

Memorandum



Date: April 05, 2005

Supplement to
Agenda Item No. 7(B)

To: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez and Members,
Board of County Commissioners

From: George M. Burgess
County Manager

Subject: Report on Creation of Building Better Communities Bond Program Citizens' Advisory Committee

In accordance with Section 2-11.37(b) of the Code, the following information is provided regarding the proposed establishment of the Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) to the Building Better Communities Bond Program.

1) **Whether establishment of the board will create sufficient betterment to the community to justify the Board of County Commissioners' delegation of a portion of its authority.**

The CAC will serve in an advisory capacity to the Board, the Mayor and County Manager. It will monitor the progress of the more than 300 projects that are part of the bond program and will assist in the preparation of quarterly reports to the Board. The CAC members will serve as ambassadors for the bond program, participating, along with County staff, in outreach efforts aimed at keeping the residents of Miami-Dade County informed on the scope of the bond projects, scheduling and work in progress.

2) **Whether another board or agency, either public or private, which is already in existence, could serve the same purpose.**

CAC activities would be limited to the Building Better Communities Bond Program. At this time there are no groups, either public or private, associated with the bond program.

3) **The costs, both direct and indirect, of establishing and maintaining the board.**

The direct and indirect costs of establishing and maintaining the CAC are estimated at approximately 13% of the annual budget for administration of the bond program. This amount represents expenses associated with CAC's quarterly meetings including agenda preparation and staff time. Other costs include advertising and the production and distribution of reports. The indirect costs are anticipated to be negligible. The CAC will be staffed by the Office of Capital Improvements which has budgeted \$820,000 in annualized fiscal year 2005 dollars for operation and support expenses associated with the implementation of the \$2.9 billion bond program. This compares favorably to the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust, which oversees the implementation of the \$2.1 billion People's Transportation Plan, and the Safe Neighborhood Parks Program, which oversees a \$200 million bond program.

4) **Whether the board is necessary to enable the County to obtain State or federal grants or other financing.**

Creation of the CAC is not required to enable the County to obtain grant funding.

5) **Whether the board should have bonding authority.**

The CAC will not have bonding authority.

6) **Whether the board should have final authority to enter into contracts or spend County funds, or whether its contracts and expenditures must be ratified by the Board of County Commissioners.**

The CAC will not have the authority to enter into contracts or spend County funds.

7) **Whether the creation of a new board is the best method of achieving the benefit desired.**

The overwhelming success of the Building Better Communities Bond Program, approved by voters in the November 2, 2004 election by a two-to-one margin, followed a broad-based grassroots campaign to educate County residents on the need for public infrastructure improvements to maintain the quality of life in our community. The bond program was developed with input from the citizenry through a series of more than 100 town hall and other public meetings. CAC will enable the residents of Miami-Dade to continue to participate as the bond program is implemented.



Assistant County Manager