

## PTP FUNDED MIC/EH PROJECT TO LINK METRORAIL TO THE MIAMI INTERMODAL CENTER



Rendering of the proposed MIC/EH Metrorail station platform

Miami-Dade Transit began development of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Miami Intermodal Center-Earlington Heights Connector (MIC-EH) project in 2002 to provide a rail connection from the Earlington Heights Metrorail station to Miami International Airport (MIA) via the Miami Intermodal Center (MIC). A Metrorail link to MIA has been on the community's transportation wish list for some time now and passage of the transportation surtax in 2002 has made it possible.

Proceeds from the transportation surtax provided the local matching funds needed to complete the project. With the guaranteed surtax funding, the decision was made in October 2004 to implement this project with 100 percent state and local funds. Miami-Dade County entered into a Joint Participation Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) that will fund up to \$100 million of the project costs. The balance will be paid with proceeds from the half-penny sales surtax making it possible to complete the project using local and state funds exclusively. The total cost of the project is \$523 million with the total surtax contribution of \$423 million.

The Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) design team faced a number of challenges in developing MIC/EH project because it impacts a cross-section of community interests. Ranging from residential and business areas to the busy maritime industry where the alignment spans the Miami River on the existing South Florida. Rail Corridor

to the critical approach and departure, surfaces for Runway 8L-26R and 8R-26L at MIA. Surmounting these constraints required close coordination with neighborhood organizations, the commercial maritime industry operating along the river, as well as the U.S. Coast Guard and the Federal Aviation Administration to reach consensus on key issues related to the final design.

The current project schedule calls for Metrorail service to the MIC to begin in December 2010 -- just under four years from now. In the interim, the County must acquire all of the property needed to construct the guideway which should be completed by the end of 2007. Of the 36 parcels needed for the project, 17 have been purchased with MDT and MDX using some of them jointly and two are already owned by the State.

An important component of this project is the design and development of an original artwork commissioned through Miami-Dade Art in Public Places. This program serves the community through the implementation of public art installations and educational programming dedicated to the enrichment of public environments and the preservation and enhancement of the artistic and civic pride of Miami-Dade County. Four artists are in the current shortlist to develop an artwork design proposal for the MIC/EH project. A final selection recommendation will be made to the Art in Public Places Trust by an independent Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) later this year.



Proposed alignment of the MIC/EH Connector along the SR-112

## NEW CITT MEMBER SWORN IN



Paul J. Schwiep, Esq. is sworn in by Kay M. Sullivan

Paul J. Schwiep, Esq. was sworn in as the CITT member appointed by Commissioner Katy Sorenson of Commission District 8 at the monthly CITT meeting on December 18, 2006. The oath of office was administered by Kay M. Sullivan, Director of the Office of the Clerk of the Board. Mr. Schwiep is a practicing attorney and comes to the CITT with an impressive record of public service that includes having served on the MPO Citizens Independent Transportation Advisory Committee and the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee. He is currently a member of the Stiltsville Trust and Chairman-elect of the Florida Board of Bar Examiners.

## PTP BONDS ISSUED TO LEVERAGE REVENUE FOR PROJECTS

For the first time since the transportation surtax was enacted in 2002, Miami-Dade County has issued revenue bonds to advance implementation of key projects in the People's Transportation Plan (PTP). The Transit System Sales Tax Revenue Bonds or "PTP" bonds are revenue bonds with the dedicated source of repayment of surtax proceeds. This significantly accelerates implementation of countywide rail, bus and roadway improvements in the PTP.

Bond issuance is a financing mechanism available to state and local governments. Entities are able to raise funds to pay for capital projects that cannot be paid for in one year. Local governments may also use bond financing when projects are developed over time since future generations may also benefit from the projects. Bond rules require governments to repay the bond money to investors with interest.

Cities that receive a share of the 20 percent PTP funds set aside for municipalities have also used bonded surtax proceeds to fund their transportation projects. For example, the City of Hialeah Gardens issued \$2.1 million in bonds for citywide roadway improvement projects. The Village of Key Biscayne issued \$32 million in bonds to fund comprehensive improvements to Crandon Boulevard. The City of Hialeah has issued \$32 million in bonds to fund citywide road improvement projects and the City of Miami has bonded out its share of the municipal PTP dollars to help fund the proposed Miami Streetcar project.

Bond issuance is an undertaking that requires input from several different groups that include individual experts and departments with the County's finance director's office providing overall management.

The team responsible for issuance of the PTP bonds included Miami-Dade Transit, the Public Works Department, Office of the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust, County Attorney's Office, Bond Counsel, Disclosure Counsel, and a Financial Advisor. Each member provides expertise to ensure that the interest of the County and the integrity of the obligation are protected.

Issuing tax-exempt bonds, like the PTP bonds, to finance projects is attractive to both investors and issuers because it provides much needed capital funds to the issuer and the investor gets a tax break on the funds invested.

The revenue that the bonds produce is dependent on how favorably the bonds are rated by the national bond rating agencies; the higher the rating, the better the interest rate the bonds receive from investors. The PTP bonds received consistently high ratings from the national bond rating agencies with Fitch, Moody's and S&P rating the Series 2006 Bonds AA, A1 and A+ favorable, respectively.

The County realized more than \$180 million from the sale of the bonds and the money provides part of the funding needed for rail and roadway improvements noted in the PTP. Additional bond issuances may occur in the future as a result of the BCC approved issuance of PTP bonds valued up to \$500 million. Through the use of bond funds, the public will see PTP projects implemented faster.

### A Message from the Chairman



Miles E. Moss, P.E.

This year is shaping up as another productive year for the Citizens' Independent Transportation (CITT). We are looking forward to continuing our part in implementing the People's Transportation Plan (PTP) for the citizens of Miami-Dade County, ensuring proper expenditure of surtax dollars, advancing the public mandate for a comprehensive coordinated public transportation system and maintaining good communication with the citizens.

CITT's oversight of the expenditure of surtax dollars is critical to the overall integrity of the PTP and we take this responsibility very seriously. Members regularly dedicate time to review proposed projects that can be funded for the next 30 years and financial projections of income expected from the surtax and the projects. To this end, we have tasked the CITT financial consultant to test the assumptions contained in the updated PTP Pro Forma to be sure that the 30-year funding plan for the projects is as sound as possible. The CITT strives to remain true to the projects that citizens expect to be in place and at the same time keep a wary eye on the bottom line to ensure the funds are spent as promised.

To date, improved bus service, roadway projects and the municipal circulators have produced the most evident impact on county life but we should begin to see more visible activity on some of the Metrorail projects in 2007 as well.

The need for improved mobility throughout the County is essential, and with the leadership of the Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County, Mayor Alvarez and the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), we will all soon realize just how much has been and will be accomplished by the People's Transportation Plan.

## CITT IS LOOKING FOR SIX NEW MEMBERS

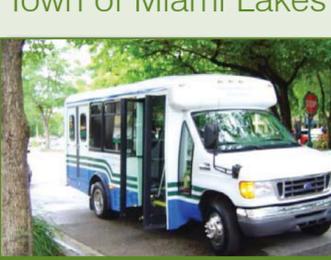
The CITT Nominating Committee is now accepting applications from citizens who wish to serve on the CITT. CITT members serve four year terms that expire on a staggered basis designed to help maintain an experienced slate of members and allow for new members to join the Trust. CITT members must be voters and must be registered voters in Miami-Dade County. They are appointed by Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez, each member of the Board of County Commissioners, and the Miami-Dade League of Cities for a total of 15 slots.

Applications are currently being screened for the Mayor's appointee and Commission Districts 6, 10, 11, 12, and 13 however the Nominating Committee encourages eligible citizens to apply at anytime of the year should an additional vacancy become available. Applicants for the Mayor's selection, though, will be considered without regard to District residency as it is a countywide seat.

By accepting applications year round, the Nominating Committee seeks to maintain an ample pool of interested volunteers whose applications will remain on file for two years for future appointments.

The CITT is a 15-member board created in 2002 to ensure proper expenditure of the half-percent transportation surtax. Applications and additional information is available online at [www.miamidade.gov/citt](http://www.miamidade.gov/citt) or by calling the Office of the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust at 305-375-1357. All applications must be received by the Clerk of the Board at 111 NW 1st Street, Suite 17-202, Miami, FL 33128 no later than Monday, April 2, 2007 by 4 p.m.

## Town of Miami Lakes Rolls Out "Lunch Express" Bus Service



Miami Lakes "Lunch Express" bus

The Town of Miami Lakes is one of 31 municipalities participating in the People's Transportation Plan (PTP) municipal component and it receives approximately \$816,555 annually from the transportation surtax to implement local projects.

Town officials recently used PTP funds to launch a free circulator bus service called the Miami Lakes Lunch Express which targets business people and residents who want to patronize area restaurants and shopping centers during the lunch hour. This service is now available to move passengers to and from the Miami Lakes Business Park West area and the Royal Oaks Plaza from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. Area businesses are even offering store discounts to shoppers who use the bus service.

Designed to alleviate traffic congestion during lunchtime, the Miami Lakes Lunch Express operates every 10 minutes on a north-south loop that provides connectivity between major office-industrial activity centers, commercial establishments, and parking lots. Miami Lakes officials anticipate that the shuttle service will reduce the number of vehicles on the area's most traveled roads.

In addition to implementing the new bus service, the Town of Miami Lakes used PTP funds to install 15 new bus shelters throughout the city. The prefabricated forest green shelters are 12 feet high with steel roofs, aluminum benches, and tinted tempered glass windows. PTP funds were also used to upgrade bus benches at 67 bus stops citywide.

For more information on the "Miami Lakes Lunch Express" please call Miami Lakes Town Hall at 305-364-6100 or visit [www.townofmiamilakes.com](http://www.townofmiamilakes.com).



New bus shelter and bus bench along NW 67th Avenue

## Dates to Remember

CITT Project and Financial Review Committee

March 15, 2007, 2 P.M.

Stephen P. Clark Center

111 NW First Street • 10th Floor Conference Room

Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust

March 29, 2007, 2 P.M.

Stephen P. Clark Center

111 NW First Street • County Commission Chambers

CITT Community Outreach Committee

April 4, 2007, 2 P.M.

Stephen P. Clark Center

111 NW First Street • 10th Floor Conference Room

CITT Compliance and Oversight Committee

April 4, 2007, 3:30 P.M.

Stephen P. Clark Center

111 NW First Street • 10th Floor Conference Room

CITT Project and Financial Review Committee

April 12, 2007, 2 P.M.

Stephen P. Clark Center

111 NW First Street • 10th Floor Conference Room

Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust

April 25, 2007, 2 P.M.

Stephen P. Clark Center

111 NW First Street • County Commission Chambers

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