

## County Breaks Ground on First PTP Funded Metrorail Extension

If there is one message that the CITT wants the public to hear it is that the use of transportation surtax funds are making a big difference in public transportation throughout Miami-Dade County.

Nowhere is that more evident than with the Miami Intermodal Center (MIC)/Earlington Heights Connector. This is the 2.4 mile extension to the rail line that provides Metrorail service to Miami International Airport. Beginning at the existing Earlington Heights Metrorail Station at NW 22nd Avenue and NW 41st Street the extension parallels State Road 112 to the MIC. At the MIC, passengers are greeted by an elegant three-level Metrorail station providing a central transfer point between other modes of transportation including Metrobus, Tri-Rail, Greyhound, tour buses, taxi cabs, and the People Mover that connects to the MIA.



from the transportation surtax provided the local matching funds needed to complete it. The Florida Department of Transportation is contributing \$100 million of the \$526 million total cost making the MIC/EH Connector a project funded solely with local as well as state funds.

When it opens, the MIC/EH Connector will improve regional transit connectivity and offer greater access and convenience to more riders. In addition, the Metromover link offers passengers a direct mass transit connection to Miami International Airport; reducing the number of vehicles traveling to the airport and on major highways and providing key linkage to employment opportunities in the area.



Rendering of the MIC/EH Station

Miami-Dade Transit began development of this project in 2002 because a Metrorail link to the airport 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. At its February meeting, the CITT approved the construction contract for the MIC/EH Connector setting the stage for a formal groundbreaking ceremony and ultimately the construction of the extension. MDT officials expect to begin the construction in about two months and the project should open for revenue service in 2012. This project is of particular importance to the Trust because proceeds

Another 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.

Miami-Dade Art in Public Places has commissioned a public artwork for the central vestibule area of the Miami Intermodal Center. The central glass vestibule, which will serve as the hub for all passenger activity, creates a perfect canvas for the work of art that suggests the flow and drift of sargassum plants, a type of seaweed. Revealed in glass with hand worked detail, large swatches of plants will appear as if they are moving across the canopy of the MIC Concourse Level Vestibule. Once installed, the glass panels hang just below the structural glass panels of the site and the etched glass work will also contain gilded gold dots of differing scale, to create depth and light within the work.

The CITT remains committed to making the best use of surtax funds in a way that benefits the public because the projects in the PTP offer this community the best opportunity to develop viable mobility alternatives. There is no single solution to eliminate traffic congestion, the MIC/EH Connector represents an important link in expanding public transit.

## A Message from the Chairperson



Hon. Linda Zilber

Over the last six years, the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (Transportation Trust) has laid a foundation for successful implementation of the projects in the People's Transportation Plan through the partnership and relationships forged with the community and with County officials. The Trust, however, has reached a critical point in its development where it requires greater independence in order to carry out mandate of the people.

The Trust has achieved some of the long-sought independence with the passage of two ordinance changes; one which empowers the Trust to hire its own Executive Director and limited authority to execute contracts. This legislation not only gives the Trust a large measure of independence but it also ultimately fosters a smoother working relationship with the Board of County Commissioners and the county administration. Exercising this new independence, we are very proud to welcome the new OCITT Executive Director, Charles Scurr. He has only been on the job a few months but has already articulated plans for the Trust and the PTP that, we believe, inspire the trust of the public and the confidence of elected officials.

Although the Trust has spent time and energy seeking a strong identity and the long delayed independence, the transportation summit sponsored by the County last year and recently released Grand Jury report on the Surtax reinforce the need for the existence of the Transportation Trust to continue to provide clear direction for use of Surtax dollars and implementation of public transportation projects.

The transportation summit was the first step in the process of setting the future course of public transportation in Miami-Dade County. Roundtable participants agreed that the public must continue to be closely involved in the decision-making process to develop a sense of ownership in the final outcome. The large public turnout at the summit was an indication of residents' strong interest in the future of public transportation in Miami-Dade County.

With all these factors in mind, the CITT now has to focus on getting the word out to the community that the PTP is moving forward with implementing many of the projects promised to the citizens of Miami-Dade County.

## From the Desk of the Executive Director



Charles D. Scurr

The Transportation Trust is entering a new and exciting chapter in our history and I am pleased and honored to join this dynamic group as the Executive Director. The Trust has a vital role in continuing to improve transportation and transit in Miami-Dade County. Our community faces great challenges and great opportunities.

The Trust, since its inception in 2002, has provided the critically needed funding for major improvements to our transit system, roadways and municipalities. These include the addition of millions of miles of new bus routes, the purchase of hundreds of new buses and the funding of 21 municipal shuttle bus systems throughout the County. Over 173,000 senior citizens and veterans ride public transportation for free under the golden Passport program.

On May 1, 2009 Miami-Dade transit broke ground the first leg of the expansion of the Metrorail system. The \$525,000,000 project - will bring Metrorail to Miami International Airport. This will open up thousands of jobs to our residents and provide valuable transportation alternatives to the many business travelers, residents and tourists that use our world class airport.

Over 390 miles of roadways have been improved. A new Advanced Traffic Management System that will ease traffic congestion through our community is currently being installed. Traffic circles have been constructed and school safety crossing zones are now in place.

There is, however, much yet to be done. There has been great concern over the promises made and the ability to fund those projects and the trust shares these concerns. Recent events and dialogue sponsored by Mayor Alvarez, Commission Chair Moss, Transportation Committee Chair Jordan, County Manager Burgess and the entire County Commission and administration to address these concerns and restore public confidence are very positive developments and provide a basis for moving forward.

The Transportation Trust is an important participant and partner in working with Miami-Dade County and the community as we develop solutions not only to meet the current pressing needs of the transit system but also to develop creative funding solutions that will plan a way forward to continue the expansion of critically needed transit corridor improvements. The Trust has developed a series of Strategic Objectives that form a blueprint for this proactive and energetic program. We invite you to review these objectives and give us your input and ideas. Full information can be found at our website, [www.miamidade.gov/citt](http://www.miamidade.gov/citt), or by calling (305)375-1357.

## Transportation Surtax Means Steady Transit Growth for Hialeah Transit

The Hialeah Transit System has been providing public transportation service since October 2002. After a trial period where no fare was charged, the City instituted a fare system that matched Miami Dade Transit's fare structure. The system was initially comprised of four routes, one bi-directional and the other three were circular and only in one direction. After performing an enhancement study of the system in May 2004, it was modified to operate on only two routes. However, this modification included adding areas of the City of Hialeah Gardens into one of the routes. Operating the joint service required that the two cities execute an Interlocal Agreement to provide for this service. This is an example of how the cities can work together to increase the value of PTP funds.



Hialeah Transit started out with ten minibuses, all of which were ADA compliant. In January 2007 they added a new Bluebird Low Floor bus in January 2007 purchased and operated with PTP funds. The system went from operating 8 buses to operating 9 buses, thus reducing the headway on one of the routes.

Hialeah continued to enhance and modify the system to better serve the residents such as adding new areas of service and adding additional bus shelters throughout the service area increasing convenience and comfort of passengers.

The transit system is operated by First Transit Inc.; they assumed the responsibility of the City of Hialeah and this will significantly lower the hourly cost of operating the system. With this reduction of cost comes the possibility of enhancing the system by adding additional areas or vehicles into service.



Hialeah Maintenance Facility

The transit vehicles are maintained at the city's fleet maintenance department and all preventive maintenance and repairs are done there. This ensures that all necessary steps are taken to maintain the vehicles to provide for safety and reliability. Fuel is included in the total cost of operating and maintaining the buses. The original buses are very close to logging 300,000 service miles and several having had the engines replaced to keep them in optimal running condition. One of the buses that had the engine replaced served in a biodiesel pilot program.

The city applied for and was awarded a grant from FDOT to buy new vehicles over the next 5 years. Two new Bluebird Low Floor ADA compliant and buses have already been ordered and should be delivered sometime during this summer. The FDOT grant required a local match and the City of Hialeah used its PTP allocation part of the match. These new buses will help reduce the city's cost on vehicle maintenance.

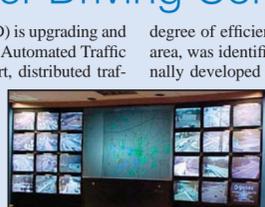
The city is now looking at updating their fare handling process to comply with the new fare system that MDT is implementing. This new process includes updating our fare boxes to the new electronic ones to be able to read MDT's EASY CARD. This should help reduce fare fraud and give more accurate passenger information.

The table shows a breakdown of the number of passengers boarded on the transit system and the number of miles operated by year since implementation.

Year	Ridership	Wheelchair
Oct - Dec 02	96828	256
Jan - Dec 03	368861	476
Jan - Dec 04	485698	731
Jan - Dec 05	630805	1349
Jan - Dec 06	667209	1279
Jan - Dec 07	597477	1220
Jan - Dec 08	575528	1306
Totals	3422406	6617

## New Traffic Control System Translates to Better Driving Conditions

The Miami-Dade Public Works Department (PWD) is upgrading and transferring traffic signals to the new PTP funded Automated Traffic Management System (ATMS); the state-of-the-art, distributed traffic signal monitoring and control system funded by the PTP. At the present time, more than 1200 or 76% of existing signals are running the new software and new signals are being migrated to the ATMS software at the rate of about 70 per month. It is expected that all the signalized intersections in the County, upwards of 2600 intersections, will be converted over to this system in the next few years.



The new control system will result in improved traffic flow and reduced delays on area roadways as major arterials are coordinated to run more like an integrated network system rather than individual entities. The ATMS helps to assure that optimum traffic signal operations are in place at all locations and all times-of-day and it monitors the performance of the signals and automatically notifies appropriate staff when a traffic signal malfunctions, enabling staff to respond with maximum efficiency and effectiveness.

The PTP also provides for development of a new Traffic Control Center (TCC) which would give traffic engineers the ability to oversee and manage the County's transportation network from a central location and to respond to traffic incidents with a much higher

degree of efficiency. The Lightspeed building, located in the Doral area, was identified as an ideal location for the TCC as it was originally developed for a communications industry tenant and configured to accommodate the needs of a high tech system such as the ATMS.

As the full ATMS system is deployed in the coming years, the benefits to the public will become even more noticeable. The capacity for arterial roads will increase enabling more traffic to flow during saturated and non-saturated conditions and potentially improving the economic vitality of the area. Traffic signal malfunctions will be less frequent and those that do occur will be identified and fixed faster to minimize their detrimental affect on traffic. The ATMS can also interface efficiently with other Intelligent Transportation Systems such as those operated by Miami-Dade Transit, Miami-Dade Expressway Authority, and the Florida Department of Transportation to provide additional benefits such as preferential treatment for buses that are behind schedule and traffic that is detoured off a freeway due to an incident.

The public can look forward to improved traffic circulation throughout the County as additional components of the ATMS are put into place. Additional information on this project is available at <http://www.md-atms.com/>.

## TRANSPORTATION TRUST MEMBERS - MOVING ON

Over the past several months, the Transportation Trust has said farewell to three of its members. Two of whom had served on the Trust since it was first organized in 2003. Each of them left the Trust to pursue greater opportunities in public service and the private sector. The Trust is now actively recruiting members to fill these three vacancies. Applications are available by calling the OCITT at 305-375-1357 or at [www.miamidade.gov/citt](http://www.miamidade.gov/citt).



Outgoing CITT member Jorge Cueto, Esq. is presented with an award for outstanding service by the CITT Chairperson, Hon. Linda Zilber. Mr. Cueto is leaving the Trust to take a seat as a Circuit Court Judge.



LiCol Antonio Colmenares was one of the original members on the CITT having been appointed to the Trust in 2003. He was recognized for his dedicated service to the Trust by his fellow members.



Marc Buoniconti received a hero's sendoff on his departure from the CITT. Mr. Buoniconti was appointed to the Trust in 2003 and subsequently served as Chairman of the Project and Financial Review Committee, Vice Chairman and Chairman of the CITT.

## THE TRANSPORTATION TRUST

Moving Forward

# Help shape our future



By serving on the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust, you can influence how tax dollars are spent on road and transit projects under the People's Transportation Plan.

The Transportation Trust monitors and oversees the half-penny transportation surtax and approves funding for eligible PTP projects. Trust members are volunteers and do not receive a salary.

Applications and additional information are 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.

Applications now being accepted



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 Robert A. Cuevas Jr., *County Attorney*

## CITT

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 Charles D. Scurr, *Executive Director*