



**MEMORANDUM**

TC

Agenda Item No. 1(E)1

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TO: Honorable Dennis C. Moss, Chairperson  
and Members, Transportation Committee

DATE: September 20, 2004

FROM: George M. Burgess  
County Manager

SUBJECT: September 2004  
Monthly  
Progress Report

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Attached please find the September 2004 Monthly Progress Report for Aviation, Seaport, Consumer Services, Miami-Dade Transit and Public Works' PTP Projects.

 9/9/04

Surface Transportation Manager

**Transportation Committee September 17, 2004**  
**Goals reported for July and August 2004**

**Public Works Department**

**Goal #1: Implement the Public Works Department's Major PTP projects on-time and on-budget**

**Status:**

- The \$5.5 million NW 62 Avenue project in Hialeah began construction on May 3, 2004. The contractor is working on drainage, subgrade, and roadway base preparation, flatwork, and electrical. Work is approximately 15% complete.
- Six design contracts have completed negotiations and they are before the TC today for approval. The 6 contracts will address the following projects in the department's 2-year PTP plan:
  - 
  - Dist. 3 - NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue from West Little River to NE 91 Street (Street and Traffic Operational Improvements)
  - Dist. 6 – SW 62 Avenue from SW 24 Street to NW 7 Street (Street and Traffic Operational Improvements)
  - Dist. 7 – SW 62 Avenue from SW 70 Street to SW 64 Street (Reduce from 5 to 2 lanes)
  - Dist. 9 – SW 160 Street from SW 147 Avenue to SW 137 Avenue (New 4 lane road)
  - Dist. 12 – New 5 lane bridge over the Miami River Canal at NW 138 Street
  - Dist. 11 – New access to Country Walk from SW 136 Street.
- The Grand Avenue Project is expected to break ground in September 2004. The project cost is \$3.7 million dollars, and combines funding from PTP, other County funding sources.
- County and the City of Miami are working on new JPAs to address several other projects in the 2-year plan. NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave from NE 36 Street to NE 43 Street, NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave from NE 43 Street to NE 62 Street and South Miami Avenue from SW 25 Road to SW 15 Road.
- Miami River Tunnel Feasibility Study is being redrafted with active input from the City of Miami and FDOT.
- PWD is in the process of developing a new RFP for the ATMS. Responses to the RFI have been received by PWD, and are being reviewed. County experts will soon be visiting various sites Nationwide to determine if there is an ATMS system on the market that can be implemented in Miami-Dade County in a relatively short period of time.

## Public Works Department

### Goal #2: Implement the Public Works Department's Neighborhood PTP projects on-time and on-budget

#### Status:

- Public Works continues to reach out to each of the County Commissioner's Offices to discuss the Neighborhood Improvement Projects.
- Contracts to address these Neighborhood Improvements (Non-Site Specific Projects) are being moved forward.
  - 11 PTP Construction Contracts have been approved by the CITT and BCC. Resurfacing, Sidewalks, Drainage, Striping, ADA Sidewalks, School Flashing Signals, Traffic Signals.
  - Multiple work orders will commence in September on Neighborhood Improvements.
    - School Flashing Signals (Greynolds Park EI – D4, Kinlock Park EI – D6, Gulfstream EI – D8, Lake Stevens EI – D1, Shenandoah EI – D5), Resurfacing in Districts 1&7 for roads with poor pavement conditions, Resurfacing on Arterials, ADA accessibility to sidewalks on heavily traveled bus routes, New Sidewalks / ADA accessibility on Arterials.

### Goal #3: Picking the Low-Hanging PTP Fruit

#### Status:

- A major, visible project is already under construction (NW 62 Ave).
- Another prominent project will begin construction in September (Grand Ave.)
- Two Resurfacing projects ongoing in Districts 1 & 7.
- 11 Open Construction Contracts will be issuing work orders in September and October.
- Street name signs are being replaced at a greater rate today. Crews are working overtime to replace faded signs with the new sign design. 8000 new street name signs have been replaced as of today.
- PWD is also hiring staff and acquiring equipment to accelerate the street name sign effort with PTP funds. 10 Traffic Maintenance Employees have been hired already, and further staff and equipment is being acquired.
- PWD has ordered the illuminated street name signs for the Countywide pilot program. The new, more visible, signs will begin going up throughout the County in September and October.

## Public Works Department

- The locations are:

District 10 - Bird Rd & SW 102 Ave
District 10 - Bird Rd & SW 92 Ave
District 11 - SW 152nd Ave & SW 72nd St
District 1 - Douglas Rd & NW 199 <sup>th</sup> St
District 2 - N Miami Ave & 111 <sup>th</sup> St
District 3 - NW 17 <sup>th</sup> Ave & 30 <sup>th</sup> St
District 4 - Ives Dairy Rd @ NE 14 Ave
District 5 - NW 12 <sup>th</sup> Ave & NW 7 <sup>th</sup> St
District 6 - SW 67 <sup>th</sup> Ave & SW 16 <sup>th</sup> St
District 7 - SW 67 <sup>th</sup> Ave & SW 88 <sup>th</sup> St
District 8 - SW 127 <sup>th</sup> Ave & SW 184 St
District 9 - SW 137 <sup>th</sup> Ave & SW 128 <sup>th</sup> St
District 10 - SW 117 <sup>th</sup> Ave & SW 56 <sup>th</sup> St
District 12 - NW 67 <sup>th</sup> Ave & W 84 <sup>th</sup> St
District 13 - Miami Lakes Rd & Ludlam Rd
District 10 - Bird Rd & SW 87 Ave
District 7&8 - US-1 & SW 98 Street

### Goal #4: Begin Work on all PWD PTP Projects Status:

- Each project in the 2-year plan is underway in some fashion (scope development, design, consultant negotiations, construction, contract preparation)
- PWD is also moving forward on several other major projects.
  - PWD is working with FDOT for a JPA to begin design of NW 74 Street.
  - PWD will be advertising for design services for projects on SW 157 Avenue, NW 37 Avenue, and SW 27 Avenue this Fall.
- PWD issued multiple work orders to the Master Consultants for assistance in PTP Projects. This will allow PWD to advertise for design services for these projects faster, and also address needs in ADA coordination and the Contracts and Specifications office.

## Seaport Department

### Goal #1: Maintaining market share and attracting new business Status:

On the cargo side, the port has been actively involved in working with local transportation services to improve container terminal traffic performance. To date, we have seen significant improvements in turn-around times at the terminals by addressing various operational issues affecting box flows in and out of the port.

## Seaport Department

On the customer side we have made a concerted effort in visiting many of the shipping lines at their regional headquarters further solidifying our commercial relationships. In fact, these visits have produced the possibility of two (2) new Far East services calling at the Port of Miami. The port is also finalizing an initial project proposal with Florida East Coast Railroad with the potential of further expanding our intermodal capability to provide us with a competitive advantage over other U.S. east coast ports.

On the cruise side, the port continues to work towards attracting new lines and services to Miami. Celebrity Cruises announced it will homeport the Zenith in Miami in winter 2005. The vessel will be running 4- and 5-day itineraries to the Bahamas. New marketing efforts include speaking with a daily cruise operator and securing additional port-of-call vessels. Traditionally, October begins the winter cruise season for Miami which proves to be the busiest time of the year (October – April).

Due to the aftermath of Hurricane Frances, it was necessary for some cruise ships operating at other Florida ports to temporarily relocate to Miami. Thus, in addition to our regular line-up, Miami hosted the Mariner of the Seas, Carnival Glory, Imagination and Fantasy which regularly sail from Port Canaveral. Notwithstanding these gains on the cruise side, on the cargo side, the port lost several vessels as they were re-routed to other ports.

We continue to work with our local community, attractions and organizations to solicit new business relationships. Towards this end, the Port will have representation at the Florida Caribbean Cruise Line Association's (FCCA) 11th Annual Conference in October.

### **Goal #2: Advancing the Infrastructure Program.**

#### **Status:**

P&O Ports Florida, Inc. was contracted by Miami-Dade County under a development agreement to construct 33 projects as part of the Port's redevelopment program. By mutual agreement, Miami-Dade County and P&O Ports Florida, Inc have executed a termination and assignment agreement. The Port has taken the assignment and is currently working directly with the architects/engineers and construction managers in the fulfillment of the remaining portion of the work.

This Fast Track Development Program for 33 projects has completed 100% of all design requirements and executed 31 project GMPs (Guaranteed Maximum Price) totaling \$101 million of which 13 projects have been completed. Overall completion of this program is scheduled for February 2005.

The Seaport Expedite Program for two (2) new cruise terminals (\$60 million) and multiple infrastructure projects (\$40 million), including crane electrification, marine mooring improvements, container yard development and INS lease improvements to cruise terminal 7 have entered the GMP phase with each of the Construction Managers. The cruise terminals are scheduled for completion within 14 months and the balance of the projects is programmed for completion within an 18-month period.

## Seaport Department

Test pile work has been completed for the cruise terminals and production pile installation is completed at Terminal D.

The Department has been successful in working with state and federal agencies to secure grant funds for security infrastructure projects. These projects are being integrated into the capital development program.

### Goal #3: Agreeing on a feasible plan to improve traffic flow on and off Port.

#### Status:

On-Port: Within the Infrastructure Program, construction of a new road will ultimately separate cargo trucking from cruise traffic on the Port. In addition to being a new security measure, this separation of vehicles is designed to enhance traffic safety and ease traffic flow within the Port. Road construction is advancing at a fast pace with the new outbound cargo bridge complete. Overall, about 75% of the project work completed to date.

Off-Port: The primary route to and from the Port is from I-395 entering/exiting from N.E. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenues. The first step the Port has undertaken in improving off-Port access is to perform road improvements on N.E. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenues from I-395 to 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets.

These improvements include resurfacing, drainage, and right-of-way acquisition (completed) for wider turning lanes for truck traffic, in which the required permits have been obtained. The Public Works Department, on the Port's behalf, has commenced construction of these improvements.

The second step the Port has undertaken is to improve off-Port access to seek an alternate route to the interstate system. The Port will be responsible for road improvements along 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets similar in nature to those being performed on N.E. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenues. However, at this time this project has been put on hold per FDOT.

Also, the Department continues to work with the appropriate state and federal agencies to move forward with the Port Tunnel project. The FDOT has completed borings within the proposed tunnel location as part of its re-evaluation study which is to be completed this fall.

### Goal #4: Beginning the development process for Maritime Center (i.e. office space, hotel, restaurants, etc.)

#### Status:

At this time, the Seaport Department has developed a maritime center mixed-use concept with preliminary site layouts as a working tool for further marketing and feasibility analyses.

## Miami- Dade Transit (MDT)

### Goal #1: Implement goals of Peoples' Transportation Plan (PTP)

#### **Transit Corridor Update:**

##### **o North Corridor**

After working very closely with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the New Starts Criteria Report was submitted on August 20, 2004. This important report is used to evaluate the project; it includes comprehensive data describing the land use assessment, a financial plan, mobility and environmental benefits to the community, if the project is built. The New Starts package also includes detailed operating efficiencies; using these standards MDT achieved a cost per rider of \$20.80. A cost per rider between \$24.99 and \$20.00 will garner a medium rating, in this category.

A successful review of the New Starts Criteria Report will allow this project to receive a recommended rating. MDT will continue to work with FTA officials to respond to any questions during the evaluation process. MDT received a request for supplemental documentation on August 31, 2004. MDT is currently preparing this supplemental documentation for submittal to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on September 14, 2004

In addition, MDT submitted the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) on this project to FTA on September 7, 2004. The FEIS will be used to obtain a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD signifies that the project complies with all environmental objectives. MDT anticipates receiving a ROD in early 2005.

MDT continues to move forward in selecting a consultant for Preliminary Engineering (PE) on this project. The purpose of PE is to finalize station locations, corridor alignment, determine park and ride facilities needed and the number of cars needed at peak capacity. We have also received Proposals for North Corridor Preliminary Engineering (PE) consultant services on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

The proposals are currently being reviewed by Capital Improvement Construction Coordination (CICC) staff. Notice-To-Proceed (NTP) to the consultant is currently projected for April 2005. After PE is completed, MDT will make a request to enter into Final Design.

##### **o MIC-Earlinton Heights**

On August 18, 2004, MDT received a letter from FTA granting formal permission for MDT to work with the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority (MDX) and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to acquire real estate for this project. The letter allows MDT to acquire property prior to receiving a ROD. For example, FTA will allow MDX to acquire land for our transit project in cases when MDX already needs a portion of the same parcel for their own SR 112 Connector project.

## Miami- Dade Transit (MDT)

Furthermore, any such purchase by MDX will be credited as part of the local match.

As a result of FTA's decision, MDT can explore the possibility of implementing this project with 100% local funds. The local funds include a commitment from FDOT of \$100 million and this project is eligible for the transit surtax proceeds.

Additionally, the request to enter PE was submitted on August 20, 2004, and is currently being reviewed by FTA. The cost per rider for this project is \$18.50, applying the FTA standards this project has a medium cost effectiveness rating. The RFP for MIC-Earlington Heights Preliminary Engineering (PE) consultant services was advertised on July 30, 2004. A pre-proposal meeting with prospective proposers was conducted on August 11, 2004. Proposals were received on August 27, 2004. Proposals are currently being reviewed by CICC staff. NTP to the consultant is currently projected for April 2005.

- o **East-West Planning Consultant Selected**

The selected consultant, HNTB Inc submitted a detailed proposal and cost estimate on July 23, 2004. Additional negotiation meetings with the consultant were held on July 7<sup>th</sup>, July 30<sup>th</sup>, August 11<sup>th</sup>, August 27<sup>th</sup> and September 1, 2004. The next negotiation meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2004. Negotiations are scheduled to be completed in September 2004. NTP to the selected consultant is currently scheduled to be issued in January 2005.

- o **Program Management Consultant (PMC)**

The first tier meeting of the selection committee was held on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2004. The Inspector General (IG) is currently performing a Due Diligence Review of the two proposing firms. MDT staff has been unable to obtain a projected completion date for the Due Diligence Review from the IG. Public hearings are now tentatively scheduled for September/October 2004. NTP to the consultant is currently projected for April/May 2005.

### Goal #2: Recreate Department's image through futuristic designs and facilities integrated into the system Status:

- **Metrorail Rehabilitation Update**

- o Select highlights of the rehabilitation of Metrorail
  - The Resolution authorizing issuance of the Request For Proposals (RFP 439) for the rehabilitation of the Metrorail vehicles was passed by the Transportation Committee on July 22, 2004.

## Miami- Dade Transit (MDT)

- Of the 136 Metrorail cars to be rehabilitated, fifty-six (56) of them will be reconfigured with a new, sleek, aerodynamic, minimum 35°, sloped front-end design for an innovative/futuristic appearance and the interior of the vehicles will be reconfigured to present a modern, brighter, more aesthetically pleasing appearance.
  - A new air conditioning system that is significantly more reliable and of greater capacity to provide cooler vehicle interiors.
  - Advanced, efficient, reliable AC Propulsion equipment.
  - New interior liners, panels, and access doors, designed in conjunction with passenger seating, to provide an enhanced and futuristic passenger compartment appearance.
  - New, more comfortable, aesthetic and vandal resistant seating.
  - Greatly improved automatic voice announcements and visual message systems that are ADA compliant.
  - New, more advanced brake systems for smoother, quieter operation.
  
  - State of the art microprocessor based diagnostics for improved reliability and maintainability.
  - Door sealing that eliminates water intrusion, especially during heavy rain.
- **Metromover Replacement Update**

Negotiations commenced on August 24, 2004, with Bombardier Transportation for the sole-source procurement for 12 Metromover vehicles to replace the original Phase I vehicles which have now reached their 20-year useful life. Negotiations with Bombardier are expected to be completed September 2004.

The new mover vehicles will also be redesigned with sloped front ends and new interiors to also reflect a more innovative and futuristic appearance, and will also be equipped with state of the art technologies.

### **Bus Stop Sign Installations**

More than 700 of the new state-of-the-art bus stop signs have been installed throughout Miami-Dade County to date. The new signs offer a square green post with a map panel. Each panel shows the individual route maps for that stop and the scheduled arrival times for the time points closest to that stop.

## Miami- Dade Transit (MDT)

### Goal #3: Improve the system's reliability

- **Call Box Installations**

MDT completed the installation of one of the two prototype Call Boxes at the following location: The prototype from Telecom Engineering was installed at NW 62<sup>nd</sup> Street – 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue (west side); and a Call Box provided by Connectivity, Inc. will be installed at SW 104<sup>th</sup> Street at 156 Avenue, (eastbound - far side of intersection). MDT anticipates this box to be installed on September 9, 2004.

MDT will carefully study the impact of high usage on battery life (commercial power may have to supplement the solar cells and/or higher capacity batteries may be needed) and the overall equipment reliability (which will impact the preventive maintenance program). The ability of the call box to check itself and to test from a remote maintenance center will be verified. These features are essential for minimizing the downtime of the call boxes, hence minimizing the liability exposure if future boxes are owned and maintained by the County. The results will be used to develop the final specifications for procuring the system.

- **Modified Mover Couplers**

All couplers on the Mover fleet were rebuilt in-house during FY04. The coupler overhaul program enhanced the coupler assemblies to ensure that they do not swing from side-to-side when the vehicles are operating around curves. This swinging motion could be heard from the interior of the Mover vehicle, occasionally alarming passengers.

### Goal #4: Improve the courtesy and customer service provided

- **Customer Service Training**

Service Excellence Training for MDT's Senior Management and Administrative staff was completed in July 2004. Nearly 700 employees received training. A module has been developed to provide Service in Excellence training to MDT's nearly 3,000 Bus Operators and Maintenance personnel. Training for MDT's operational staff will begin in September 2004.

- **Revenue Service Cleaning**

MDT enhanced the frequency and staff for the interior cleaning of Metrorail and Metromover vehicles during revenue service. There will be two (2) rail vehicle car cleaners assigned during revenue service and a supervisor for Metrorail to ensure customer satisfaction. For Mover, one rail vehicle cleaner will be assigned. The car cleaners are assigned to the mainline from 10 a.m. to 6 pm. With the implementation of a new schedule, the car cleaners are assigned to mainline from 10am- 6pm.

## Miami- Dade Transit (MDT)

- **ADA Compliance**

The Office of Civil Rights and Labor Relations has implemented an internal ADA Rail Assessment Compliance Plan. To date, the Dadeland South and South Miami rail stations have been audited for ADA compliance.

This is one of MDT's proactive measures to implement an internal quality assurance auditing plan to identify programmatic deficiencies and initiate the appropriate corrective action, with resultant ADA compliance and improved customer service.

- **Unified Transportation Web Portal**

Miami Dade Transit (MDT) and the Citizens Independent Transportation Trust (CITT) have been coordinating with the Enterprise Technology Services Department (ETSD) to complete implementation of a unified Transportation Web Portal for the County. Serving as a gateway to transportation information, the unified Transportation Web Portal will link all available transportation websites from one single point of entry. The Transportation Web Portal will link to transportation websites such as: Miami Dade Transit, Traffic Relief/People's Transportation Plan (PTP), Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), Expressway Authority, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Airport, Seaport, and others as needed to create an information tool that is citizen friendly.

The unified Transportation Web Portal will provide citizens with a wealth of information including PTP progress reports, PTP expenditures, PTP contracts, and PTP employment opportunities - all with the convenience of logging on to one website.

The first milestone of the project timeline, "Project Analysis", has been completed and the next milestone "Web Content" is in progress. The "Web Content" milestone involves researching comparable websites and identifying viable content for inclusion on the Unified Transportation Web Portal. Also in progress is the identification of a website name. The Marketing Task Force has preliminarily chosen "GoMiamiDade" as the domain name for the new portal. Confirmation on the use of this domain name depends on availability at the point of purchase. The information will be presented to the Transportation Committee once the purchase is completed. The project is on schedule for the launch date of November 2004.

The Transportation Committee's request to include tourist-related information on the web portal is currently being analyzed for inclusion by the Unified Transportation Web Portal project team. Web portal access to places of interest, how it links to public transportation, and how to display the information on transit maps is being analyzed and included.

## Miami- Dade Transit (MDT)

- **Consumer Information Network (CIN) Trip Planning to be available December 29, 2004**

Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) is working with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to implement an integrated system that provides trip planning information itineraries to consumers by combining transit data information from Miami-Dade Transit, Broward Transit, Palm-Beach Transit, RTA Tri-Rail, and South Florida Commuter Services. Access to pre-recorded MDT route and schedule information will be available via a telephone voice recognition system 24 hours a day.

A new automated trip planning program for transit information agents will eliminate dependence on the current manual system. Accessing schedules and maps of other South Florida transit agencies through this new system will allow MDT agents to prepare quick and easy point-to-point tri-county travel itineraries.

- **Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) Employee Forums**

MDT held twelve (12) Employee Forums conducted at each of its six (6) operational facilities and the downtown Miami-Dade Public Library. The forums were held at various times to accommodate the varied work schedules of MDT's operational personnel. The forums were extremely successful -- nearly 2000 employees attended the forums. Director Bradley opened each forum by having employees introduce themselves and provide their county service tenure. Subsequently, the Director provided employees with a brief update on the People's Transportation Plan (PTP) and other important projects happening in MDT. Employees asked questions and shared a number of comments and suggestions with the Director. Each session was recorded and notes were taken. MDT will provide a full report on questions, comments and suggestions and develop an action plan complete with short-term and long-term completion schedules.

Forums were held at the following locations:

- Claude Rolfe Bus and Maintenance Facility located in Northeast Miami-Dade
- Medley Bus and Maintenance Facility located in Northwest Miami-Dade
- Coral Way Bus and Maintenance Facility located in south Miami-Dade
- Central Bus and Maintenance Facility located in central Miami-Dade
- William Lehman Center Rail Yard located in west Miami-Dade
- Miami-Dade Main Public Library (downtown administrative offices)
- Metromover Maintenance Facility located in downtown Miami (Session pending due to Hurricane Frances)

## Consumer Services Department

### Goal #1: Complete implementation of the Limousine Ordinance

#### Status:

- This goal is substantially completed. Staff is currently working on the establishment of an industry advisory committee and amendments to established minimum limousine rates that, by ordinance, are required to be 3.3 times higher than the rate for taxicab meter wait time. Thirty-six of the 100 luxury limousine licenses approved in April 2004 had been placed into service as of August 26, 2004. A 90-day extension to November 1, 2004 was provided to assist other recipients in placing their vehicles into service.

### Goal #2: Further the transition to owner-operator Taxi Cab System

#### Status:

- CSD continues to receive and process applications for transfers of taxicab licenses to owner-operators. 195 taxi licenses have been transferred to owner-operators since adoption of the Taxi Ordinance in 1998.
- There are 450 of 1,966 taxi licenses (23%) held by owner-operators. In 1998, approximately 114 of 1,824 taxi licenses (6%) were held by owner-operators.
- The application period for the 2004 lottery commenced on July 6, 2004 and closed on August 24, 2004. Pursuant to Code requirements, the period was held open for 50 days. Applicants must meet minimum standards, including being a chauffeur for a continuous five year period prior to application. Several special categories also exist for 20 year drivers, 25 year drivers and veterans. Applications were also accepted for the underserved area and the new South Miami-Dade service area. A total of 636 chauffeurs submitted 1,003 applications in the various categories. CSD staff is now reviewing the applications for eligibility after which an independent auditing firm will review them. It is anticipated that the lottery will be held in late December 2004.
- Pursuant to a Board directive at the May 11, 2004, Commission meeting, CSD commenced a review into the availability of night service in the underserved area. The review included obtaining and reviewing trip sheets from the eight underserved area lottery winners, dispatch information from companies servicing the area, and field surveillance.

### Goal #3: Continue to improve consumer protection services

#### Status:

- Continued to monitor Comcast Communication's cable system upgrade. The upgrade of an area extending from Aventura to Miami Shores had a completion deadline of July 31, 2004. CSD staff confirmed that the deadline was met. The next areas in line for completion are the remainder of the Comcast North Miami-Dade system with a deadline of December 31, 2004, and Opa-locka with a deadline of January 30, 2005.

## Consumer Services Department

- Consumer educational and outreach sessions since the last report include: Small Claims Court Clinics at the Homestead Library, Miami Springs Council Chambers, and West Dade Regional Library; "Debt Management, Credit Counseling and Credit Repair" in concert with the Consumer Credit Counseling Service of South Florida, Inc., at the West Kendall Regional Library; and "Identity Theft" at the Customs and Border Protection (Department of Homeland Security) Information Fair.
- Consumer Protection Enforcement Officers attended a two-day training course given by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services related to price verification procedures in retail stores where Universal Product Codes (UPC) are used. CSD will begin price verifications at the beginning of October to ensure that consumers are actually being charged the listed or advertised price.

### Goal #4: Institute a streamlined process to license passenger motor carriers, non-emergency vehicles and private school buses

#### Status:

- CSD is presently drafting revisions to Passenger Motor Carrier (PMC) Code sections that regulate services such as tour vans, contract carriers, and jitneys. CSD is finalizing a new draft based on comments previously received from industry members. The draft bifurcates route service providers (jitneys, fixed route, circulator) and other PMC's into separate sections of the Code. It is anticipated that proposed revisions will be submitted to the Board in the December 2004/January 2005 timeframe following industry workshops.

#### Other Activities:

- Continuing our commitment to customer service, CSD added extra chauffeur training dates for private school bus drivers in June, July, August and September during the summer recess to enable them to be ready to provide service on opening day. CSD also reduced the number of days of training for new limousine chauffeurs from four days to two by consolidating some activities without any reduction in quality or curriculum, and allowing the drivers to get to work sooner.

#### Cooperative Extension education activities included:

- Collaborated with DERM in their Adopt-a-Tree events and taped several segments for their TV show, Down to Earth, covering topics such as tree pruning, irrigation needs of landscape plants, pest management, and plant selection. Also worked with DERM in refining the Street Tree Master.
- Coordinated the County's 4-H participation to the State Mock Legislature in Tallahassee with 13 Miami-Dade County participants. Miami-Dade had 4-H members selected to fill the roles of Speaker of the House, head reporter, and two serve as committee chairs. The Mock Legislature is an annual event in which teens learn about the government and its operation.

## Consumer Services Department

- Participated in a table top exercise for preparation for Turkey Point nuclear plant Food Ingestion Pathway at EOC. Provided local agricultural perspective to EOC, DCA Emergency Management, FPL, and Health Dept. representatives.
- Provided avocado cultivar identification training for 25 USDA APHIS inspectors from airport and port inspection operations.
- Continue preparations for the AfriCANDO Conference on agriculture. Extension staff has arranged for speakers, will moderate a panel, and organized and will conduct a tour of agricultural area of South Miami-Dade County, including a lunch program at the John D. Campbell Agricultural Center.