

Memorandum



Date: October 30, 2015

To: Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor 

Subject: Transit and Mobility Services Committee Report: Miami-Dade Transit - Metrobus Appearance

This report is provided in response to a request at the August 26, 2015 Transportation and Mobility Services Committee for information on the Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) Metrobus wraps, wheel covers for the articulated bus fleet, and the bus cleaning schedule.

Presently, MDT has a fleet of 815 buses. This includes, seven hundred and one 40-foot buses, twenty-five 62-foot articulated buses, twelve 45-foot over-the-road buses, and seventy-seven 30-foot minibuses. The department is in the process of accepting the recently approved 43 additional articulated buses for use on the Biscayne Boulevard Busway and 27 Avenue corridors. Due to the size of Miami-Dade County's (County) Metrobus fleet, MDT has determined that it is more efficient to wrap buses than to paint them. Wrapping saves a significant amount of hours, as each bus takes an average of 16 to 24 hours to complete. However, painting is more labor intensive and requires a minimum of 160 hours per bus. Therefore, by wrapping the buses the department is able to improve the overall appearance of the fleet at a much faster rate and take fewer buses out of service.

Of the 815 buses, approximately 542 require wrapping. The department has committed to have 200 buses wrapped by January 2016 and the remaining 342 by July 2016. In order to meet this goal, the work will continue to be done by in-house forces (union employees) and other County vendors; as mutually agreed to by the department and the Transport Workers Union at the September 8, 2015 Contracting Out meeting.

The new articulated buses are not equipped with wheel covers. Wheel covers are an aesthetic feature which cover the middle and rear wheels. For the 25 older 2009 New Flyer Series buses, which did have wheel covers, the department anticipates receipt of replacement wheel covers by late November 2015 and completion of installation by December 31, 2015.

Finally, MDT has enhanced its cleaning services and intervals. All buses used in revenue service are washed at least twice per week and swept nightly. Additionally, intensive cleaning is performed each week night by the contracted vendor on 180 buses (or 60 buses per garage); therefore, each bus receives an intensive interior and exterior cleaning once per week. Buses returning back to the garages after completion of their morning rush hour service, are cleaned prior to being placed back into revenue service on the same day. Further, to address the issue of litter accumulating on the buses while in service, the department also began working with a County vendor to remove trash from the buses at sites located throughout the County, once they reach a layover point.

It is our hope that these improvements on the interiors and exteriors of the bus fleet will provide a more favorable riding experience for both our current and potential transit users, as MDT endeavors to provide, clean, safe, and reliable service.

Should you require additional information, please contact Alice N. Bravo, P.E., Director of Miami-Dade Transit at (786) 469-5411.

c: Alina T. Hudak, Deputy Mayor and Director of Public Works and Waste Management Department
Alice N. Bravo, P.E., Director, Miami-Dade Transit