

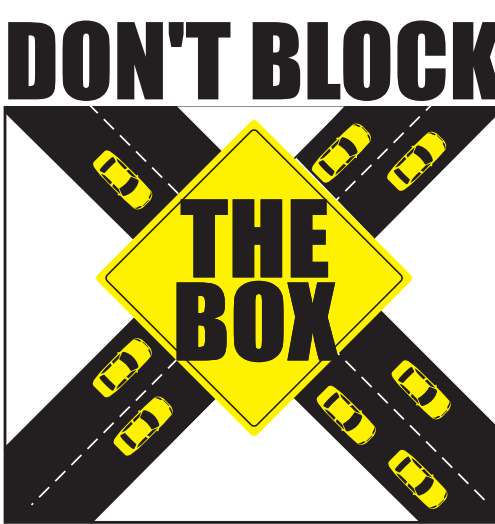
## MOVN Launches Don't Block the Box Campaign Thanks to the PTP

The CITT amended the People's Transportation Plan (PTP) earlier this year to allocate surtax funds to MOVN for its public education programs. MOVN, Meeting Our Vehicular Needs, is the public-private coalition that seeks to develop short term and low cost solutions to traffic congestion throughout Miami-Dade County.

The \$350,000.00 in PTP dollars given to MOVN is being used to educate drivers on the mobility benefits of the initiatives designed to improve the flow of traffic on our roadways. The MOVN publicity campaign began by highlighting "Move It Yes You Can" and, more recently, "Don't Block the Box".

These strategies are designed to improve traffic flow on some of our most congested roadways. The "Don't Block the Box" campaign, accomplishes this by informing drivers to enter an intersection only if there is sufficient space on the other side of the intersection to accommodate their vehicle without blocking traffic.

The public education component of the MOVN initiative is critical in order to capture and keep the attention of drivers, and insure that the message that they can play a role in decreasing congestion on our roadways, reaches motorists. As part of this effort, the Miami-Dade



Public Works Department has installed more than ninety informational signs at intersections throughout the county cautioning drivers not to block the intersection. In addition, these signs state that violators are subject to fines and points on their license. "Don't Block the Box" is a national program which strives to keep vehicles clear of intersections thus allowing a free flow of traffic.

This MOVN campaign is just one of the low cost measures aimed to reduce congestion by targeting some of the most problematic intersections throughout the County. The public might also see increased enforcement efforts in these and other intersections, as the "Don't Block the Box" campaign rolls out.

MOVN also seeks long-term solutions including expanding Metrorail, synchronizing traffic signals at key intersections and eliminating traditional toll plazas to allow barrier-free tolling on some expressways. The public is urged to submit comments and suggestions to the MOVN website at [www.miamidade.gov/movn](http://www.miamidade.gov/movn).

There is no one cure-all solution to eliminate traffic congestion, but rather, it is a combination of many small techniques, such as those offered by MOVN, that work together to alleviate this situation.

### A Message from the Chairperson



Miles E. Moss, P.E.

One of the most rewarding aspects of being a member of the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (CITT) for me is approving funds for projects that will address ever worsening traffic conditions on our local roadways. The adage, "Nothing

happens until something moves" emphasizes the impact of a coordinated and efficient public transportation system on the quality of life and prosperity of our community.

This is one of the reasons that I voted to amend the People's Transportation Plan (PTP) earlier this year to provide \$350,000 in surtax funds for the public outreach campaign for the MOVN (Meeting Our Vehicular Needs) initiative. MOVN is the local public-private partnership that focuses on developing solutions to the ever worsening traffic conditions on local roadways. MOVN launched the public education drive

in May 2007 featuring "Move It Yes You Can" followed by "Don't Block the Box" in September. Both are aimed at educating drivers on how they can help in the effort to keep traffic moving. These are only the first programs we can expect from MOVN, but all are sure to facilitate smoother traffic flow throughout the County.

Of course, at the end of the day, the CITT supports programs like MOVN because it gets us closer to our goal of improving mobility throughout Miami-Dade County.

## City of Homestead Uses PTP Funds to Connect to the Busway Extension



Historic themed bus shelter designed to depict Homestead's past

The City of Homestead is one of thirty-one cities receiving transportation surtax funds through the People's Transportation Plan (PTP) municipal program. It receives about \$1.3 million dollars annually for transit and transportation projects. Homestead's hometown atmosphere welcomes visitors to the area and the community is proud of the continuing accomplishments that make the area an increasingly desirable place to live, work and raise a family. Despite being located amid bustling sprawl and development, Homestead has managed to maintain a unique "small-town" atmosphere with all the urban amenities.

The City's PTP program is administered by Public Works Director Julio Brea, P.E. Aside from the responsibilities associated with the position he holds, Mr. Brea is also charged with implementing the City of Homestead's Transportation and Transit Master Plan ("TTMP"), which was completed in 2006. The main purpose of the TTMP is to develop a prioritized listing of immediate improvements (1-2 years), short-term improvements (5-10 years) and long-term improvements (10-or more years). This Plan guides the development of safe, efficient mobility and infrastructure, roadways, pedestrian, bicycle and transit within the City. These include two major road improvement projects: widening Campbell Drive to four lanes from SW 152 Avenue to SW 137 Avenue which has been completed and widening of SW 328 Street from SW 137 Avenue to US 1 which will be completed in three phases over the next several years.

"The PTP provided something that municipalities across the nation crave: a dedicated, recurring source of revenue to fund infrastructure needs. We have long been aware of the needs of the community in terms of transportation but there were always unfunded needs." said Mr. Brea. It requires the City to maintain a 5-year transportation plan which challenges us to identify projects eligible for PTP funding and

develop a schedule to implement and fund those projects. Needless to say, the City had many transportation needs from roadway improvements to addressing mobility issues and the PTP offered the first opportunity to really focus on them." added Mr. Brea

A major project in the area is South Miami-Dade Busway Extension project which will provide premium bus service along US 1 from the Dadeland South Metrorail Station to Florida City, when it opens later this year. Though this project is not being built with PTP funds, the PTP, nonetheless, has become part of it. The City of Homestead is using its share of PTP municipal transportation dollars to fund enhancements to the busway design where it passes through the city and also to implement a local shuttle bus service.

From the start, Homestead officials sought to integrate the design of the busway into its comprehensive revitalization strategy to support and encourage the economic development and historic preservation already underway in the community. The City opted, then, to use historic themed lighting and bus shelter design as well as unique fencing in the busway corridor to reflect the history and architecture of the city. Since these components differ from the standard design elements which are covered in the cost of the project, Homestead opted to pay the difference in cost of approximately \$300,000 for the local enhancements using PTP funds.

Homestead is also using PTP funds to address the issue of linking transit riders to the busway by initiating a shuttle bus service with a route that serves the area between the historic downtown area to the busway.

With the passage of the PTP in 2002, Homestead knew that it would have a revenue stream which could be committed to funding the busway enhancements as well as the other transportation needs of the community. "We believe that convenience, connectivity and aesthetics are important elements to a public transportation system and increase its appeal to the public. Our ultimate focus should be in creating a noticeable improvement in the overall quality of life for all Homestead residents." stated Mr. Brea.



These graceful street lights along the busway are unique to Homestead

## CITT Prepares New Members to Serve

The CITT hosted a Member Orientation for its newly appointed members on August 30, 2007. Peter L. Forrest appointed by Commissioner Sosa of District 6, Marilyn Smith who was appointed by Commissioner Moss of District 9 and Jorge Cueto, Esq. appointed by Commissioner Joe A. Martinez of District 11 participated in the session.

The orientation session introduces new members to all aspects of CITT membership and the People's Transportation Plan (PTP). The objective is to create knowledgeable, effective and highly principled Trust members and give them a good overview of their responsibilities. Consequently, the guest speakers covered a broad spectrum of topics including PTP finances, the transit project development process and the PTP municipal component. Robert Meyers from the Commission on Ethics and Public Trust conducted a training session for the members and Assistant County Attorney Bruce Libhaber reviewed the legal aspects and responsibilities of the CITT.



Robert Meyers, Esq., speaks to CITT members about ethical requirements for public officials



John Spillman, Miami-Dade Transit's Chief of System Development, discusses the project development process during the orientation



Nestor Toledo (left), CITT Municipal Liaison, describes the PTP municipal transportation program



Marlene Amaro, CITT Accountant (left), explains financial aspects of the PTP to new members



Assistant County Attorney, Bruce Libhaber (right) addresses the legal aspects of CITT membership

### Dates to Remember

- CITT Compliance and Oversight Committee**  
October 17, 2007, 1:30 pm  
Stephen P. Clark Center  
111 NW First Street • 10th Floor Conference Room
- CITT Project and Financial Review Committee**  
October 17, 2007, 2:30 pm  
Stephen P. Clark Center  
111 NW First Street • 10th Floor Conference Room
- Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust**  
October 31, 2007, 2:00 pm  
Stephen P. Clark Center  
111 NW First Street • County Commission Chambers
- CITT Community Outreach Committee**  
November 15, 2007, 1:00 pm  
Stephen P. Clark Center  
111 NW First Street • 10th Floor Conference Room
- CITT Project and Financial Review Committee**  
November 15, 2007, 2:00 pm  
Stephen P. Clark Center  
111 NW First Street • 10th Floor Conference Room
- Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust**  
November 28, 2007, 6:00 pm  
Stephen P. Clark Center  
111 NW First Street • County Commission Chambers

## CITT INSIDER

A publication of the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust

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