Memorandum

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

TAC
Agenda Item No. 7(C)
July 10, 2013

Date: July 9, 2013

To: Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss and Members
Transportation and Aviation Committee

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

Subject: Report: Miami-Dade Bus Fleet Cleaning Management Program and Plan of Action

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This report is provided pursuant to your request at our April 22, 2013 meeting, for an update on the Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) bus fleet, information on the pest control and cleaning programs and corrective measures which have been implemented.

Bus Fleet

Metrobus operates approximately 29 million annual revenue service miles and provides service throughout Miami-Dade County and parts of Monroe and Broward counties on over 90 routes. MDT's total bus fleet of 822 buses includes 715 full size (40 foot buses), 25 articulated (62 foot buses), 78 mini (30 foot buses) and 4 contingency fleet buses.

With a bus fleet in excess of 800 vehicles, and a bus replacement plan which procures buses on a systematic but limited basis, the condition of the fleet varies. As of March 2013, the average fleet age is approximately 8.8 years; 181 buses are 13-14 years and a small portion of the fleet (43) is roughly 2 years. MDT's average bus fleet age has increased in recent years primarily due to budgetary constraints, which is due to debt service payments and funding for capital improvements (i.e., Airport Link). While the older fleet is in need of more interior and exterior repairs than the newer buses, it is important to note that the overall mechanical condition of the MDT bus fleet is safe to operate.

Bus Cleaning/Anti-Litter Campaign

As part of MDT Bus Operations, daily pre and post-trip inspections are performed before placing a bus into service and when returning the bus back to the garage at the end of each shift. Bus interiors are also cleaned during the nightly fueling/servicing operation and scheduled for extensive and more detailed cleaning by a contractor on regular cycles. Currently, buses are deep cleaned by our contractor once per month or approximately 20 buses per night, per garage. In previous years, prior to budgetary challenges, as many as 120 buses per night, per garage were cleaned. Staff currently performs quality checks of each vehicle to ensure that the contracted work has been properly executed. If any bus is not cleaned to the standard established by MDT, the bus must be re-cleaned. Respect of Florida (Goodwill Industries) is the current vendor and the annual allocation for bus cleaning is $1,156,000.

Although extensive cleaning is conducted both by MDT and the contracted vendor, the department is continually challenged by on-board consumption of food and drink and the debris generated as a result. An anti-litter public information and awareness campaign was implemented in 2012 and sought the assistance of passengers in maintaining vehicle cleanliness and reminding riders of our "no food/no drink" policy. It featured posters displayed on all transit vehicles, including the buses; samples of which are attached as a reference.

Pest Control
MDT has a regularly scheduled pest treatment program for the bus fleet. TORO Pest Management is the current vendor and the annual budgeted allocation under this contract is $160,000. Presently, buses are treated once per month or more frequently if a problem is identified. Due to the persistence of the pest problem, the department has been forced to increase the allocation for pest control in recent years. In addition, restrictions associated with the type of commercial pest control products which can be used and the general environment within which MDT buses operate, have also contributed to a persistent insect problem.

In addition to the above, the corrective measures detailed below have also been implemented or re-promulgated to the field in an effort to improve the appearance and cleanliness of the fleet and mitigate the insect issue:

Corrective Actions Already Implemented:
The following process improvements have been implemented by Bus Operations administration.

- Cleanliness/Appearance—
    1. Bus Operators have been reminded to maintain the cleanliness of their vehicles by also removing debris (newspapers and loose trash) from their buses at the end of their shift and adhering to food/beverage policies.
    2. Upon return to the garages, Supervisors have been instructed to perform random bus checks to ensure that the buses are free of debris.
    3. Instructors have also covered these areas in mandatory instructional training classes.

- Seat Insert Replacements—
    1. Discontinued the procurement of fabric covered seat inserts and began using easier to clean fiberglass seat insert bottoms and backs. Based on the current budget, 29 buses will be completed this fiscal year.

- Pest Control—
    1. Assigned staff (spotters) to work more closely with the pest control vendor to troubleshoot the treatment of vehicles.
    2. Treated all buses with pesticide at least twice in the past 3 months. Additional treatments will be performed whenever there is an indication of new insects.
    3. Directed management staff (at all levels) to inspect the buses and report on any issues.

While the department recognizes that the cleanliness of transit vehicles impacts a customer's travel experience, an aging fleet, fuel/oil expenses, fluctuating material costs, and decreasing federal grants that support transit capital programs, all pose on-going challenges to current operating budgets. Unfortunately, these fiscal realities experienced for the last several years, which are being felt by transit properties nationwide, have forced MDT to prioritize projects based on funding availability. However, the department will continue to actively address these issues with all available resources.

Attachment

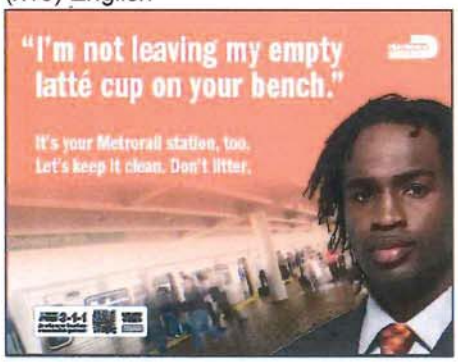
c: Alina T. Hudak, Deputy Mayor
Ysela Llort, Director, Miami-Dade Transit

Miami-Dade Transit:
"Lets Keep It Clean" Anti-Littering Campaign

Phase 1: Systemwide – Launched April 2012

(22) BENCH WINDSCREENS

(x15) English

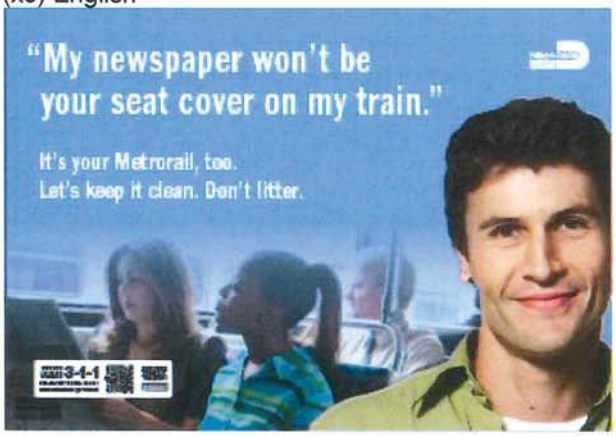


(x5) Spanish

(x2) Creole

(10) BACKLIT DIORAMAS

(x6) English



(x3) Spanish

(x1) Creole

• (x65) Interior Rail Posters (22" x 23")

(x40) English

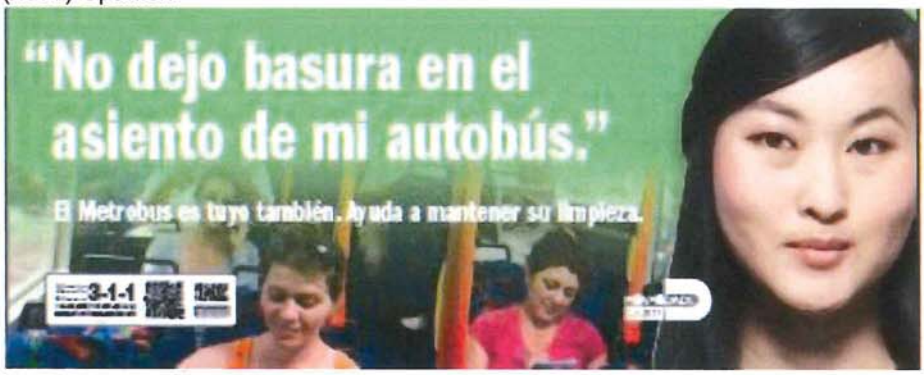
(x18) Spanish

(x7) Creole

• (x900) Interior Bus Posters (28" x 11")

(x500) English

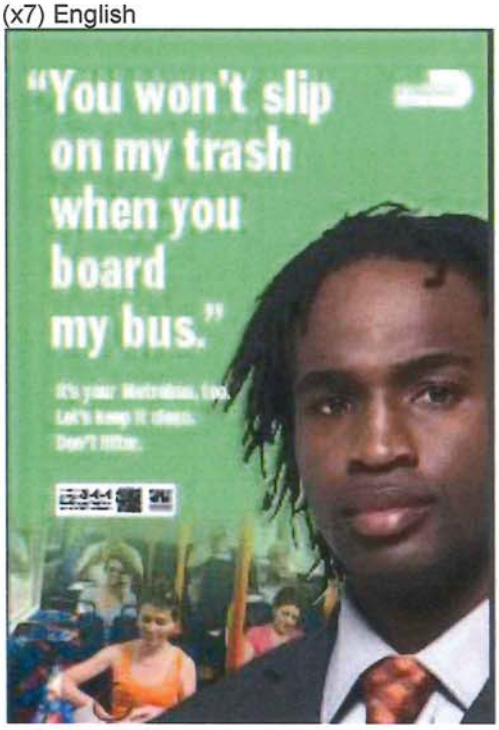
(x300) Spanish



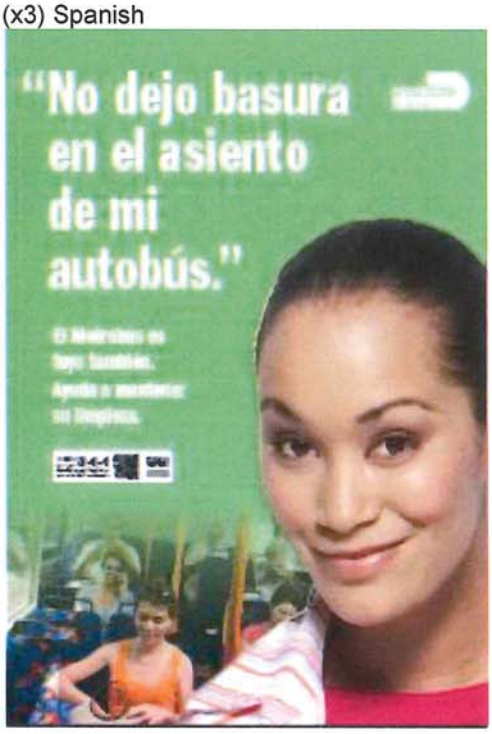
(X100) Creole

• (x10) Bus Shelter Posters

(x7) English

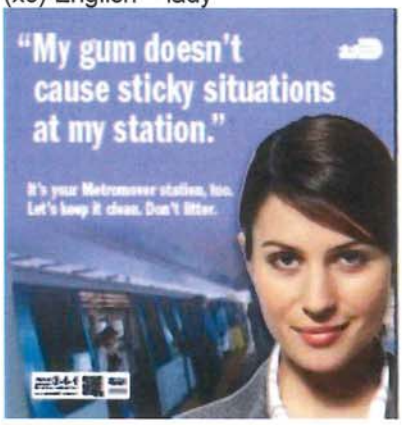


(x3) Spanish

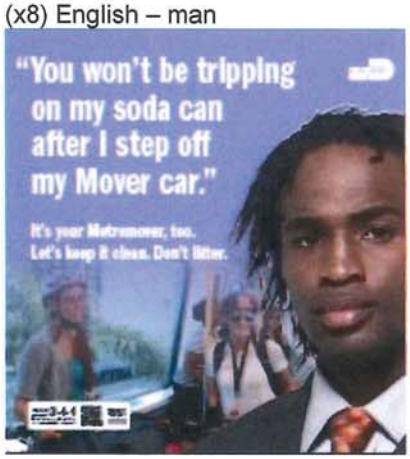


(x20) 21" x 22" cards to be posted at Metromover stations/entrances

(x8) English – lady



(x8) English – man

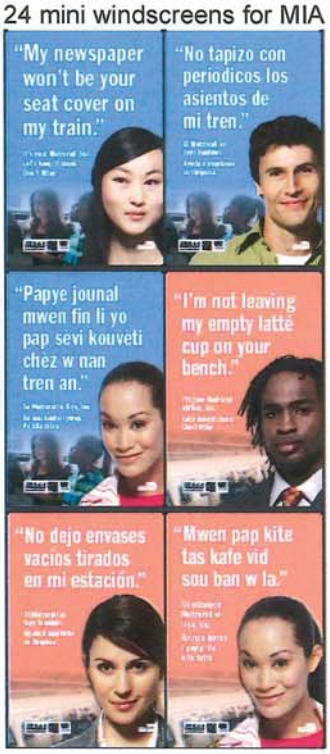


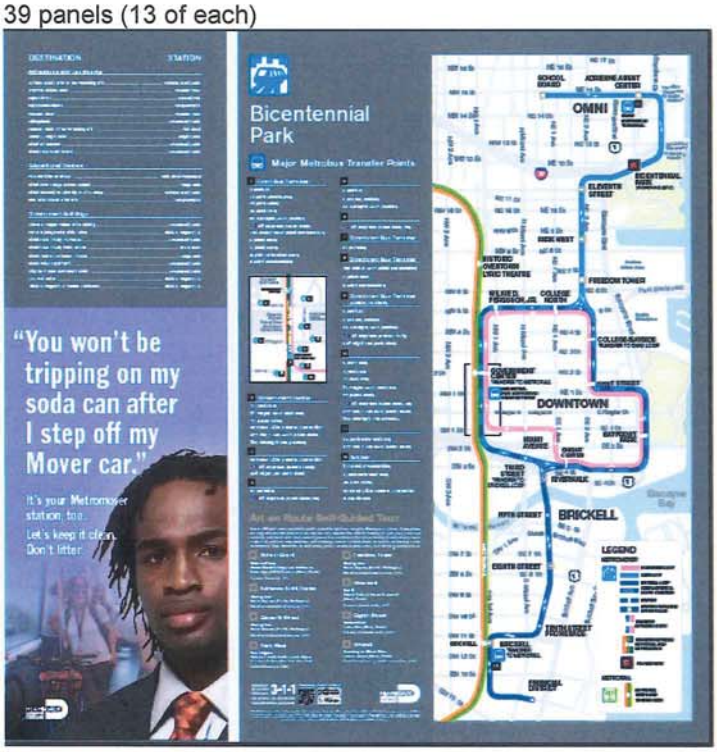
(x4) Spanish

Phase 2: at MIA and Earlington Heights, launched July 2012

12 mini windscreens for Earlington Heights Bus Bays (2 of each)

24 mini windscreens for MIA (4 of each)



Phase 3: at Metromover Platform Map directories, launched February 2013

39 panels (13 of each)