



Miami-Dade County

**Commission on Disability Issues (CODI)**  
**Stephen P. Clark Center (SPCC)**  
**111 N.W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Miami, Florida 33128**  
**18<sup>th</sup> Floor, Conference Room 18-4**

	<b>Date:</b>	<b>06/25/2014</b>
	<b>Time:</b>	<b>1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. est.</b>
	<b>Call to Order Time:</b>	<b>1:45 p.m. est.</b>
	<b>Meeting Adjourned:</b>	<b>4:00 p.m. est.</b>
<b>I.</b>	<b>Opening and Attendance:</b> Attendance recorded. Call to Order. Copies of documents were distributed	
	District 1 <b>Commissioner Jordan</b>	<b>Damian Gregory</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, Employment Committee Chair Present
	District 2 <b>Commissioner Monestime</b>	<b>Jackson David</b> Housing Committee Chair Present
	District 3 <b>Commissioner Edmonson</b>	<b>Jose Granda</b> Access Committee Chair Present
	District 4 <b>Commissioner Heyman</b>	<b>Earl Oaks</b> Housing Committee Chair Arrived at 2:32 p.m. est.
	District 5 <b>Commissioner Barreiro</b>	<b>Jose (Ernie) Martinez</b> CODI Chairman Present
	District 6 <b>Commissioner Sosa</b>	<b>Pedro Rodriguez</b> Unexcused
	District 7 <b>Commissioner Suarez</b>	<b>Harry Horgan</b> Outreach/Education Chair Present
	District 8 <b>Commissioner Bell</b>	<b>Jesus Garcia</b> CODI Secretary and Transportation Committee Chair Present
	District 9 <b>Commissioner Moss</b>	<b>Ronald Fulton</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Arrived at 2:15 p.m. est.
	District 10 <b>Commissioner Souto</b>	<b>Vacant Appointment</b>
	District 11 <b>Commissioner Zapata</b>	<b>Vacant Appointment</b>
	District 12 <b>Commissioner Diaz</b>	<b>Marilyn Larrieu</b> Housing Committee Co-Chair Present
	District 13 <b>Commissioner Bovo</b>	<b>Alan Rigerman</b> Present
	<b>Miami-Dade County Staff Present</b>	<b>Heidi Johnson-Wright, ISD, ADA Coordinator</b> Present

		<p><b>Skarlex Alorda</b> ISD, ADA Office Support Specialist II</p> <p><b>Fernando Marquez, Miami-Dade Parks &amp; Recreations</b> Capital Programs Division, Architect 4</p> <p><b>Rosa Llaguno M.S., J.D.</b> <b>Agency for Persons with Disabilities</b> <b>Southern Region</b> - Community Relations Coordinator</p> <p><b>Julio Martinez, PWWM, PW-Functions-SPCC</b> ADA Sidewalk Coordinator</p> <p><b>Raul Rios, PWWM, PW-Functions-SPCC</b> ADA Sidewalk Compliance</p> <p><b>William Velez, MDT, Paratransit Operations</b></p> <p><b>Steven Bobes, Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources (RER), For Hire Transportation,</b> Administrative Officer III</p>	<p>Present</p> <p>Present</p> <p>Present</p> <p>Present</p> <p>Present</p> <p>Present</p> <p>Present</p>
<b>II.</b>	<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	Chairman Martinez requested a motion to approve the agenda June 25, 2014 Alan Rigerman made the motion; Jesus Garcia seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.	
<b>III.</b>	<b>Approval of CODI Minutes</b>	Chairman Martinez requested a motion to approve the May 28, 2014 CODI Meeting minutes. Motion made by Alan Rigerman and Harry Horgan seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.	
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Open Comments</b>	3 minutes each speaker (Advance Notice Preferred) No public comments at this time	
		<p><b>Alan Rigerman - Pedestrian Crossing</b> Alan Rigerman discussed speaking with the District 13 Commissioner Bovo regarding an idea for a traffic law that would forbid motorists from approaching within three feet of a pedestrian.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Fernando Marquez, Parks and Recreations, Capital Programs Division - Architect 4</b></p> <p>Mr. Marquez gave an update on the Haulover Beach access project. He stated that construction is currently underway to create access through the north tunnel. Steps are being replaced by walkways that have gentler slopes than ramps. Completion is projected for October 2014. Phase One of the ADA transition plan which consists of five accessible picnic tables, drinking fountains and bus stop is complete. Phase Two of the plan involves making all the restrooms 100 percent ADA accessible. This is currently in design. Completion is estimated for 2015. Mr. Rigerman raised the issue of accessibility to the clothing-optional beach. Mr. Marquez stated that, upon completion of the north tunnel project, there will be full access to the clothing optional beach.</p> <p>Jose Granda raised concerns regarding the tunnels and the availability of accessible parking. Mr. Marquez assured CODI that, upon completion of the</p>	

		<p>north tunnel project, availability of parking will not be an issue.</p> <p>Ronald Fulton raised concerns about families exiting the north tunnel and the likelihood of unintentionally seeing nude bathers. He also raised concerns about access to the beach wheelchairs. A discussion ensued. Mr. Granda stated there are two ways to access the pathway without seeing individuals at the nude beach.</p> <p>Jackson David expressed appreciation and congratulated Mr. Marquez on the Haulover Beach Project. Also, Mr. Jackson stated that the outer path does not enter the nude beach so families and children will not see nude bathers unless they intend to.</p>
		<p><b>Rosa Llaguno &amp; Heidi Johnson-Wright – Transit Development Plan (TDP), MDT10Ahead</b></p> <p>Ms. Llaguno and Ms. Johnson-Wright attended the Transit 10Ahead Steering Committee meeting on 6/24/14. The plan serves as a planning, development and operational guide. The committee assesses the existing system, identifies service improvements and capital investments, prioritizes needs in the community and develops a financial plan. The ultimate goal is to develop a strategic vision. The meeting started with an explanation about a rider survey being carried out. Both Ms. Llaguno and Ms. Johnson-Wright were concerned that the survey hard copy did not contain the required access statement for requesting it in alternate format. The results thus far of the survey were of concern as well. Out of tens of thousands of transit riders, only 1,400 had responded and only 14 were Hispanic. The lack of participation in the survey by the disability community was disappointing.</p> <p>Ms. Johnson-Wright raised concerns as to whether the online version of the survey is accessible to people using screen-reading software. She requested that MDT check on this and correct it, if needed. Also, the survey should be in an alternate format for people who are pre-lingually deaf, just like the survey Ms. Lisa Campbell translated for PROS’ regarding parks programming. Also, MDT Transit’s ADA Coordinator, Mr. Marcos Ortega, had not been invited to join the 10Ahead Steering Committee and was not at the meeting.</p> <p>Ms. Johnson-Wright believes that ensuring full access to the current Transit system is a higher priority than expanding the system. This includes completing the Nesbitt settlement requirements, improving STS service and better responses to broken elevators at the Metrorail stations.</p> <p>Damien Gregory stated that MDT Director Ysela Llorca be contacted via email to include people with disabilities in future meetings. Ms. Johnson-Wright and Chairman Martinez agreed. Chairman Martinez will reach out to Mr. Velez and Mr. Ortega.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Heidi Johnson-Wright on MPA Parking at SPCC</b></p> <p>Ms. Johnson-Wright expressed concerns that, as of 7/1/14, the Miami Parking Authority is closing the public parking lots on the east and northeast sides of</p>

		<p>the Stephen P. Clark Center (SPCC). Once closed, there will be no accessible parking to serve the SPCC that doesn't require walking a couple blocks and crossing busy streets.</p> <p>Chairman Martinez and Mr. Rigerman said they will contact the SPCC Building Manager's Office regarding the parking issue. Raul Rios stated that every MDT Metrorail station has public parking except the SPCC.</p>
	<p><b>Information Items</b></p>	<p><b>Committee Reporting</b></p>
		<p><b>Chairman Martinez</b> disclosed policy changes regarding his employer and his role with CODI. Consequently, his opinions and comments as a CODI member are strictly his own.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Steven Bobes, Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources (RER), For Hire Transportation - Administrative Officer III (former PTRD)</b></p> <p>Mr. Bobes stated that RER puts drivers through a training program. RER does not hire or recruit drivers. Drivers are directed to come to RER from the companies that employ them. They are agents of those companies and are not employed by the County. County law requires STS chauffeurs and for-hire drivers to have a rudimentary understanding of the English language. The test materials are written at a sixth grade level. Upon passing the language tests and meeting other requirements, they are issued a chauffer's registration by the agency. The department has no control over their ability or willingness to speak English once they are behind the wheel.</p> <p>RER also does vehicle inspections. A complete safety and cosmetic inspection of vehicles is conducted up to four times a year. This process depends on the age of the vehicle.</p> <p>Jesus Garcia raised concerns about new drivers coming into the transportation system. Issues often arise when large groups come into the system. The customers who use STS and for-hire transportation can insist on high school and or even college level language proficiency, which would likely result in no one qualifying for a chauffeur's registration.</p> <p>Mr. Granda raised concerns regarding the penmanship of the drivers. To communicate with deaf riders, penmanship must be clear and concise. Mr. Bobes commented that would be an issue for the companies employing the drivers, not RER. Ms. Johnson-Wright suggested that the drivers have an electronic tablet or some form of electronic device to communicate more effectively with the disabled community. Chairman Martinez suggested picture cards. Mr. Bobes said that this particular issue is addressed in the scripted interview section. Mr. Bobes said RER can provide copies of the test for CODI's review.</p> <p>Chairman Martinez stated that it is an unsafe situation if the driver and rider cannot communicate. The disabled community has been raising these</p>

		<p>concerns. A discussion ensued regarding the safety of STS pertaining to communication.</p> <p>Mr. Gregory expressed concerns that at least three CODI members have had an issue with language proficiency and STS drivers. Mr. Oaks stated that he has been extremely upset with STS drivers as well. This is issue with the disabled community and we must come up with a solution.</p> <p>Mr. Bobes clarified that RER only ensures that drivers meet the registration and licensing requirements. After that point, Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) is the regulatory agency regarding operations. Mr. Bobes reiterated that calling Mr. Bill Velez at MDT is the proper way to address this situation.</p> <p>Ms. Llaguno asked for clarification from Mr. Bobes. RER is tasked with licensing drivers and one of the requirements is a level of language proficiency. Mr. Bobes concurred. Therefore, Ms. Llaguno mentioned that the language proficiency complaints should not be addressed to Mr. Velez but rather RER. Ms. Llaguno stated that the problem seems to be the inability to revoke licenses if drivers have proven unsatisfactory in the field. Mr. Bobes stated that the County Chapter 31 code sets forth criteria on which a chauffer’s license can be issued and revoked. Not being able to speak English is not a ground for revocation.</p> <hr/> <p><b>William “Bill” Velez, Miami Dade Transit - Chief Paratransit Operations</b></p> <p>Mr. Fulton raised concerns about the STS drivers and the language proficiency issue. Mr. Fulton asked Mr. Velez about how and when can this issue be resolved. Mr. Velez stated that MDT can provide CODI with their specific complaint code.</p> <p>Mr. Velez stated that in his last four years working for STS, the topic of English proficiency has been terrible. Furthermore, if the issue is raised with a driver, he or she could be removed.</p> <p>In addition, Mr. Velez stated that there seems to be a fundamental problem with the English proficiency issue. Mr. Garcia stated investigating complaints should be easier than in the past due to audio and tape recording. Mr. Velez said that when Transit requests audio or video tape from the provider, they received about 20 percent of the time. Mr. Velez stated that the video equipment is not part of MDT’s current contract.</p>
	<b>Action Items</b>	<b>CODI Nominating Committee, Transportation, Access, &amp; Outreach</b>
		<p><b>CODI officer elections; Chairman Martinez</b> Mr. Martinez does not want to pursue another re-appointment.</p> <p><b>The Nominating Committee will include</b> Harry Horgan, Earl Oaks, Jackson David, Jose Martinez and Jesus Garcia.</p> <p><b>Transportation</b> - Mr. Garcia will be providing a future date for the</p>

		<p>Transportation Committee meeting.</p> <p><b>Access</b> - Mr. Granda stated that the Office Emergency Management will provide a logo and arrangements for the Deaf individuals. They will also be updating the current Hurricane preparedness video on their website.</p> <p><b>Outreach/Education</b> - Mr. Horgan stated that the ADA 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event will take place on July 24, 2014</p>
	<b>Adjournment</b>	<b>Meeting adjourned 4:00 p.m.</b>
	<b>Next CODI Meeting:</b>	<b>The next CODI meeting will be July 24, 2014</b>