

**MEMORANDUM**

Agenda Item No. 7(J)(2)(B)


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**TO:** Honorable Chairperson Barbara Carey-Shuler, Ed.D. and Members, Board of County Commissioners      **DATE:** June 8, 2004

**FROM:** Robert A. Ginsburg  
County Attorney      **SUBJECT:** Resolution amending the PTP  
to create a demonstration  
program – Patriot Passport

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The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Senator Javier D. Souto and Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz.

  
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Robert A. Ginsburg  
County Attorney

RAG/bw



# MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

**TO:** Hon. Chairperson Barbara Carey-Shuler, Ed.D.  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** June 8, 2004

**FROM:** Robert A. Ginsburg  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 7(J)(2)(B)

Please note any items checked.

- "4-Day Rule" ("3-Day Rule" for committees) applicable if raised
- 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- Budget required
- Statement of fiscal impact required
- Bid waiver requiring County Manager's written recommendation
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing
- Housekeeping item (no policy decision required)
- No committee review

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor

Agenda Item No. 7(J)(2)(B)

Veto \_\_\_\_\_

6-8-04

Override \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE PEOPLE'S TRANSPORTATION PLAN (PTP) TO IMPLEMENT A DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM THAT CREATES MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT'S PATRIOT PASSPORT PROGRAM FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS TO INCLUDE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY RESIDENTS WHO ARE HONORABLY DISCHARGED VETERANS AND WHOSE HOUSEHOLD INCOME DOES NOT EXCEED THE STANDARD THRESHOLD APPLIED TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY FOR THE LOW-INCOME, SENIOR CITIZEN'S ADDITIONAL HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

**WHEREAS**, members of the armed forces have continuously served this nation and the cause of freedom with distinction; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board wishes to express its appreciation to those men and women who have risked their lives defending this nation and its interests; and

**WHEREAS**, many veterans live at or near the poverty line; and

**WHEREAS**, the Golden Passport Program was created to provide fare-free public transportation services to those residents of Miami-Dade County age 65 and older; and

**WHEREAS**, creating the Patriot Passport Program to include all honorably discharged low income veterans who are residents of Miami-Dade County will increase transit ridership and reduce congestion on the roads of Miami-Dade County; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 28, 2004, the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (CITT) reviewed this proposed amendment to the PTP and has forwarded a favorable recommendation; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board desires to accomplish the purposes outlined in the accompanying County Manager's report, a copy of which is incorporated herein by reference,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**, that the PTP be amended to implement a Demonstration Program that creates Miami-Dade Transit's Patriot Passport Program for a period of three (3) years to include Miami-Dade County residents who are honorably discharged veterans and whose household income does not exceed the standard threshold applied to determine eligibility for the low-income, senior citizen's additional homestead exemption, as outlined in the corresponding document in substantially the form attached hereto and made a part hereof. The County Manager is hereby directed to analyze and evaluate the Demonstration Program after the second year of the Program to determine fiscal impact and recommend future action.

The foregoing resolution was sponsored by Senator Javier D. Souto and Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz and offered by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler, Chairperson	
Katy Sorenson, Vice-Chairperson	
Bruno A. Barreiro	Jose "Pepe" Diaz
Betty T. Ferguson	Sally A. Heyman
Joe A. Martinez	Jimmy L. Morales
Dennis C. Moss	Dorin D. Rolle
Natacha Seijas	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 8<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2004. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BY ITS BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.



Bruce Libhaber




## MEMORANDUM

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TO: Honorable Chairperson Barbara Carey-Shuler, Ed.D.  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: June 8, 2004

FROM: George M. Burgess  
County Manager



SUBJECT: Manager's Report:  
Demonstration Project  
to Expand the Golden  
Passport Program to  
Honorably Discharged,  
Low-Income Veterans,  
who are Residents of  
Miami-Dade County

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This information is submitted as background for the Board's review of the proposed three year demonstration project to expand the Golden Passport Program to include honorably discharged, low-income veterans, who are residents of Miami-Dade County.

On October 5, 1999, the Board approved the creation of a Golden Passport Program that would provide a mechanism for low-income, elderly Miami-Dade County residents to ride public transit without paying a fare. Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) began registration for the program on November 1, 1999; the program began on December 15, 1999.

The criteria for eligibility at that time was 65 years or older with a household income at or below the threshold used for the low-income, senior citizen's additional homestead exemption. The County household income level at that time was \$20,000; the current threshold for this exemption is \$22,000. About 16,000 residents enrolled in this phase of the program.

As part of the People's Transportation Plan (PTP), approved by the voters on November 5, 2002, the Golden Passport eligibility was expanded to include all residents 65 or older regardless of income, and those who qualify for Social Security. At the time of the referendum, there were approximately 50,000 residents enrolled. Using PTP resources, the program was expanded to include all seniors regardless of income. The expanded program went into effect the day after the election. Today there are about 100,000 residents enrolled in the program.

The proposed amendment to the PTP is for a three year demonstration project to expand the Golden Passport Program to target low-income honorably-discharged veterans who do not qualify under the current criteria. This expansion would enable low-income veterans of any age to qualify for the Golden Passport.

The proposed expansion of the Golden Passport Program would be in addition to the many public transit programs that MDT offers to transportation disadvantaged residents to provide the mobility they need to lead productive and meaningful lives. Those programs include half fares for students in grades 1 through 12, the disabled, and the elderly, as well as passes and tokens for persons qualified under State Transportation Disadvantaged legislation (the poor, disabled, elderly, and children at risk). Residents in these groups who cannot use conventional transit could be eligible for the Medicaid or Special Transportation Service Paratransit programs.

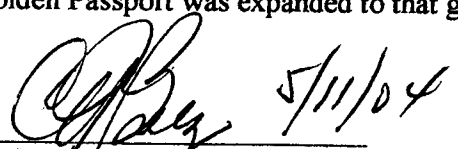
Honorably-discharged veterans applying for a Golden Passport will have to show proof of honorable discharge and household income below the current County threshold of \$22,000. Those veterans receiving a Golden Passport will be required to renew annually to verify continued eligibility in the program. Eligible veterans (and all others eligible for Golden Passports) can apply for the Golden Passport at the Transit Service Centers located at the Government Center Metrorail Station and in Little Haiti (150 NW 79 Street) or any Team Metro office. When requested by a group of ten or more, MDT staff will go to the group or organization's location, such as congregate living facilities, to process applications for Golden Passports.

This Golden Passport demonstration program for eligible veterans will terminate after three years unless the BCC and the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (CITT) approve continuation of the program. An analysis will be performed after two full years to determine the benefits and fiscal impacts of the program. A resolution to amend the PTP incorporating this Golden Passport demonstration project was approved by the CITT at its meeting on April 28, 2004.

#### FISCAL IMPACT

The estimated fiscal impact of this demonstration project is \$670,000 per year. The PTP transit surtax will be used to reimburse MDT for the fares not paid by the residents who become eligible for the expanded Golden Passport. This process will be parallel to that used to reimburse MDT when the Golden Passport was expanded in 2002 to include all Social Security recipients regardless of income.

The fiscal impact estimate was developed by Behavioral Science Research of Coral Gables who conducted surveys of nearly 4,500 Metrobus and Metrorail passengers in January, 2004 for MDT. Calculations from the survey data were used to estimate the proportion of honorably discharged veterans who are under 65 years of age, the fare that was paid, and the frequency of riding. The data was combined with passenger income data from other research performed for MDT to estimate the revenue lost from current low-income veterans if the Golden Passport was expanded to that group.

  
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Surface Transportation Manager