



**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
FINAL OFFICIAL MINUTES
Transit Committee (TC)
Workshop**

Board of County Commissioners
Stephen P. Clark Government Center
111 N.W. 1st Street
Miami, Florida 33128

Wednesday, May 7, 2008
As Advertised

Harvey Ruvlin, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners

Kay Sullivan, Director
Clerk of the Board Division

Alicia Stephenson, Commission Reporter, (305) 375-1475.





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Government Center
111 N.W. 1st Street
Miami, FL 33128

FINAL OFFICIAL Meeting Minutes Transit Committee

Dorrin D. Rolle (2) Chair; Barbara J. Jordan (1) Vice Chair; Commissioners Audrey M. Edmonson (3), Sally A. Heyman (4), and Katy Sorenson (8)

WORKSHOP

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

10:00 AM

COMMISSION CHAMBERS

Members Present: Audrey M. Edmonson, Barbara J. Jordan, Dorrin Rolle.

Members Absent: Sally A. Heyman, Katy Sorenson.

Members Late: None.

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent County Business: None.

1A INVOCATION

Report: *The Committee convened in a moment of silent meditation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.*

1B PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1C ROLL CALL

Report: *The following staff members were present: Assistant County Manager Ysela Llort, Assistant County Attorney Bruce Libhaber, and Deputy Clerk Alicia Stephenson.*

2 CHAIRMAN ROLLE'S REMARK(S)

Report: *Chairman Rolle noted that Miami-Dade Transit had an over \$16 million deficit, which may be increasing, and the Federal Transit Administration had mandated that the County improve the low rating on the North Corridor Metrorail Extension project. Chairman Rolle noted the purpose of today's workshop was to develop strategies to generate funding for Miami-Dade Transit. He added that this workshop was not final; that the intent was to begin considering efforts that could capture increasing costs, especially fuel, fleet, operations, and maintenance.*

3 DEPARTMENTS

3A

081002 Resolution Dorrin D. Rolle

RESOLUTION MODIFYING THE SCHEDULE OF TRANSIT FARES, RATES AND CHARGES BY INCREASING THE FARES BY FIFTY CENTS FOR METROBUS, METRORAIL AND SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES; DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO UTILIZE THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) AS AN OPERATING OBJECTIVE FOR MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT SERVICE; AND REQUESTING THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) AND THE CITIZENS' INDEPENDENT TRANSPORTATION TRUST (CITT) SUBMIT WITHIN SIXTY (60) DAYS A METHODOLOGY FOR FUTURE FARE ADJUSTMENTS THAT OPTIMIZES REVENUES AND TRANSIT RIDERSHIP FOR THE NEXT TWENTY (20) YEARS

Deferred to next committee meeting

Report: *The Committee deferred this proposed resolution for consideration at its meeting scheduled for May 14, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.*

See report under Agenda Item No. 4A (Legislative File No. 081448)

3B

080999 Resolution Barbara J. Jordan

RESOLUTION MODIFYING THE SCHEDULE OF TRANSIT FARES, RATES AND CHARGES BY INCREASING THE FARES BY FIFTY CENTS FOR METROBUS, METRORAIL AND SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AND BY ESTABLISHING AUTOMATIC FARE ADJUSTMENTS EVERY THREE YEARS CONSISTENT WITH MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT'S OPERATING COST INDEX (OCI)

Deferred to next committee meeting

Report: *The Committee deferred this proposed resolution for consideration at its meeting scheduled for May 14, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.*

See report under Agenda Item No. 4A (Legislative File No. 081448)

3C

080979 Resolution**Barbara J. Jordan**

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DISTANCE BASED AND/OR PEAK/NON-PEAK TRANSIT FARE RATES AND DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SUBMIT WITHIN SIXTY (60) DAYS A PLAN TO IMPLEMENT A DISTANCE BASED AND/OR PEAK/NON-PEAK TRANSIT STRUCTURE

Deferred to next committee meeting

Report: *The Committee deferred this proposed resolution for consideration at its meeting scheduled for May 14, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.*

See report under Agenda Item No. 4A (Legislative File No. 081448)

3D

080994 Resolution**Barbara J. Jordan**

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF RESTORING TWO CENTS TO THE 1993 FIVE CENTS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS LOCAL OPTION GAS TAX LEVIED ON MOTOR FUEL

Deferred to next committee meeting

Report: *The Committee deferred this proposed resolution for consideration at its meeting scheduled for May 14, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.*

See report under Agenda Item No. 4A (Legislative File No. 081448)

3E

081005 Resolution**Dorrin D. Rolle**

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO REVIEW ALL AVAILABLE FUNDING SOURCES FOR THE NORTH CORRIDOR AS WELL AS THE OTHER COMPONENTS OF THE ORANGE LINE AND TO PREPARE A FINANCIAL PLAN THAT ADEQUATELY ADDRESSES THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FEDERAL NEW STARTS PROJECTS ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND THE OPERATING, MAINTENANCE, AND CAPITAL NEEDS OF MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT FOR THE NEXT TWENTY YEARS

Deferred to next committee meeting

Report: *The Committee deferred this proposed resolution for consideration at its meeting scheduled for May 14, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.*

See report under Agenda Item No. 4A (Legislative File No. 081448)

4 REPORTS

4A

081448 Report

ORAL REPORT: MDT FARE POLICY ANALYSIS
(ITEM TO BE DISTRIBUTED DURING THE MEETING)
(County Manager)

Presented

Report: *Hearing no objection, the Committee considered Agenda Items 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 3E, and 4A simultaneously.*

Assistant County Manager Ysela Llord noted that the Transit Committee had led the process of considering options for raising revenues for Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) in terms of MDT's annual budget and as related to a firm financial foundation for expansion of the Orange Line. She also noted that a PowerPoint presentation was prepared regarding assumptions behind revenue figures, initiatives submitted by Chairman Rolle and Vice Chairwoman Jordan, and information regarding some issues previously discussed by the Committee.

Additionally, Assistant County Manager Llord noted that a spreadsheet entitled "Potential Revenue Forecast by Source and by Year" was distributed to the Commissioners and contained information extending throughout the design year of the Orange Line. She added that the figures in the presentation were produced jointly by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (CITT) and Miami-Dade Transit (MDT).

Chairman Rolle acknowledged Ms. Yvette Taylor, Federal Transit Administration Regional Administrator, Region 4, who was present at today's (5/7) meeting. He also noted that the results of this workshop would be made available to those commissioners not in attendance today (5/7).

Mr. Sergio San Miguel, Chief Financial Officer, MDT, presented the PowerPoint presentation noted by Assistant County Manager Llord, which was entitled "Miami-Dade Transit Fare Policy Analysis."

In response to questions from Chairman Rolle and Vice Chairwoman Jordan regarding the text on page 3 which indicated that Golden Passport recipients and additional free fares represented approximately 33% of total transit riders, Mr. San

Miguel noted that the 33% included Patriot Passport recipients and other transportation categories, including the disabled. He also pointed out that this 33% represented approximately \$30 million in the upcoming budget and equaled approximately 33 million boardings.

Assistant County Manager Ysela Llord noted page 3 of the presentation indicated that only 25% of riders currently paid full fare and free fares were subsidized.

Chairman Rolle asked Assistant County Manager Llord, in the future, to identify the amount of revenue being generated by charging transit fares; the amount of transit fares being subsidized; and identify revenues which would be generated at various subsidy levels.

Referring to page 4, Chairman Rolle requested the rationale for removing the 25-cent Metromover fee.

Assistant County Attorney Bruce Libhaber explained that the original ordinance implementing the People's Transportation Plan (PTP) called for a free fare for Metromover use. Therefore, any modifications to the original ordinance must be put in the form of an ordinance.

Chairman Rolle asked that Assistant County Manager Ysela Llord consider the feasibility of creating an air-conditioned, round trip express route from Miami to the Keys with a fare of \$2.00.

Assistant County Attorney Libhaber noted Chairman Rolle's request could be addressed with a resolution rather than with an ordinance.

Chairman Rolle noted this proposed bus route could be a revenue generator.

In response to Commissioner Edmonson's and Vice Chairwoman Jordan's questions regarding Paratransit services to eligible clients, Ms. Rita Kane, MDT Paratransit Operations Section Chief, noted that under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a rider may be eligible for Special Transportation Services (STS) if the rider had a functional disability limiting his or her access to conventional transit; however, she noted, the rider's trip may be ineligible under the ADA if the rider had to be picked up from a location that was outside the service area, which the ADA defined as

¾ of a mile on either side of the transit corridor available to the general public. Ms. Kane added that currently, 244 riders were located outside the ¾ mile service area. She pointed out that one of Paratransit Operations' proposals was to continue providing special services to existing eligible clients outside the ¾ mile area while providing service to new applicants only if they were located inside the ¾ mile area. Another option, she noted, was to increase fares for STS travel outside the ¾ mile service area.

In response to Chairman Rolle's question regarding measures which could be taken to keep costs at a minimum if MDT linked fare increases to the Operating Cost Index (OCI), Assistant County Manager Llort noted that metrics for managing the OCI would have to be agreed upon.

Chairman Rolle asked Mr. Harpal Kapoor, MDT Director, to consider the feasibility of establishing parameters for the proposed use of the OCI to keep operating, overtime, and other costs to a minimum and to prevent unnecessary expenditures. He also asked Mr. Kapoor to study other models in which the OCI was used and to provide a report on his findings to the Committee.

In response to Chairman Rolle's question as to whether fares should be increased periodically based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or the OCI, Assistant County Manager Llort noted the OCI was a more direct indicator of the items that drove transit cost, and the CPI was more easily understood by constituents.

Vice Chairwoman Jordan asked Assistant County Manager Llort to submit at the next Committee meeting a synopsis comparing the operations of MDT and transit agencies in other major metropolitan areas with regard to the ADA, policy related to senior citizens, and statistics related to free transit.

Regarding the option in the PowerPoint presentation to impose on free riders a fare equal to one half the full fare, Vice Chairwoman Jordan noted the increases would be significant to those who were not accustomed to paying for transit use.

In response to Chairman Rolle's question as to how Washington, D.C. addressed free ridership, Mr. Kapoor noted that in Washington, D.C., senior citizens' fares were 50% of regular fare.

Mr. San Miguel noted that discussion had occurred regarding adjusting fares every three years. However, he noted, questions had arisen during staff deliberations as to whether to wait three years even when a significant increase occurred before this time period had passed, and whether fares should be adjusted every three years, two years, or annually. Mr. San Miguel noted these questions should be considered.

Assistant County Manager Llord noted that the CPI would be more indicative of increases in costs which the public experienced in everyday life. She noted the OCI would be more appropriate for issues directly related to fares and user fees.

Mr. San Miguel noted that also needing consideration were the questions of whether to adjust fares when increases exceeded a certain amount and whether the amount should be established as a threshold.

Mr. Larry Foutz, MPO, noted that in running a van pool program funded by the federal government and with matching funds from the State, the MPO hired vendors which provided vans and maintenance; that at the last Committee meeting Commissioner Heyman requested that consideration be given to General Services Administration (GSA) providing surplus vans to the van pool program; that the vendor wanted no responsibility related to the surplus vans; that if the County started operating the program, it may be able to use the surplus vans, although, he noted, the County would be responsible for the maintenance; and that currently the program was outside of the County's purview.

Mr. San Miguel noted that staff was asked to evaluate peak period pricing and would be willing to do so. He noted addressing address peak period and distance faring would be difficult until a fare collection system was implemented, which would provide data to perform the requested evaluations.

At the request of Chairman Rolle, Transport Workers Union representative J.W. Johnson, 18350 NW 2nd Avenue, appeared before the Committee.

Mr. Johnson pointed out that the Union would like clarification regarding the functionality of the Golden Passport program, particularly what the expiration dates were, what happened to seniors' Passports when the seniors passed away, and how

many Passports were being used. He indicated if the County prevented use of the Golden Passport during peak hours it would decrease costs. Mr. Johnson also pointed out that the Union agreed transit fares should be increased. He noted that the question of whether to implement overtime or use additional personnel to handle miles added to the transit system had to be answered. In addition, Mr. Johnson pointed out that the Union was suggesting an overhaul of the transit bus route system and was asking to be a part of the process of renovating the route system.

In response to Chairman Rolle's inquiry as to whether the Union was included in the process regarding bus route alternatives which were discussed at yesterday's (5/6) Board of County Commissioners meeting, Mr. Johnson noted the Union was not included in the process of developing the alternatives.

In response to Chairman Rolle's inquiry as to whether the Union knew the approximate impact of bus service adjustments on drivers and the overall bus system, Mr. Johnson noted that Union knew this information and that when miles were cut, support service jobs were affected.

Mr. Johnson expressed concern regarding the accuracy of statements which indicated 65 of the 120 jobs that would be impacted by bus service adjustments were related only to bus routes.

Commissioner Edmonson asked Mr. Kapoor if the 65 positions he noted at yesterday's County Commission meeting would be removed by attrition, resulting in no lay offs. Mr. Kapoor noted this was the case for the lineup that was proposed at yesterday's meeting.

In response to Assistant County Manager Llori's question as to whether the 65 positions included bus driver positions and other support positions, Mr. Kapoor noted that the 65 positions included technician and maintenance positions, and no one would be laid off.

Commissioner Edmonson asked whether anyone would be laid off from positions over and above the 65 positions.

In response to Chairman Rolle's question as to whether Mr. Johnson disagreed that the item regarding bus service adjustments approved by the Commission yesterday would result in no

layoffs, Mr. Johnson noted he did disagree.

Vice Chairwoman Jordan requested that staff submit written responses to questions and concerns presented by Mr. Johnson at today's (5/7) meeting.

In response to Chairman Rolle's inquiry as to the number of MDT employees who would be affected by the current projected MDT deficit, Assistant County Manager Llorc identified the number of personnel reductions in various categories as noted on a slide in the budget presentation document from the April 16, 2008 Committee meeting. She also noted the slide indicated that the total of the number of cuts in the various categories would be 290.

In response to Commissioner Edmonson's question as to whether the 290 reductions were vacant or would occur through attrition and whether the reductions equated to lay offs, Assistant County Manager Llorc noted the 290 positions were a combination of vacant positions and reductions and the reductions not only equated to lay offs, but in some cases, absorbed reductions within the County's larger labor pool.

Commissioner Edmonson noted that she wanted staff to be candid in responding to commissioners' questions. She expressed concern that if she did not ask the right questions, she would not get the right answers.

Mr. Johnson noted he would submit information regarding the impact of bus service adjustments on drivers and the overall bus system as requested by Chairman Rolle. He added that an increase in the transit budget was made a few years earlier but was 1% less than was needed, this contributed 14 to 15 million to the County's deficit, and these issues should be considered in the upcoming County budget process.

Commissioner Jordan asked Mr. Johnson to ensure that the Union put information related to the transit budget on record at upcoming public hearings during the County's budget period, especially when the County Manager presented his budget.

Ms. Ruby Adams, MDT Assistant Director, Customer Service, noted a presentation which Ms. Kane would make regarding STS was a rough draft of considerations related to Paratransit. She

added that the numbers needed further review.

Ms. Kane noted Commissioner Heyman requested that consideration be given to zone-based transit fares. She noted the County's street layout did not lend itself to a zone system. Ms. Kane noted that Paratransit Operations proposed that fares be based on distance, particularly on miles. In addition, Ms. Kane noted, Paratransit proposed a separate fare structure for non-ADA trips, which were defined as trips outside the ¾ mile service transit corridor.

Ms. Kane made the PowerPoint presentation.

Vice Chairwoman Jordan asked Assistant County Manager Llort to ensure that staff submitted a solid recommendation as to whether the STS fare should be distance-based or zone-based; that, among other costs, gasoline costs be factors in the recommendation process; and that the recommendation include associated tradeoffs. She also asked that staff submit a solid recommendation regarding travel outside the ¾ mile service area.

In response to comments and questions from Chairman Rolle and Vice Chairwoman Jordan regarding today's agenda, Assistant County Attorney Bruce Libhaber noted that Agenda Items 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, and 3E could be placed on the May 14, 2008 Transit Committee meeting agenda. He also noted that at the May 14th meeting, the Committee could forward these items to the Commission and request that they be heard at the Commission's next available meeting. He added that the 25-cent fare for use of the Metromover could be reinstated by adoption of an ordinance amending language in the People's Transportation Plan (PTP). Provided that a request was made to prepare such an ordinance, he pointed out, the ordinance would need to be heard on first reading before the Commission.

Vice Chairwoman Jordan asked Assistant County Attorney Libhaber to prepare a resolution regarding reinstatement of the 25-cent per person charge for use of the Metromover for consideration by the Commission.

Assistant County Attorney Libhaber noted he would make an effort to place such a resolution on the next Committee agenda.

Vice Chairwoman Jordan noted the Committee

could take the course of action outlined by Mr. Libhaber and meet its financial deadline in May.

Chairman Rolle noted he concurred with Vice Chairwoman Jordan.

Vice Chairwoman Jordan asked Assistant County Manager Llord to ensure that staff identified revenues which would be generated if the parking pass fee was increased from \$6.25 to \$10 and then increased based on the OCI or the CPI, that this analysis be included in analyses regarding additional revenue for transit, and that revenue generation scenarios be developed for increasing the monthly cost of the Golden Passport from zero to 25 dollars and then increasing the cost based on the CPI or OPI.

Chairman Rolle asked Assistant County Manager Llord to include in future presentations regarding Miami-Dade's transit fare policy the dollar impact of free ridership on MDT.

Chairman Rolle noted that advertisement regarding imposing a cost of one half the full fare for the Golden Passport and other passes would be important.

Vice Chairwoman Jordan asked Assistant County Manager Llord to ensure that future presentations regarding Miami-Dade's transit fare policy include the cost of free ridership that would be transferred to the paying rider if subsidies for free ridership were removed; and alternatively, the amount of subsidies needed to pay for free ridership.

Chairman Rolle asked that the item to be prepared regarding the express route to the Keys be placed on the May 14, 2008 Committee meeting agenda.

Chairman Rolle asked Assistant County Manager Llord to ensure that legislation under his sponsorship regarding vending machines on transit platforms, which his staff would discuss with Assistant County Attorney Libhaber, be submitted at the May 14, 2008 Committee meeting.

Chairman Rolle asked Assistant County Manager Llord, Assistant County Attorney Libhaber, and Mr. Kapoor to submit at the May 14, 2008 Transit Committee meeting a recommendation regarding finalized figures concerning STS, as previously requested by Commissioner Heyman.

Chairman Rolle noted that a letter would be sent to Ms. Taylor thanking her for attending today's meeting.

5 ADJOURNMENT

Report: *There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:31 p.m.*

Dorrin Rolle, Chairman