries. The improvements feature a unique bus shelter designed to be reminiscent of early train stations in Homestead, vintage lighting and wood fencing to reflect the history and architecture of the city. Florida City has used its PTP funds for resurfacing and drainage improvements along Palm Drive and to construct bus shelters to protect transit riders from the elements.



What's New at CITT

CITT Elects New Officers

Members of the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (CITT) recently re-elected Miles E. Moss, P.E., and The Honorable Linda Zilber, Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson respectively.

Mr. Moss was appointed to the CITT by Commissioner Javier Souto of District 10 in 2003. He brings with him a wealth of knowledge and expertise in transportation as well as a distinguished record of civic activism. 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.



The Honorable Linda Zilber is the former Mayor and Councilwoman of the Town of Bay Harbor Islands and has been a member of the CITT since 2004, appointed by County Commissioner Sally Heyman of District 4. She is Chairperson of the CITT Community Outreach Committee.



"Both Ms. Zilber and Mr. Moss have remarkable records of service and leadership in this community", said Nan Markowitz, CITT Executive Director. "We are thrilled to have someone with their level of expertise and commitment to the PTP leading the CITT."

New CITT Member Sworn In



Marilyn Smith was sworn in as the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (CITT) member appointed by Commissioner Dennis C. Moss of Commission District 9. Assistant County Attorney Bruce Libhaber administered the oath of office to Ms. Smith at the monthly CITT meeting on September 26, 2007.

Professionally, Ms. Smith is an Educator at the U.S. Department of Labor Job Corps Center in Homestead. She comes to the CITT,

though, with an impressive record of civic involvement. She represented District 5 on the Miami-Dade Fire Board, was a member of Community Council 14, the former Director of the Richmond Heights Resource Center and served on the Miami-Dade Police Citizen Advisory Committee.

CITT membership is not the first time Ms. Smith has served as a transportation board member as she was an active member of community advisory committees planning rapid transit projects in South Miami-Dade. She will serve a four year term that will end in 2011 and is eligible to reapply for additional years.

CITT Staff Raise Funds for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk



L to R: Patricia Koonce Rosemond, Barbara Bravo, Marilyn Amaro, Marlene Amaro-Barron and Nan Markowitz

The staff of the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (OCITT) participated for the second consecutive year in the American Cancer Society "Making Strides Against Cancer 5K Walk" on Saturday, October 6, 2007 at Bayfront Park. 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 OCITT Executive Director, Nan Markowitz (pictured far right), very generously matched, dollar-for-dollar, all funds raised by the staff pushing the total amount close to \$1,000.00.

Carlos Alvarez Mayor Board of County Commissioners Bruno A. Barreiro, <i>Chairman</i> Barbara J. Jordan, <i>Vice Chairwoman</i>	
Barbara J. Jordan <i>District 1</i>	Katy Sorenson <i>District 8</i>
Dorri D. Rolle <i>District 2</i>	Dennis C. Moss <i>District 9</i>
Audrey M. Edmonson <i>District 3</i>	Sen. Javier D. Souto <i>District 10</i>
Sally A. Heyman <i>District 4</i>	Joe A. Martinez <i>District 11</i>
Bruno A. Barreiro <i>District 5</i>	José "Pepe" Diaz <i>District 12</i>
Rebecca Sosa <i>District 6</i>	Natacha Seljas <i>District 13</i>
Carlos A. Gimenez <i>District 7</i>	
Harvey Rubin, <i>Clerk of Courts</i> George M. Burgess, <i>County Manager</i> Robert A. Cuevas Jr., <i>County Attorney</i>	
CITT Members Miles E. Moss, P.E., <i>Chairperson</i> Hon. Linda Zilber, <i>Vice Chairperson</i>	
Rodney Sanders Harold Braynon Hon. Anna E. Ward, Ph.D.	Paul J. Schwiap, Esq. Marilyn Smith Jorge Cueto, Esq. Antonio Colmenares Hon. James Reeder
Hon. Jorge Rodriguez-Chomat Peter L. Forrest Marc A. Buoniccontti	