



90-Day Report

The People's Transportation Plan

1st Quarter: FY 03-04

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Summary

This report provides a recap of activities related to the People's Transportation Plan (PTP) for the 90-day period beginning October 1, 2003, through December 31, 2003. The implementation of the PTP continues with new bus improvements and accelerated planning for the public works improvements included in the PTP. In addition, municipalities have begun implementation of PTP-funded activities, extending the breadth and scope of the ½ penny throughout the community.

New Initiatives

The following initiatives occurred during the last Quarter:

- Smart Commute Initiative: The Smart Commute Initiative is designed to advance efforts to address the link between housing affordability and transportation costs by promoting homeownership in neighborhoods located near public transit. It rewards those who choose a home located one-quarter mile from a public transit bus stop or one-half mile from a public transit rail station by recognizing a portion of the potential transportation savings and adding it to borrowers' qualifying income—increasing their home-buying power by at least \$10,000 and helping them buy more home for their money. The Office of the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (OCITT) was responsible for coordinating a press event; preparing press releases and kits; developing flyers and text for brochures; updating Trafficrelief.com (includes link to Geolocator Map, which provides assistance to potential applicants in determining program of choice).
- Annual Transportation Conference: In November 2003, the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (CITT)/OCITT hosted the first annual Transportation Conference since the passage of the PTP. The conference was held at the Hyatt Downtown and was free and open to the public. The conference was comprised of one main conference session, followed by three concurrent sessions in English, Spanish and Creole, that addressed the different components of the PTP. Commissioner Dennis C. Moss, County Manager George M. Burgess and Surface Transportation Manager Dr. Carlos F. Bonzon joined CITT Board members and representatives from Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) and the Public Works Department (PWD) in presenting and facilitating the meetings.
- Municipal Workshop: The CITT/OCITT coordinated and hosted a workshop to assist municipalities with the compilation of the Five-Year municipal transportation plans. Panelists discussed tax revenue restrictions, audit requirements and reporting processes. Additionally, representatives from municipalities with existing transit programs were also present to share their experiences in operating local transit systems. Nineteen municipalities attended the workshop.

Contract Reviews

The following contracts were presented to the CITT for its consideration during the Quarter:

- Approved BCC's action in awarding a contract to provide engineering services for the Metrorail and Phase One Metromover Mid-Life Vehicle Fleet Overhaul and Modernization Project.
- Approved BCC's action in awarding a contract to Penske Truck Leasing Inc., to provide maintenance of transit vehicles, with lease option.
- Approved BCC's action in awarding a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Miami-Dade County and the City of Hialeah for the NW 62nd avenue PWD PTP project.

PTP Amendments

The following PTP amendments were considered by the CITT during the Quarter:

- Recommended to the BCC an amendment to the PTP Bus Service Improvement schedule to incorporate those improvements recommended by MDT for the December 7, 2003, Bus Lineup (approved on December 3, 2003).

Other Resolutions

The CITT considered the following resolutions during the Quarter:

- High Speed Rail: Passed a resolution recommending that the Board of County Commissioners support legislation opposing the use of current state funds in the Public Transportation or Public Transit portion of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) budget to fund High Speed Rail; or, in the alternative; that the County support the repeal of the High Speed Ground Transportation System amendments should no other funding alternative be identified by the State.
- Municipal Surtax Distribution: The CITT recommended to the BCC the cessation of the distribution of surtax proceeds to municipalities that are in non-compliance with their executed Interlocal Agreement, insofar as they have failed to submit the required documentation.
- Referrals to other committees, boards, etc.: Requesting the MPO to conduct a study of the use of waterways for rapid mass transit to be funded under the Unified Work Program.

Transit

The following activities were accomplished during the last Quarter:

- Bus Service Improvements:
 - Following the temporary suspension of PTP bus service improvements, MDT initiated the December 7 Bus Line-up, which included a number of PTP-funded improvements previously scheduled for implementation (Exhibit I). This lineup included 868,000 new revenue miles that account for an additional 68,000 revenue hours. The result was service frequency improvements on 11 Metrobus routes, improved run times on 29 routes, additional trips or extended service spans on 6 routes, and re-alignments/extensions to 4 routes. Additionally, two low ridership routes were converted from full-sized to minibuses. In total, 23 buses were added in the peak period to improve service throughout the County.
 - Bus ridership: There was a remarkable 23.6% growth in bus ridership for October 2003, as compared to October 2002. Ridership grew at a steady, but more modest 4.7 and 5.5 percent in November 2003 and December 2003, respectively.

- Rail improvements:
 - In December, morning peak period service on Metrorail was extended from 9 to 9:30 a.m.
 - The Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, the County Manager's office and MDT revised and re-submitted a report to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on the status of the Metrorail corridors to be implemented in the PTP, including the anticipated phases and schedules for each corridor.
 - Rail ridership: There was a 19 percent increase in rail ridership in October 2003, as compared to October 2002. Ridership remained flat in both November and December 2003, as compared to 2002.
- New Jobs: A total of 65 new hires occurred in MDT during the quarter.
- Golden Passport: The Golden Passport program continued a steady growth in new pass holders during the quarter. From 11/02 until 12/03, a total of 38,873 new applicants were processed. Of that number, 9,063 were processed during this reporting quarter (10/03-12/03). By December 2003, there were a total of 87,766 Golden Passport accounts, compared to 51,082 in November 2002. This represents an increase of 58 percent.

Public Works Improvements

The following activities relating to the PTP's Major Highway and Road Improvements, and Neighborhood Improvements (public works) occurred during the last Quarter:

- Accepted the PWD Two-Year Plan, setting forth the listing, schedule and cost of PTP public works projects contemplated for implementation in the current and next fiscal years.
- Conducted project site visits for the following Public Works PTP improvements:
 - Widening of NW 170th St from 87th Ave. to 77th Ave.
 - Widening of SW 120th St. from 137th Ave. to 117th Ave.
 - Widening of SW 27th Ave. from US1 to Bayshore Drive
 - Resurfacing and median improvements on S. Bayshore Drive
 - Narrowing of Grand Ave.
- Worked with the PWD on creating its PTP financial reporting structure relating to bonding, for example, accounting and reporting structures to record & report PWD financing activities.

Municipal Improvements

The following activities relating to the PTP's municipal component occurred during the last Quarter:

- Coordinated and hosted a Municipal Workshop to provide information and assistance to municipalities in preparing and submitting their PTP-funded transportation plans.
- Collected outstanding Interlocal Agreements from municipalities; alerted municipalities of documentation required for compliance with Interlocal Agreements.
- Invited municipalities to present their Transportation Improvement Plans before the Project Review Committee. The following municipalities provided presentations during the Quarter:
 - Homestead
 - Coral Gables
 - City of Miami
- Processed monthly Municipal Transfers of Surtax funds. A total of \$ 4,445,410 in PTP funds under the Municipal Share was transferred during the Quarter to all municipalities in compliance with the Interlocal Agreement.
- Developed and distributed a "boilerplate" to all municipalities for developing and submitting municipal Transportation Improvement Plans.
- Provided technical assistance and technical assistance referrals to municipalities.

- Significant Municipal improvements included:
 - Coral Gables: Implemented the Coral Gables Trolley Service on November 24, 2003. This service includes five trolleys running two routes. Boardings for this reporting period totaled 3,427.
 - North Miami Beach: Procured a second shuttle bus for its Local Circulator Program. This service averaged 70 boardings per day during the reporting period
 - Hialeah: Hialeah's PTP-subsidized transit system had approximately 92,000 boardings during this reporting period. In addition, the City implemented and/or completed over five miles in PTP-funded road improvements, ranging from resurfacing, sidewalk, drainage, paving, lighting, etc.

CITT Board

The CITT has been very busy the past few months developing processes and procedures to ensure that the CITT is fulfilling its responsibility to "monitor, oversee, review, audit and investigate" the implementation of the PTP. The CITT met three times during the quarter (October 29, 2003, December 3, 2003, and December 17, 2003). A quorum was present at all CITT meetings. On December 17, 2003, two new members were sworn in: Mr. Harold Braynon (District 1) and Mr. Herminio Lorenzo (District 13). Two vacancies remained at the end of the Quarter.

The CITT's Committees met on a regular basis during the Quarter and, as per their respective subject areas, reviewed items to be forwarded to the full CITT for its consideration. A total of 18 committee meetings were held during the Quarter. Of note during this Quarter, was the presentation to the CITT of the "Pro Forma" for the Transportation Program for the next 30 years. The CITT has expressed some concerns with the assumptions included in the Pro Forma and is working closely with County administration to obtain additional information.

In addition to reviewing proposed PTP amendments and accepting the BCC's action in awarding contracts (previously described), the CITT:

- Implemented procedures to expedite the CITT's review and approval of contracts to reduce gaps between the BCC's review and approval process.
- Adopted CITT By-Laws.
- Participated in numerous community meetings.

Office of the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (OCITT)

The Office of the Citizens' Independent Trust (OCITT) was created in September through the FY 03-04 Budget Approval process, to provide staff support to the CITT. The following activities related to the OCITT occurred during the past quarter:

- Appointed Executive Director.
- Created the OCITT Departmental Structure and budget.
- Began review of PTP Pro-forma.
- Prepared and submitted a draft copy of the OCITT's Business Plan.
- Provided staff support to the CITT Nominating Committee. Coordinated all radio and print ads to solicit applications for CITT two open seats.
- Prepared all public notices promoting all CITT and CITT Committee meetings.
- Updated website on a monthly basis, to include press releases, meeting notices, etc.
- Managed Traffic Relief website's email inquiries and provided responses accordingly.
- Prepared financial reports requested by the B&F committee.

- Secured Population Estimates for Miami-Dade County & Municipalities .
- Turned over residual MDT responsibilities and provided necessary technical guidance for the staff.
- Developed requirements for a CITT financial services consultant in consultation with County Manager, OPI, DBD, DPM and County Attorney's office.

Nominating Committee

Pursuant to Ordinance No. 02-116, vacancies on the CITT must be filled through a Nominating Committee Process. The Nominating Committee met one (1) time during this reporting period to recommend slates of candidates for the consideration of members of the Board of County Commissioners with vacant seats. Slates were forwarded to four (4) Commissioners on December 2, 2003. As a result, two (2) vacant seats were filled during this reporting period. The new members were sworn in on December 17, 2003. A Nominating Committee is scheduled for the second quarter to address the remaining vacancies.

Proposed Initiatives and Improvements to be implemented in next Quarter

It is expected that the following activities will occur during the next quarter:

- Implementation of the PWD Neighborhood Improvement Projects and Major Highway and Road Improvements .
- Work with MDT to evaluate the effectiveness of 24-hour Metrorail and Metromover
- Develop improved processes to ensure the timely implementation of PTP projects
- Compile and review all Municipal transportation plans for consistency with local and state regulations; develop a master municipal transportation plan to be posted on trafficrelief.com; visit at least 15 municipalities to discuss the status of transportation plans .
- Update Trafficrelief.com to include the posting of all amendments and approved actions .
- Work with partner agencies in the development of a public education campaign on the PTP.