

Memorandum



Date: April 4, 2011

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

From: George M. Burgess
County Manager 

Subject: Resolution Authorizing Establishment of a Regional EASY Card Link-Up Product and Transfer Fare to the Miami-Dade Transit Schedule of Transit Fares, Rates and Charges for Patrons Transferring from South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA)/Tri-Rail into the Miami-Dade Transit System

Agenda Item No. 8(J)(1)(A)

This item was amended at the March 7, 2011 Regional Transportation Committee (RTC) meeting to change the effective date of this policy transfer from April 1, 2011 to May 1, 2011.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners (Board) establish a Regional EASY Card Link-Up Product and transfer fares for patrons transferring from South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA)/Tri-Rail into the Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) system by modifying the MDT Schedule of Transit Fares, Rates and Charges as shown in Attachment 1.

SCOPE

The approval of this fare policy has both a countywide and regional impact as various SFRTA riders from Broward and Palm Beach transferring into the MDT system transfer to Metrorail, Metrobus and Metromover, which provides service throughout Miami-Dade County (the County).

FISCAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE

There is no negative fiscal impact to the County. The approval of a transfer fare for SFRTA riders transferring into the MDT system is estimated to increase revenue by approximately \$2.688 million annually.

TRACK RECORD/MONITOR

This will be the first transfer policy establishing a fare for SFRTA customers transferring into Miami-Dade County since Tri-Rail's creation in 1989. The staff responsible for monitoring this item is Jose Rodriguez, Project Manager, EASY Card and Carlos de la Torre, Acting Chief, MDT Budget and Planning Division.

DELEGATED AUTHORITY

In accordance with Section 2-8.3 of the Miami-Dade County Code related to identifying delegation of Board authority, there are no authorities beyond that specified in the resolution.

BACKGROUND

In an effort to ease the disruptions created for commuters while the Department of Transportation (DOT) was six-laning I-95 in the mid-1980s, DOT purchased an 81-mile rail corridor from CSXT and began building a commuter train system. In 1989, the Legislature made the temporary commuter rail more permanent, passing the Tri-County Commuter Rail Authority Act as Part 1 of Chapter 343 of the Florida Statutes, providing commuter rail service to Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties.

On July 1, 2003, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 686, which replaced the "Tri-Rail" authority with the "South Florida Regional Transportation Authority." It has a nine-member board comprised of Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach County Commissioners, citizens appointed by the Governor, and a

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Secretary. Currently, it is supported by contributions of local tax revenues from the three member counties, along with federal and state transportation funds to finance capital projects.

Tri-Rail has 18 stations from Palm Beach to Miami-Dade County; six (6) stations in Palm Beach County, seven (7) stations in Broward County and five (5) stations in Miami-Dade County. The five (5) stations in Miami-Dade County include the Golden Glades, Opa-Locka, Tri-Rail/Metrorail Transfer, Hialeah Market and Miami Airport stations.

Current Transfer Policy

Since 1989, SFRTA customers have enjoyed a fare-free transfer into MDT's system with any valid SFRTA ticket from the SFRTA stations located within the County. Since 2004, an informal transfer policy has been included and approved as part of an annual interlocal agreement between SFRTA and Miami-Dade County to take receipt of SFRTA's subsidy to the County for feeder bus service in the amount of approximately \$666,000 which funds the Routes 132 and 133. Route 132 goes from the Hialeah Marketplace Tri-Rail station to Doral via 36th Street. Route 133 goes from the Tri-Rail Airport Station to the Airport terminal. Both feeder routes account for more than 12,000 boardings per month and are fare-free. Overall, an average of 20,000 riders per month transfer into MDT from Tri-Rail system-wide. Conversely, SFRTA honors Miami-Dade County transit riders transferring into Tri-Rail by allowing them to purchase an SFRTA ticket at a discounted rate of \$1.75 at any of the five (5) Tri-Rail stations in Miami-Dade County.

Broward County Transit (BCT) began charging a transfer fee of \$0.50 last year with the Tri-Rail ticket but had previously allowed fare-free transfers into their feeder routes. Palm Beach County's Palm Tran remains fare-free and both BCT and Palm Tran receive the \$666,000 subsidy from SFRTA for bus feeder service. SFRTA also allows BCT and Palm Tran riders to purchase SFRTA tickets at discounted rates which are based on the agencies base fare.

Back Office Agreement

SFRTA is in the process of installing its new fare collection system. Cubic Transportation Systems, Inc. was selected by the SFRTA Board as their vendor. As you may recall, on January 21, 2010, the Board approved an Interlocal Agreement between Miami-Dade County and the SFRTA for the provision of clearinghouse services for SFRTA's back office needs. SFRTA agreed to pay MDT up to \$270,000 annually for these clearinghouse services. The primary role of the clearinghouse will be to allow the County to process transactions in the payment system on behalf of the SFRTA. Additionally, once SFRTA completes the installation of their new fare collection system, their passengers will have the capability of using the EASY Card as a method of cashless fare collection on SFRTA's fixed-route service and allow patrons to travel seamlessly between MDT and SFRTA's systems. SFRTA estimates completing the installation of their new fare equipment by February 2011 and going live to the public in March 2011. For the last several months, MDT and SFRTA have been working diligently with Cubic to ensure interoperability of the two systems.

Fare Elasticity

MDT performed a fare elasticity analysis to estimate the number of riders who may elect to leave the system due to the introduction of a transfer fare. Fare elasticity is how economists measure the tradeoffs customers make based on increased costs. MDT reviewed several elasticity models in an attempt to relate the most appropriate elasticity assumption to the proposed new transfer fare policy and used a common model based on data provided by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). The model assumes that for every 10% increase in a given fare rate for any transit mode, there results a corresponding 3.6% decrease in ridership. The corresponding elasticity value of -0.36 falls within a range typical of transit applications. It is important to note that elasticity is not an exact science and that the resulting ridership losses outlined in Table 1 below are approximations; this is a short-term elasticity and MDT will continue to monitor the impacts for the long-term.

Transfer Fare Policy Recommendation

Table 1 provides a view of the recommended fare policy, corresponding estimated loss in ridership, and estimated revenue to the department. The revenue and ridership estimates were developed using actual fare gate information from MDT's EASY Card system. The recommendations below have been incorporated in Attachment 1 – Transit Schedule of Transit Fares, Rates and Charges.

Table 1 – Transfer Fare Policy Recommendation						
	Fare Product/Policy	Cost	Current Policy	Current Ridership (Oct 2010)	With Elasticity	Estimated Annual Revenue
A.	Regional EASY Card Link-up Product	\$40.00 Per month	Fare-Free	5,060 Passes issued Per month	4,300	2,064,000
A.1	Discount for qualified riders: Regional EASY Card Link-up Product	\$20.00 Per month	Fare-Free	770 Passes issued Per month	600	144,000
Regional EASY Card Link-up Product Subtotal:						\$2,208,000
B.	Transfer fare for daily riders transferring from Tri-Rail to Metrorail without regional EASY Card link-up product	\$1.00 Per transfer	Fare-Free	9,000 Per month	7,600	\$274,000
B.1	Discount for qualified riders: Transfer fare for daily riders transferring from Tri-Rail to Metrorail without regional EASY Card link-up product	\$0.50 Per transfer	Fare-Free	4,000 Per month	3,300	\$59,000
Tri-Rail to Metrorail Transfer Fare Subtotal:						\$333,000
C.	Transfer fare for daily riders transferring from Tri-Rail to connecting bus routes in Miami-Dade County without regional EASY Card link-up product	\$0.50 Per transfer	Fare-Free	4,000 Per month	3,400	\$102,000
C.1	Discount for qualified riders: Transfer fare for daily riders transferring from Tri-Rail to connecting bus routes in Miami-Dade County without regional EASY Card link-up product	\$0.25 Per transfer	Fare-Free	2,000 Per month	1,700	\$26,000
Tri-Rail to Metrobus Transfer Fare Subtotal:						\$128,000
D.	Transfer fare for daily riders transferring from Tri-Rail to connecting Express bus routes in Miami-Dade County	\$0.85 Per transfer	\$2.35	400 Per month	400	\$15,000
D.1	Discount for qualified riders: Transfer fare for daily riders transferring from Tri-Rail to connecting Express bus routes in Miami-Dade County	\$0.40 Per transfer	\$1.15	200 Per month	200	\$4,000
Tri-Rail to Express Bus Transfer Fare Subtotal:						\$19,000
Total:						\$2,688,000

A. Regional EASY Card Link-Up Product

The regional EASY Card link-up product will be available for sale at all Tri-Rail stations, MDT's Kiosk at the Stephen P. Clark Center and online. The regional EASY Card link-up product will only be eligible to passengers that purchase a monthly EASY Card either from MDT or SFRTA. SFRTA and MDT currently sell their respective monthly passes for \$100.00. Therefore, the full cost of a regional EASY

Card will be \$140.00 per customer, which includes the \$40 link-up fee which will provide unlimited travel between the two systems for one month.

The agency which sells the regional EASY Card link-up product will retain the \$100.00 and the link-up fee of \$40 will go to the other agency. Currently, the majority of ridership between the two systems originates from SFRTA into MDT's system. Tri-Rail sells approximately 1,160 full fare monthly passes at \$100.00 per month and 3,900 corporate passes at \$75.00 per month. These passes are sold to passengers who use both Tri-Rail and MDT systems. It is anticipated that these passengers will continue to purchase their monthly pass from Tri-Rail and will add the \$40.00 regional link-up EASY Card product to their monthly purchase. In this case, the \$100 and \$75.00 monthly fares will continue to be received by SFRTA and the \$40 link-up will go to MDT. However, if passengers elect to purchase their regional EASY Card from MDT, MDT will retain the \$100.00 and SFRTA will receive the \$40 link-up fee. Currently, MDT only sells an average of 15 monthly Tri-Rail passes per month. Those passengers who qualify for a discounted rate for both systems will still receive the corresponding discount for the new transfer fare products as specified in Attachment 1.

Based on monthly pass purchases and the assigned elasticity assumption, MDT is estimated to generate approximately \$2,208,000 annually from the new regional fare product.

B. Transfer fare from Tri-Rail to Tri-Rail/Metrorail Transfer Station (rail to rail)

Currently, all Tri-Rail patrons transfer from Tri-Rail to Metrorail at the Tri-Rail Transfer Station free with a valid daily or weekly Tri-Rail ticket. It is recommended that a transfer fare be established for daily transfers from Tri-Rail to Metrorail.

There are approximately 13,000 daily Tri-Rail passengers transferring to MDT at the Tri-Rail/Metrorail Transfer Station on a monthly basis without a monthly pass. Tri-Rail customers who choose not to purchase the regional monthly EASY Card link-up product will still be able to transfer into MDT using cash value stored on their EASY Card. The customer would simply disembark from Tri-Rail and tap the fare gate reader at the Tri-Rail/Metrorail Transfer Station and \$1.00 will be deducted from the cash value stored on their EASY Card. The \$1.00 transfer fare will go exclusively to MDT. The customers return trip will be the full fare of \$2.00. Therefore, a round trip which today would be free, will now cost an SFRTA commuter \$3.00. As stated earlier, all passengers eligible for a discount will pay half-fare.

The transfer from SFRTA to MDT at the Tri-Rail/Metrorail Transfer Station must occur within 3 hours, consistent with MDT's current fare policy. Based on the ridership and the assigned elasticity assumption, MDT is estimated to generate approximately \$333,000 annually from this new transfer fare.

C. and D. Transfer fare from Tri-Rail to connecting Miami-Dade Transit bus routes (rail to bus)

Currently, all Tri-Rail patrons transfer free to connecting Miami-Dade bus routes at any of the five (5) Tri-Rail stations in Miami-Dade County. It is recommended that a transfer fare be established of \$0.50 for daily transfers from Tri-Rail to connecting local bus routes and \$0.85 for connecting express bus routes in Miami-Dade County. These fares are consistent with MDT's fare policy for Miami-Dade passengers transferring from rail (Metrorail) to bus (Metrobus). Additionally, the \$0.50 transfer fare is consistent with Broward and Palm Beach County transit systems transfer policies.

Again, for Tri-Rail customers who choose not to purchase the regional EASY Card link-up product will be able to transfer to MDT buses using cash value stored on their EASY Card. There are approximately 6,500 daily SFRTA passengers transferring from the five (5) Tri-Rail stations in Miami-Dade County to approximately 10 connecting bus routes. The customer would simply disembark from Tri-Rail and tap the farebox reader on the connecting bus and \$0.50 will be deducted from the cash value stored on their EASY Card. The \$0.50 transfer fare will go exclusively to MDT. The customer's return trip will be the full fare of \$2.00. Therefore, a round trip which today would be free, will now cost

a Tri-Rail commuter \$2.50. The transfer from SFRTA to any of the authorized connecting bus routes must occur within 3 hours, consistent with MDT's current fare policy. For express buses, of which there are two (2) routes that connect with Tri-Rail Stations (Route 95 and I-95 Broward – Dade Express), the transfer fare will be \$0.85. The additional \$0.35 is the upgrade for the express bus route whose fare is \$2.35. As stated earlier, all passengers eligible for a discount will pay half-fare. Based on the ridership and the assigned elasticity assumption, MDT is estimated to generate approximately \$147,000 annually from this new transfer fare.

The Regional EASY Card link-up product and the individual transfer fares will be subject to the current fare policy provision which allows for the fares to automatically increase every three (3) years based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This provision became effective on October 1, 2008, and the next scheduled fare increase based on CPI will become effective October 1, 2011.

Miami-Dade Transit customers transferring into Tri-Rail

There are approximately 2,500 trips monthly originating from the five (5) Tri-Rail stations in Miami-Dade County. SFRTA currently provides a \$1.75 discount off the Miami-Dade customer's trip. SFRTA's fare structure is set-up in six (6) distinct zones. For example, if a rider originating from Miami-Dade County wants to travel one-way through Zone 1, which takes a rider from Miami Airport Tri-Rail station to the Golden Glades Tri-Rail Station (5 stations), the fare is \$2.50. With the discount, the Miami-Dade rider pays \$0.75. If a rider wants to travel the full length of the Tri Rail system one-way, which takes a rider from Miami Airport Tri-Rail Station to Mangonia Park Tri-Rail Station in Palm Beach (travel through all six zones – 17 stations) the fare is \$6.90, and the Miami-Dade rider discounted fare would be \$5.15. All Tri-Rail zones and corresponding fares are shown in Attachment 2. SFRTA has agreed to increase the discount to Miami-Dade riders from \$1.75 to \$2.00 should the Board adopt the recommended transfer policy. The proposed discount effectively reimburses the Miami-Dade rider their fare for one trip using MDT.

Corporate Discount Program (CDP)

MDT and SFRTA both offer corporate discount programs to local employers. SFRTA's CDP has 786 employers and over 3,900 cardholders. SFRTA's offers CDP members their monthly pass at a discounted rate of \$75.00. Therefore, SFRTA CDP members will be able to purchase the link-up product for \$40.00 for a total cost of \$115.00.

MDT CDP includes 197 companies with over 10,000 cardholders. Nearly all MDT CDP members live and work in Miami-Dade County. MDT offers employees of participating South Florida businesses up to a 15% discount on the \$100 monthly pass. Based on purchase trends, it is likely that the majority of regional EASY Cards will be continued to be sold by SFRTA. MDT will retain the \$40.00 link-up product, while SFRTA retain the \$75.00 fee.

If a CDP member from either County elects not to purchase the regional EASY Card link-up product, stored cash value can also be placed on any EASY Card which would allow for a daily transfer at any of the five (5) Tri-Rail stations in Miami-Dade County.

This transfer fare policy will take effect the first day the system goes live to the public on or about May 1, 2011. Also, following approval of this new transfer fare policy, MDT and SFRTA will commence an aggressive outreach campaign to its riders on the impending fare policy changes, offering user and instructional information on the functionality of the new transfer policy and SFRTA's new automated fare collection system.


Assistant County Manager



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: April 4, 2011

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 8(J)(1)(A)

Please note any items checked.

- "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
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing
- No committee review
- Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____) to approve
- Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 8(J)(1)(A)
4-4-11

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL EASY CARD LINK-UP PRODUCT AND TRANSFER FARE FOR PATRONS TRANSFERRING FROM THE SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (SFRTA)/TRI-RAIL INTO THE MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT (MDT) SYSTEM AND INCORPORATING SAID FARES INTO THE MDT SCHEDULE OF TRANSIT FARES, RATES AND CHARGES

WHEREAS, this Board desires to accomplish the purposes outlined in the accompanying memorandum, a copy of which is incorporated herein by reference,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board approves the establishment of a Regional EASY Card Link-Up Product and transfer fare for the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA)/Tri-Rail patrons transferring into the Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) system, and incorporating said fares into the MDT Schedule of Transit Fares, Rates and Charges, as outlined in the attached County Manager's Memorandum.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____ and upon being put to vote, the vote was as follows:

Joe A. Martinez, Chairman	
Audrey M. Edmonson, Vice Chairwoman	
Bruno A. Barreiro	Lynda Bell
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	Carlos A. Gimenez
Sally A. Heyman	Barbara J. Jordan
Jean Monestime	Dennis C. Moss
Rebeca Sosa	Sen. Javier D. Souto

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 4th day of April, 2011. 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

ATTACHMENT 1

MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT (MDT)
SCHEDULE OF TRANSIT FARES, RATES AND CHARGES

I. Cash Fares⁽¹⁾

	Mode	Base Fare	Discount Fare ⁽²⁾	Miami-Dade County Senior Citizens ⁽³⁾
A.	Metrobus or Metrorail	\$2	\$1	Free
B.	Metromover	Free	Free	Free
C.	Metrobus Express/Special (i.e., 95, 34 Busway Flyer, Dade-Monroe)	\$2.35	\$1.15	Free
D.	Metrobus Shuttle (i.e., South Beach Local)	\$0.25	\$0.10	Free
E.	Transfer from Metrobus to Metrorail, or Metrorail to Metrobus**	\$0.50	\$0.25	N/A
F.	Transfer from Metrobus to Metrobus	Free	Free	Free
G.	Transfer from Metrobus to Metromover	Free	Free	Free
H.	Transfer from Metromover to Bus	\$2	\$1	Free
I.	Transfer from Metrorail to Metromover	Free	Free	Free
J.	Transfer from Metromover to Metrorail	\$2	\$1	Free
K.	Transfer from Metrobus to Metrobus Express/Special**	\$.85	\$0.40	Free
L.	Parking Fee-Daily Maximum	\$4	\$4	\$4
M.	Monthly Parking Fee-Special Events and Non-transit Patrons Daily Maximum	\$10*	N/A	N/A

* The Golden Passport and Patriot Passport holders are entitled to purchase a monthly parking permit. The discounted fare patrons must purchase a discount monthly pass in order for them to buy a monthly parking permit.

** Transfers are only available with the EASY Card or EASY Ticket.

II. Special Transportation Services (STS) Fare: \$3.00

MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT (MDT)
 SCHEDULE OF TRANSIT FARES, RATES AND CHARGES
 PAGE 2

III. South Florida Regional Transportation Authority Link-Up Fare Product Fees⁽⁴⁾

	Fare Product	Base Fare	Discount Fare⁴
A.	Regional EASY Card Link-Up Product	\$40.00/per month	\$20.00/per month
B.	<u>Transfer for Daily Riders Transferring from Tri-Rail to Metrorail Without Regional EASY Card</u>	\$1.00/per transfer	\$0.50/per transfer
C.	<u>Transfer for Daily Riders Transferring from Tri-Rail to Connecting Bus Routes in Miami-Dade County Without Regional EASY Card</u>	\$0.50/per transfer	\$0.25/per transfer
D.	<u>Transfer Fare for Daily Riders Transferring from Tri-Rail to Connecting Express Bus Routes in Miami-Dade County</u>	\$0.85/per transfer	\$0.40/per transfer

IV. Prepaid Passes⁽⁶⁾

A.	Monthly Transit Pass ⁽⁵⁾	\$100.00
B.	Discount Transit Passes ⁽²⁾	\$50.00
C.	Monthly Group Discount – 4 to 99 passes ⁽⁷⁾	\$90.00
D.	Monthly Group Discount – 100 or more passes ⁽⁷⁾	\$85.00
E.	Monthly College/Adult Education Pass ⁽⁸⁾	\$50.00
F.	Monthly Parking Permit ⁽⁹⁾	\$10.00
G.	Weekly Transit Pass	\$26.00
H.	Discount Weekly Transit Pass ⁽²⁾	\$13.00
I.	Daily Transit Pass	\$5.00
J.	Discount Daily Transit Pass ⁽²⁾	\$2.50

V. EASY Card/EASY Ticket Fee

EASY Card	\$ 2.00
EASY Ticket	Free

VI. MDT may establish other rates based on costs; promotional discounts may be authorized by the Miami-Dade Transit Director as limited by Section 2-150 (c) of the Miami-Dade County Code.

VII. All of the above rates, fares, and charges shall automatically be adjusted every three years, without the need for any further action by the Board of County Commissioners (R-924-08), in accordance with the average rate of the Consumer Price Index for Miami-Dade Transit for the preceding three years. Any adjustments in rates, fares, or charges made pursuant to this provision shall be rounded to the nearest five cent increment.

Footnotes:

¹ Under certain circumstances, lower fares may be charged on public bus transit service development and transit corridor projects if they comply with provisions of Florida Statutes, Section 341.052(2)(b).

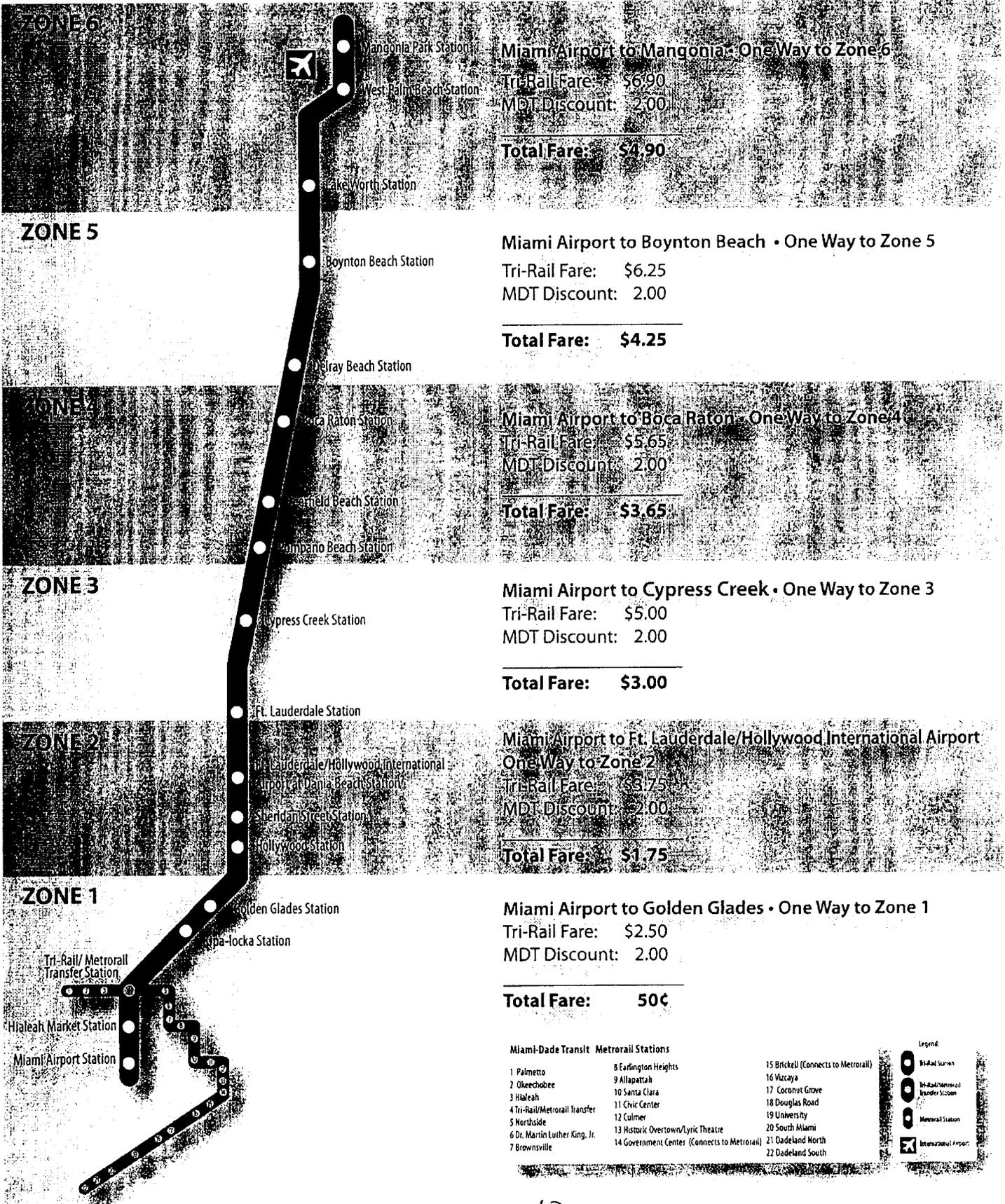
MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT (MDT)
SCHEDULE OF TRANSIT FARES, RATES AND CHARGES
PAGE 3

- 2 Applicable at all times on Metrobus and Metrorail when using the Easy Card. Those patrons entitled to discounted fares are: a) youth through grade 12 with proper student identification; b) persons with disabilities, as defined by MDT rules and with an Easy Card and; c) seniors 65 and above who do not have a Golden Passport, but have a Medicare card (not Medicaid), Easy Card or government-issued photo identification showing age 65 or above.
- 3 Applicable at all times to permanent Miami-Dade County citizens age 65 and above who are registered Golden Passport holders and display a valid Golden Passport. Replacement of a Golden Passport costs \$10. Fees are waived when a police report listing the Golden Passport as stolen is submitted. Misuse of a Golden Passport will result in forfeiture of its use for one (1) year.
- 4 To be eligible for the \$40 Regional EASY Card Link-up fare product, one must also either purchase the Monthly Transit Pass or an SFRTA Monthly Pass. In order to receive a discounted Regional EASY Card, eligible patrons must purchase a Discount Monthly Transit Pass. In Miami-Dade County, those patrons entitled to discounted fares are: a) youth through grade 12 with proper student identification; b) persons with disabilities, as defined by MDT rules and with an Easy Card and; c) seniors 65 and above are eligible to receive a Golden Passport EASY Card to ride Metrorail and Metrobus fare-free. These rider classes are also eligible to purchase the Regional EASY Card for \$20 which will be added to their EASY CARD or free Golden Passport EASY Card for unlimited trips on Tri-Rail for an entire month.
- 5 Promotional discounts may be authorized by the Miami-Dade Transit Director as limited by Section 2-150(c) of the Miami-Dade County Code.
- 6 MDT may issue other prepaid media with price and rules determined from other portions of this rate schedule.
- 7 As restricted by Ordinance 86-45.
- 8 Sold only in bulk quantities to participating colleges, universities, or vocational/technical education centers for individual sale to full-time students only, as restricted by Ordinance 88-83.
- 9 Available only when purchased in combination with a monthly pass except for a Patriot Passport, Golden Passport and MDT employees who may purchase monthly parking permits without purchase of monthly pass.

~~October 2009~~ February 2011

TRI-RAIL SYSTEM MAP BY ZONES

Examples of fares and discounts for Miami-Dade riders



12

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION AUDITOR**



Legislative Notes

Agenda Item: 8(J)1(A)
File Number: 110566
**Committee(s)
of Reference:** Board of County Commissioners
Date of Analysis: March 21, 2011
Type of Item: Resolution

Summary

This item will allow Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) to create and issue a Regional EASY Card Link-Up product which will allow patrons access to the Tri-Rail, the commuter train operated by the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA). This regional fare card will be compatible with the current fare card technology which is in use by MDT.

This item was amended by the Regional Transportation Committee to reflect May 1, 2011 as the effective date of the transfer fare collection policy, rather than April 1, 2011, as requested by Mr. Joseph Giulietti, Executive Director of the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority/Tri-Rail.

Background and Relevant Legislation

This will mark the first transfer policy setting a fair for SFRTA customers transferring to the MDT system since Tri-Rail was opened in 1989. In 2004, the County entered into an informal interlocal agreement with SFRTA in which the Authority would pay the County yearly for the provision of Bus Feeder Services from the Tri-Rail stations in Miami-Dade County. According to R-975-10, the funding amount to the County from SFRTA was \$666,666. This agreement effectively allows SFRTA riders to transfer on to County buses for free.

According to the proposed item, SFRTA patrons and MDT patrons wishing to transfer between the Tri-Rail and Metrorail will purchase EASY Cards for \$100 (which is the current monthly rate for an EASY card), plus a new \$40 link-up fee. The total costs to patrons under this new program: \$140 per month for a monthly EASY card with unlimited travel between MDT and SFRTA for a month. For those customers who do not purchase the regional monthly EASY card, a transfer between the two rail lines will cost \$1.00 one-way, and a return trip on Tri-Rail will cost \$2.00.

The Manager's Memo also details proposed changes to the current free transfer policy for patrons transferring between Tri-Rail and MDT bus routes. A Tri-Rail to MDT bus transfer will cost) \$0.50. That same customer's return trip would cost the full bus fare of \$2.00. The transfer fare for express buses will be \$0.85

Budgetary Impact

According to the Manager's Memo, the proposed regional EASY-card is expected to generate \$2,688,000 for MDT in the first full year of operation.

Note: The County will implement a fare increase based on the CPI, on October 1, 2011.

Prepared by: Jason T. Smith