

January 12, 2010

Mr. Harpal S. Kapoor
Director
Miami-Dade Transit

Dear Mr. Kapoor

I am writing to document my concerns relating to Miami-Dade County's Para-transit System, commonly referred to as Special Transportation Service (STS). I am deeply concerned about the imminent March 2010 expiration of the current contract which governs the program.

My concern stems from the fact that the existing contract has not been extended and to date no new contract has been awarded, despite the fact that the existing pact is due to end in a few short weeks. As you know, the current contract has no extension clause. As a result, my fear is that people with disabilities will end up with no service or limited service while the details of a new contract or contract extension are ironed out. As you are aware, several thousand people depend on STS in order to reliably get to school, work, and other essential life activities which are so vital. Needless to say, this situation is of great concern and anxiety for the thousands who depend on the service.

As Chairperson of the Commission On Disability Issues (CODI), I, along with several of my colleagues with disabilities, have worked steadfastly with staff from Miami-Dade Transit and other stakeholders to ensure that the program maintains the high level of service that we are entitled to as taxpayers and citizens of Miami-Dade County. As you are aware, CODI is an official advisory board to the BCC which deals with issues pertaining to people with disabilities.

These are the major areas of concern that riders of STS need to be assured of in light of the tenuous situation outlined above:

- The STS program will continue to be available to Miami-Dade residents, after March 2010 when the current contract expires, with no interruption in service. Further, riders will maintain at least the same level of service residents with disabilities currently enjoy.
- The program will continue to service all areas of Miami-Dade County, 24 hours a day.
- The reservation hours for the program will remain 8 a.m.-5 p.m. seven days a week.

I look forward to your response to my concerns in this time sensitive matter.

Sincerely,



DAMIAN P. GREGORY
Chairperson
Commission On Disability Issues

