MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(11)

TO:	Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro and Members, Board of County Commissioners	**DATE:**	November 20, 2008
FROM:	R. A. Cuevas, Jr. County Attorney	**SUBJECT:**	Resolution urging Congress to pass H.R. 6052 or similar legislation providing additional funding for Transit

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Dorrin D. Rolle.

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/up

MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: November 20, 2008

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr. County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(11)

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
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(11)
11-20-08

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO PASS H.R. 6052 OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION PROVIDING ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR TRANSIT AS PART OF A COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY STRATEGY

WHEREAS, the transportation sector accounts for 68 percent of total U.S. petroleum consumption, and almost 14 million barrels of oil each day for transportation purposes in the U.S. in 2006, according to the U.S. Department of Energy ("DOE"); and

WHEREAS, carbon dioxide emissions from the transportation sector grew 25.4 percent between 1990 and 2006, an average of 1.4 percent each year, and transportation produces more metric tons of energy-related carbon dioxide than the residential and commercial sectors and almost as much as the industrial sector, according to the DOE; and

WHEREAS, increasing public transportation use is one of the most promising ways to reduce petroleum consumption and carbon dioxide emissions; and

WHEREAS, direct petroleum savings attributable to current public transportation use in the United States is 1.4 billion gallons per year, and when the secondary effects of transit availability on travel are also taken into account, public transportation saves the equivalent of 4.2 billion gallons of gasoline annually, more than 11 million gallons of gasoline per day; and

WHEREAS, public transportation use is also estimated to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 37 million metric tons annually; and

WHEREAS, when a solo commuter switches from a single occupancy vehicle to a transit commute, this single mode shift can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 20 pounds per day, more than 4,800 pounds in a year; and

WHEREAS, public transportation use is up 32 percent since 1995; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Americans took over 10.3 billion trips on public transportation, the highest level in 50 years; and

WHEREAS, as the average price of regular gasoline has reached $4 per gallon, even more commuters are choosing to take the bus or train to work rather than drive alone in their cars; and

WHEREAS, meeting the increasing demand for public transportation becomes all the more challenging as the cost of fuel for public transportation has risen sharply; and

WHEREAS, momentum is building in Congress to increase funding for public transportation as part of a comprehensive energy strategy; and

WHEREAS, on June 26, 2008, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the "Saving Energy Through Public Transportation Act of 2008", H.R. 6052, which included authorization for an additional $1.7 billion in transit funding; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 6052 authorizes $850 million each for fiscal years 2008 and 2009 to help transit systems cope with rising fuel costs and to promote public transportation ridership as a means of reducing domestic fuel consumption; and

WHEREAS, these funds could be used by transit agencies for operating or capital costs to expand services or reduce fares, to avoid fare increases or service cuts that would otherwise result from increased costs for fuel, or to meet additional transportation-related equipment or facility maintenance expenses caused by increased ridership; and

WHEREAS, funds would be distributed to local transit systems under the current local transit formulas; and

WHEREAS, the Senate has not yet taken up H.R. 6052, but the Senate Banking Committee has held hearings on how the federal government can strengthen mass transit options as a way to reduce dependence on imported oil,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board:

Section 1. Urges Congress to pass H.R. 6052 or similar legislation that provides additional funding for transit as a key part of the nation's overall energy strategy.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the members of the Florida Congressional Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the passage of the legislation set forth in Section 1 above, and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2008 and 2009 Federal Legislative Packages.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Dorrin D. Rolle. It was 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:

Bruno A. Barreiro, Chairman
Barbara J. Jordan, Vice-Chairwoman

Jose "Pepe" Diaz	Audrey M. Edmonson
Carlos A. Gimenez	Sally A. Heyman
Joe A. Martinez	Dennis C. Moss
Dorrin D. Rolle	Natacha Seijas
Katy Sorenson	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

The Chairman thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 20th day of November, 2008. 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. JMM

Jess M. McCarty