

Memorandum



Date: July 30, 2026

Agenda Item No. 2(B)(6)
September 1, 2026

To: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava *Daniella Levine Cava*
Mayor

Subject: South Dade TransitWay BRT – Updates & Optimizations Summary
(November 2025 to May 2026)

Executive Summary

Seven months after launch, Metro Express and TransitWay Local have firmly established a new standard of connectivity for South Dade. What began as a promising first month has grown into a high-performing, high-ridership transit corridor – one that South Dade residents rely on every day. With 1.8 million trips taken on the TransitWay through the end of May 2026, runtimes stabilized, and on-time performance continuing to climb, the results reflect the power of a data-driven, community-centered approach. The Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) and partner teams continue to refine operations by identifying opportunities for improvement and implementing real-time operational adjustments so that every rider experiences the safe, reliable, world-class Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service Miami-Dade County deserves.

This report, prepared by DTPW, provides an updated summary of service performance from November 2025 through May 2026 for Metro Express (Route 601) and TransitWay Local (Route 602) on the South Dade TransitWay. Sustained optimization efforts – including continued vehicle enforcement, intersection-by-intersection signal refinements, and ongoing rider education – have produced measurable on-time-performance gains, stabilized runtimes systemwide, and continued growth in ridership and rider confidence. Metro Express remains firmly positioned for long-term success as a central element of the County’s SMART Program.

Background

Ridership has continued to grow across the corridor, with 1.8 million total trips taken on Routes 601 and 602 combined between November 2025 and May 2026. Metro Express (601) now averages 6,307 weekday riders, a 152% increase from the previous express service with more than 3,800 additional daily riders. TransitWay Local (602) continues to average approximately 4,000 weekday riders, with migration to Metro Express accounting for shifts in local service ridership. We also expect that adoption of the local service will increase when local stops are integrated into the BRT station stops as part of the November 2026 lineup change. On-time performance (OTP) has improved month-over-month on both routes since launch: Route 601 has climbed from 32.8% in October 2025 to 77% in May 2026, and Route 602 has risen from 36.8% to 71.2% over the same period. Both routes have achieved the 78% OTP goal on individual days, with that frequency

increasing in June. Runtimes have stabilized systemwide, with the majority of trips through May achieving scheduled runtimes of 60 minutes peak and 70 minutes off-peak. These results underscore not only the strong demand for high-quality transit in South Dade but also the community's confidence in this next generation of mobility.

As with any major transit service launch, DTPW anticipated a period of operational refinement as travel patterns emerged and real-world operating conditions informed system adjustments. Throughout this period, the department has continuously monitored system performance and implemented targeted improvements to enhance reliability, safety and the customer experience.

Community outreach and education have remained central to the system's success. Ongoing education about the service, safety measures around the TransitWay, and the BRT's unique benefits has increased public awareness and ridership on Metro Express. Paid, earned, and owned media tactics, combined with direct outreach via community meetings and presentations to local organizations and municipalities, continue to drive awareness of and engagement with the service. Customer response teams at DTPW and 311 receive and respond to resident questions and concerns about the South Dade TransitWay and its impact on cross-traffic and surrounding areas, providing updates, explaining ongoing optimizations, and recommending alternatives while service adjustments continue to be deployed.

Key highlights and ongoing optimizations include:

- DTPW Safety and Security team continues to partner with Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office (MDSO) to actively patrol and enforce regulations pertaining to unauthorized use of the South Dade TransitWay by motorists, scooters, and bicycles. MDSO also actively engages in "Block the Box" campaigns to clear TransitWay intersections when gates descend to protect bus through-traffic. Targeted safety and compliance messaging remains live on social, digital media, and radio.
- Continuing to optimize performance during this launch period, DTPW and project partners implemented regular field coordination meetings, real-time system monitoring, and intersection-by-intersection evaluations to quickly identify and address operational anomalies across the corridor. Opportunities were identified to further optimize Traffic Signal Preemption and Transit Signal Priority, gate arm sequencing, and vehicle detection performance, with several high-volume intersections requiring additional calibration to improve bus progression, enhance intersection coordination, and better balance TransitWay operations with adjacent traffic flow.
- Corrective actions include refining signal timing plans, adjusting Traffic Signal Preemption and priority logic alongside detection zones, recalibrating gate control sequencing at intersections, improving data communications between field devices and signal controllers, and deploying targeted software and firmware updates where necessary.

These sustained, collaborative efforts have resulted in measurable operational improvements and enhanced corridor reliability – delivering more consistent transit travel times while maintaining safe and efficient cross-street traffic operations.

Opened in April, the new five-level Park & Ride facility at SW 168 Street offers commuters a convenient and modern gateway to the BRT network on the South Dade TransitWay. This state-of-the-art facility features more than 640 parking spaces with direct, covered access to the SW 168 Street BRT station, a kiss-and-ride drop-off area, secure bicycle storage, electric vehicle charging stations, public restrooms, and an Art in Public Places installation by Monica Lopez de Victoria. Designed to reduce roadway congestion and encourage greater transit use, the SW 168 Street Parking Garage makes it easier than ever for South Miami-Dade residents to leave their cars behind and enjoy public transportation.

Conclusion

DTPW remains fully committed to delivering on the promise of world-class BRT service for Miami-Dade County. Seven months in, ridership is strong and growing, operational performance continues to trend upward, and public confidence in Metro Express and TransitWay Local continues to grow. Moving forward, the department will continue to monitor performance, advance service enhancements, and keep Miami-Dade County residents, riders, and stakeholders informed as this next generation of mobility matures and expands.

Should you require additional information, please contact Stacy L. Miller, P.E., DTPW Director and CEO at stacy.miller@miamidade.gov or (786) 469-5406.

Attachment

cc: Geri Bonzon-Keenan, County Attorney
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Metro EXPRESS & TransitWay Local UPDATES

LAUNCH & OPTIMIZATIONS SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 2025-MAY 2026

Seven months after launch, Metro Express and TransitWay Local have firmly established a new standard of mobility for South Dade. What began as a promising first month has grown into a high-performing, high-ridership transit corridor — one that South Dade residents rely on every day. With 1.8 million trips taken on the TransitWay through May, runtimes stabilized, and on-time performance continuing to climb, the results reflect the power of a data-driven, community-centered approach. DTPW and partners continue to refine operations, identifying opportunities to improve and optimizing in real time so that every rider experiences the safe, reliable, world-class BRT service Miami-Dade County deserves.


601
Metro EXPRESS

6,307 AVERAGE DAILY
WEEKDAY RIDERS

3,800 + more riders than previous
express service — **a 152% increase!**

RUNTIMES



- Have stabilized, now more consistent
- Majority of trips achieving scheduled runtimes of 60 min peak and 70 min off-peak


**77% ON-TIME
PERFORMANCE**

601 OTP continues to improve month-over-month, achieving goal in June.

601	Oct 25	May 26
	32.8%	77%

*OTP Goal is 78%


602
TransitWay Local

4,000 AVERAGE DAILY
WEEKDAY RIDERS

Migration to Metro Express accounts for shifts in local service ridership

RUNTIMES



- Runtimes have largely stabilized
- Most trips achieving scheduled runtimes, but optimizing to improve OTP

71.2%

**ON-TIME
PERFORMANCE**

Local 602 OTP has improved month-over-month since launch, reaching 78% goal in June.

602	Oct 25	May 26
	36.8%	71.2%

1.8 MILLION TOTAL TRIPS ON THE SOUTH DADE TRANSITWAY
NOVEMBER 2025 – MAY 2026; ROUTES 601 & 602 COMBINED

OUTREACH & EDUCATION

ENGAGING KEY AUDIENCES

- Ongoing education about the service, safety measures around the transitway, and the BRT's unique benefits has increased awareness and adoption of Metro Express.
- Paid, earned, and owned media tactics, combined with direct outreach via community meetings and presentations to local organizations and municipalities, continue to drive engagement with the service.
- Customer response teams at DTPW and 311 receive and respond to resident questions and concerns about the South Dade TransitWay and its impact on cross-traffic and surrounding areas, providing updates, explaining ongoing optimizations, and recommending alternatives while service adjustments continue to be deployed.



NOW OPEN: 168TH STREET PARKING GARAGE

The new five-level Park & Ride facility at SW 168 Street is now open, offering commuters a convenient and modern gateway to the BRT network on the South Dade TransitWay. This state-of-the-art facility features approximately 645 parking spaces with direct, covered access to the SW 168 Street BRT station, a kiss-and-ride drop-off area, secure bicycle storage, electric vehicle charging stations, public restrooms, and an Art in Public Places installation by Monica Lopez de Victoria. Designed to reduce congestion and encourage sustainable travel, the SW 168 Street Parking Garage makes it easier than ever for South Miami-Dade residents to leave their cars behind and ride.



OPTIMIZATION: ONGOING, INTEGRATED RESPONSE

ISSUES / OPPORTUNITIES	RESPONSES / OPTIMIZATIONS
Unauthorized vehicles on the dedicated TransitWay and drivers "blocking the box" continued to trigger off-cycle signals, causing delays and threatening safety.	Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office (MDSO) continues to work with DTPW to actively patrol and enforce regulations pertaining to unauthorized use of the South Dade TransitWay by motorists, scooters, and bicycles. MDSO also actively engages in "Block the Box" campaigns to clear TransitWay intersections when gates descend to protect bus through-traffic. Targeted safety and compliance messaging is live on social, digital media, and radio.
Opportunities identified to further optimize Traffic Signal Preemption and Transit Signal Priority, gate arm sequencing, and vehicle detection performance across the corridor. Several high-volume intersections required additional calibration to improve bus progression, enhance intersection coordination, and better balance TransitWay operations with adjacent traffic flow.	To improve operations and further enhance overall safety on the corridor, DTPW is also working to advance legislation to establish a scheme of civil penalties for unauthorized use of the TransitWay by pedestrians, bicyclists, scooter users and certain vehicles.
	To optimize performance, DTPW and project partners implemented regular field coordination meetings, real-time system monitoring, and intersection-by-intersection evaluations to quickly identify and address operational anomalies. Corrective actions include refining signal timing plans, adjusting Traffic Signal Preemption and priority logic alongside detection zones, recalibrating gate control sequencing at intersections, improving data communications between field devices and signal controllers, and deploying targeted software and firmware updates where necessary. These efforts have resulted in measurable operational improvements and enhanced corridor reliability, delivering more consistent transit travel times while maintaining safe and efficient cross-street traffic operations.

CONCLUSION

DTPW remains fully committed to delivering on the promise of world-class BRT service for Miami-Dade County. Seven months in, ridership is strong and growing, operational performance continues to trend upward, and public confidence in Metro Express and TransitWay Local continues to grow. The department will continue to monitor performance, advance service enhancements, and keep South Dade riders and stakeholders informed as this next generation of mobility matures and expands.

For more information, contact Stacy L. Miller, P.E., DTPW Director and CEO at stacy.miller@miamidade.gov or (786) 469-5406.

