



CITIZENS' INDEPENDENT

TRANSPORTATION TRUST

FALL 2023

MOVING
FOFORWARD

Chair's Message



As the new chair of the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (CITT), I am deeply honored to have been elected to lead this voter-approved organization. At the CITT, we remain steadfast in our common vision to drive forward the Miami-Dade SMART Plan and uphold our responsibility as good stewards of the half-penny sales tax.

Together with our new First Vice-Chair, Mary Street, Second Vice-Chair, Peggy Bell, and all of our dedicated Trust members, we continue to work tirelessly to realize the shared vision of the People's Transportation Plan for the betterment of our community.

To that aim, our County is moving forward on the construction of the South Corridor and the development of other SMART Plan corridors. Our municipalities continue to make good use of their half-penny funds to connect to these regional transit systems via their own trolleys and on-demand transportation services. And other transportation partners, such as Brightline and Tri-Rail, are also connecting to our transit system and expanding service that goes beyond our County's border.

We are also working hard to engage better with our community. This summer, we celebrated reaching 100 Ambassadors in our CITT Ambassador Program, which engages transit riders to help improve service by asking them to share their transit experience in exchange for mobility rewards.

Finally, we are currently looking for Miami-Dade County citizens who can serve on the Trust. Those interested can go to the CITT's website at miamidade.gov/citt and click on the **Member Recruitment** tab to obtain more information and download an application. You would be joining a dedicated group of volunteers dedicated to moving Miami-Dade County forward.

It's an exciting time for transportation in Miami-Dade County. We've never been better connected - locally and regionally - and the vision for the future is equally impressive. The investments we are making are serving the residents of Miami-Dade County, connecting people and communities, and helping sustain our growing economy. It's all thanks to the contributions of the taxpayers we represent as trustees of the half-penny surtax.

Robert Wolfarth, Chair
Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust

CITT Ambassador Program Reaches a Milestone and Recognizes Outstanding Ambassadors

This summer - only six months after its official launch - the CITT Ambassador Program welcomed its 100th CITT Ambassador to the program.

As part of the program, CITT Ambassadors, who are frequent transit riders, fill out surveys that can be accessed via a mobile app. The information captured is then compiled and shared with Miami-Dade County's Department of Transportation and Public Works, and soon will be expanded to be shared with local municipalities and on-demand service companies - all in an effort to enhance the transit experience.

This past summer and fall, the CITT also recognized its outstanding Ambassadors of the Month and the CITT Ambassador for Third Quarter of 2023.

The first to be recognized for her stellar performance was CITT Ambassador Cathy Bernstein, who was selected as the first CITT Ambassador of the Month for June 2023 and the first CITT Ambassador for the Third Quarter 2023. Likewise, CITT Ambassadors Nadeige Laleau and Kirah Shakoor were also recognized as CITT Ambassadors for the months of July and August 2023, respectively.

The winners were selected based on the number of points they earned from filling out transit surveys and sharing messages via social media. These points can then be redeemed for a variety of transportation rewards, including credits for Uber and Lyft.

If you are a regular transit rider and would like to become a CITT Ambassador, visit miamidade.gov/citt-ambassador to apply.



Cathy Bernstein

CITT Ambassador of the Quarter:
Third Quarter 2023

Nadeige Laleau

CITT Ambassador of the Month:
July 2023

Kirah Shakoor

CITT Ambassador of the Month:
August 2023

The Better Bus Network Rolls Out This Fall

The Metrobus system saw big changes this fall with the Better Bus Network. Some of the changes include all-day high frequency service in dense minority and low-income areas, and frequent service later in the evening, among other changes.

The Better Bus Network aims to provide greater connectivity to key locations throughout the County, such as job and education centers. The Better Bus Network is a community-led initiative initiated by Transit Alliance Miami.



To learn more about the Better Bus Network, visit miamidade.gov/betterbus.

Mobility Matters

The CITT continues to collaborate with Miami's Community Newspapers to produce and distribute the CITT's video podcast Mobility Matters.

During the summer and fall, guests included:

- Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 6 Secretary Stacy Miller.
- President & CEO of the Miami-Dade Chamber G. Eric Knowles.
- Former CITT Chair Oscar J. Braynon.
- CITT Trust Member Robert Ruano.
- President & COO of The Underline Patrice Gillespie Smith.

You can catch Mobility Matters live every other Thursday, starting at 9 a.m., via CITT's Facebook page (facebook.com/TransportationTrust), or via Miami's Community Newspaper's YouTube channel.

North Bay Village Now Offers Freebee Service

This summer, North Bay Village re-launched its on-demand service in partnership with Freebee.

Residents are being treated to a ride on board the new Tesla Model X vehicles. Transit riders are being provided rides to bus and trolley stops along Biscayne Boulevard and Miami Beach, and other places of interest in and near the municipality. Service hours are Monday-Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

To request your free ride, you can download the Freebee app on your smartphone and request it via the app. Or if you're unable to access the app, you can flag down an available Freebee vehicle, or call **855-918-3733**.



The CITT Elects Its New Officers



Robert Wolfarth
Newly Elected Chair



Mary Street
Newly Elected First Vice-Chair



Honorable Peggy Bell
Newly Elected Second Vice-Chair

During its September 2023 Full Trust meeting, the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (CITT) elected its new Trust officers. Robert Wolfarth, who was serving as the Trust's First Vice-Chair, was elected as the new chair of the CITT. Mr. Wolfarth represents Miami-Dade County Commission District 4 on the Trust.

Mary Street, who represents Miami-Dade County Commission District 5, was elected as First Vice-Chair, and the Honorable Peggy Bell, who represents Miami-Dade County District 8, was elected as Second Vice-Chair.

"I am deeply honored to have been elected as chair of the CITT. Together, we remain steadfast in our mission to drive forward the Miami-Dade SMART Plan and uphold our responsibility as stewards of the half-penny surtax, a commitment made by our community two decades ago. I am unwavering in my dedication to foster collaboration among our esteemed colleagues to realize the shared vision of the People's Transportation Plan," said Chair Wolfarth.

Mr. Wolfarth added, "I want to extend my sincere congratulations to our First Vice-Chair, Mary Street, and our Second Vice-Chair, Peggy Bell, as well as all the dedicated Trust members who serve alongside us. Your dedication and support are instrumental in achieving our goals. Together, we will continue to work tirelessly for the benefit of our community."

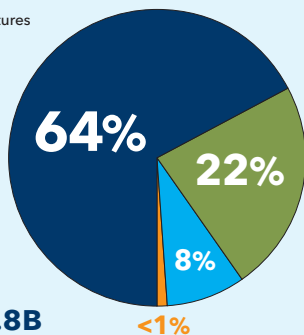
The CITT is looking for engaged citizens with the interest, experience and insight needed to make informed decisions that will contribute to the development of a comprehensive and well-coordinated transportation system in Miami-Dade County. This is a volunteer position and Trust members do not receive a salary.

To apply, visit miamidade.gov/citt and click on the **Member Recruitment** tab to learn more and download an application, or call **305-375-1357**.

How Your Half-Penny Has Been Spent

\$4.4 Billion

in Cumulative Surtax Expenditures
Through FY 2022



Miami-Dade Transit* \$2.8B

Municipalities \$958M

Public Works \$346M

CITT Administration \$35M

Funds pending allocation:
\$220M (5%)

Pays for building, expanding and operating
transit service.
Year end adjustments not reflected.

Transportation Trust Members

Robert Wolfarth, Chair

Mary Street, Esq., First Vice-Chair

Honorable Peggy Bell, Second Vice-Chair

Omar K. Bradford, Esq.

Qjuezari Harvey

*Joseph Curbelo

*Paul J. Schwiep, Esq.

Meg Daly

Robert Ruano

*Past Chairperson



Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust

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For more information on the People's Transportation Plan and the Transportation Trust, visit miamidade.gov/citt.

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To obtain this information in accessible format, please call 305-375-1326.