



## MEMORANDUM OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER

TO: Honorable Alex Penelas, Mayor  
Honorable Barbara Carey-Shuler,  
Chairperson and Members  
Board of County Commissioners

DATE: August 5, 2003

FROM: Michael Abrams, Interim Chairperson  
Citizen's Independent Transportation Trust

SUBJECT: Nine Month OPTM Report and 90 day  
Outlook

*Michael H. Penelas for*

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of the improvements undertaken by the Office of Public Transportation Management (OPTM) pursuant to the passage of the People's Transportation Plan and the proposed initiatives slated for the fourth quarter of 2003.

On November 5, 2002, the voters of Miami-Dade County overwhelmingly passed the People's Transportation Plan. The following summarizes the accomplishments subsequent to the last quarterly report and the proposed goals and objectives scheduled for the next 90 days.

### Quarterly Activity Report:

- Initiated development of OPTM Business Plan. The Business Plan is a statement of how OPTM will accomplish its mission via goals, objectives, strategies, and measurable benchmarks, and what resources OPTM will utilize to achieve this performance;
- Organized and coordinated the logistics for the Grand Opening Ceremonies of the Palmetto Metrorail Station on May 30, 2003. The opening of the new Palmetto Metrorail Station officially marked the completion of the Palmetto Extension Project. The Palmetto Station is the first station opened since 1989 and is the 22<sup>nd</sup> station in the Metrorail system. The 1.4 mile extension brings the system to approximately 22.4 miles of rail. Over 200 citizens and dignitaries attended the function. Media coverage was extensive with seven television stations, 2 radio stations and 4 print media representatives attending;
- Completed the first ever transfer of transit surtax proceeds to 15 municipalities and developed a municipal contacts database to assure responsiveness and prompt assistance to concerned municipalities;
- Completed the Fiscal Year 2002 Audited Financial Statements, the Single Audit Report (SAR) required by the Federal Government and the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) National Transit Database Report;

- Added 7 new routes and made 70 service improvements to 50 existing routes since November 10, 2002. The improvements from the People's Transportation Plan (PTP) to existing routes included more frequent service in the peak and off-peak periods, route extensions, service expansion, and schedule adjustments to improve on-time performance;
- Prepared service plans and coordinated implementation of the PTP improvements for Metrorail which included more frequent service, all night operation, and extension to the Palmetto Metrorail Station;
- Finalized the Draft of the 2003 Transit Development Program (TDP) Update. The TDP is the agency's most recent operational and capital statistics and factual information plan. It includes the agreed upon 5-year recommended transit service improvements and financial plan. It is updated every year and serves to comply with local and state statutory requirements to remain eligible for state block grant funds;
- Utilized supplemental agreement to the County's contract for Financial Advisory Service to obtain the services of Public Financial Management (PFM) to provide financial advisory service for transportation;
- Ordered 170 buses (100 full size and 70 mini buses) for 2003 delivery to support the Peoples Transportation Plan (PTP);
- Received a rating of "Recommended" on the North Corridor from the Federal Transit Administration. Prior to the passage of the PTP, the FTA had rated this project as "Not Recommended" due to the County's inability to meet the FTA's fiscal criteria. OPTM immediately provided an updated 20-year financial plan, as required under federal guidelines. The fiscally sound plan must illustrate the county's ability to not only fund the construction, operation and maintenance of the entire North Corridor alignment, but the operation and maintenance of the existing system. Without a minimum rating of "Recommended" or higher rating on the financial plan by the FTA, the project comes to a halt and is not allowed to continue;
- Initiated the Third Quarterly Progress Report for the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for 2003 to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The UPWP is an annual document that describes and funds all transportation planning activities that are coordinated through the MPO;
- Coordinated press conference activities for the introduction of the seventh new bus route "Flagami Connection." Over 50 residents from the facility, as well as Comm. Sosa and State Rep. Marco Rubio attended this event. Media coverage was as follows: Channel 6/51 - NBC/Telemundo, Channel 23 - Univision (Local), Miami-Dade TV, as well as two weekly Spanish newspapers -- Acontecer Colombiano and Noticias Miami-Dade. Post event write-up with photo caption was prepared and distributed to the media;

- Held various meetings related to the 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Transit Hub. The Empowerment Trust Office with OPTM staff is working closely with the community and with Congressman Meek and Congresswoman Meek (Ret.);
- Developed scope of services for re-evaluation of the East-West Corridor. Consultant to provide cost estimate of evaluating the Palmetto to Seaport, downtown alignment, and Palmetto to Turnpike segment;
- Coordinated planning meetings for the 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Transit Hub at NW 62<sup>nd</sup> Street with community developers and County staff. Participated in additional meetings hosted by the Empowerment Trust with Congressman Kendrick Meek and Congresswoman Carrie Meek (Ret.). Developed a preliminary timeline for the project;
- Continued to manage the final design and construction of Phase II of the South Miami-Dade Busway Extension to Florida City. Coordinated community approval of the design of neighborhood theme for the busway station at SW 264<sup>th</sup> Street where the community selected a citrus theme to be depicted in the tiled floor of the station. The scheduled date for completion of construction of the busway extension is August 2005;
- Facilitated North Corridor Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings presenting proposed changes to the alignment selected as the Locally Preferred Alternative in 1999. CAC recommended that the County continue development of the Locally Preferred Alternative approved in 1999;
- Initiated the Northeast Passenger Activity Center Alternatives Analysis study, to select a location for this transit hub. Finalized the public involvement plan, sent letters to local officials and community leaders requesting recommendations for the Citizen Advisory Committee and scheduled public meetings;
- Issued Notice to Proceed on the project consists of improvements of the existing Bus Terminal between SW 1st Street and Flagler Street and the extension of the facilities from Flagler Street to NW 1st Street providing for additional bus bays, and a continuous covered walkway from the Government Center Station to the bus facilities. The Downtown Bus Terminal project is a complement of the Flagler Market Place project;
- Evaluating proposal for the re-evaluation of the East-West Corridor for the consultant to provide cost estimate of evaluating the Palmetto to Seaport, downtown alignment, and Palmetto to Turnpike segment.

#### **Bus Improvements (Since November 5, 2002)**

- Added 357,906 hours of service;
- Added 4,532,373 service miles;
- Entered 66 additional buses into peak hour service;
- Improved 11 routes to 30 minute peak hour service;
- Improved 10 routes to 30 minute midday service;
- Improved 16 routes to 30 minute weekend service;

- Implemented 2 new midday service routes (95 Express and Flagami MAX);
- Added 3 new weekend service routes (6, 28, and 104);
- Implemented 7 new circulator routes: Little Haiti Connection, Coconut Grove Circulator, Little Havana Circulator, Coral Way MAX, Hialeah Gardens Connection, Sweetwater Circulator and the Flagami Circulator;
- Improved 11 countywide routes by adding overnight service;
- Improved 34 countywide routes through schedule adjustments;

#### **Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (CITT):**

- Convened first meeting of the CITT on May 7, 2003;
- Reviewed and forwarded Municipal Interlocal Agreement forms with amendments, to the Board of County Commissioners;
- Selected Mike Abrams as Interim Chairperson and John Cosgrove as Interim Vice-Chairperson;
- CITT has subsequently held meetings on May 16, June 23, and July 29, 2003;
- CITT created four sub-committees: Project Review Committee, External Affairs Committee, Compliance and Oversight Committee and Budget and Finance Committee;
- Convened and supported ten CITT sub-committee meetings;
- The Project Review Subcommittee reviewed all projects in the PTP and recommended deletion of the proposed "170<sup>th</sup> Street" road-widening project. Recommendation forwarded to Board of County Commissioners for approval;
- Recommended to Board of County Commissioners for approval Bus Service Improvements that were omitted from the PTP;
- Convened CITT Nominating Committee to recommend new slates to Commission Districts 1, 11, and 13 for selection of new Board members

#### **Upcoming 90 days**

- Coordinate press conference for the grand opening of the Busway Park and Ride Event at U.S. 1 and 244<sup>th</sup> Street;
- Update of PTP website "Trafficrelief.com." The new site will include the following: CITT member information, project status, speaker's bureau, and more. A presentation of the new site will be made at the August 21<sup>st</sup> External Affairs Committee, whereby members will have the opportunity to provide feedback;

- Present letter of support and resolution to the CITT supporting the reauthorization of the six Rail Corridors as outlined in the PTP. Resolution will be utilized as support documentation in the County's legislative package, as well as a tool to seek support from other business, civic and social organizations in the County's lobbying effort for federal and state appropriations and legislative action;
- Coordinate with Public Works to ensure the completion of a project timeline for the 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Transit Hub;
- Prepare Interlocal Agreement with the Regional Transit Authority for the regional fare collection system.

Cc: Members, CITT  
George M. Burgess, County Manager  
Bill Johnson, Assistant County Manager/  
Transportation Manager  
Danny Alvarez, Executive Director, OPTM