

CALENDAR of Events

MPO	BAC	BCCB	CIR	TCC
April				
Thursday 10 at 9:30 a.m. Room 422	Wednesday 9 at 7:00 p.m. Room 302	Monday 21 at 2:00 p.m. Room 422	Tuesday 1 at 6:00 p.m. Room 430	Monday 28 at 2:00 p.m. Room 302
May				
Thursday 8 at 9:30 a.m. Room 422	Wednesday 14 at 7:00 p.m. Room 302	Monday 19 at 2:00 p.m. Room 422	Tuesday 6 at 6:00 p.m. Room 430	Monday 19 at 2:00 p.m. Room 302
June				
Thursday 12 at 9:30 a.m. Room 422	Wednesday 11 at 7:00 p.m. Room 302	Monday 16 at 2:00 p.m. Room 422	Tuesday 3 at 6:00 p.m. Room 430	Monday 23 at 2:00 p.m. Room 302
July				
Thursday 10 at 9:30 a.m. Room 422	Wednesday 9 at 7:00 p.m. Room 302	Cancelled	Tuesday 1 at 6:00 p.m. Room 430	Monday 28 at 2:00 p.m. Room 302

All meetings are at the Government Center, 115 S. Andrews Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale and are open to the public.



PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
FT. LAUDERDALE, FL
PERMIT #3973

Acronyms

AAADT Annual Average Daily Traffic Counts	DCA Department of Community Affairs
APR Annual Performance Report	DPEP Department of Planning and Environmental Protection
APTA American Public Transit Association	DRI Development of Regional Impact
BAC Bicycle Advisory Committee	EIS Environmental Impact Statement
BCCB Broward County Coordinating Board	EPA Environmental Protection Agency
BCT Broward County Transit	FAA Federal Aviation Authority
BLC Broward League of Cities	FAC Florida Administrative Code
BUS Broward Urban Shuttle	FCTD Florida Commission Transportation Disadvantaged
CAA Clean Air Act Amendment	FDOT Florida Department of Transportation
CBD Central Business District	FHWA Federal Highway Administration
CMA Congestion Management	FS Florida Statute
CIR Community Involvement Roundtable	FTA Federal Transit Administration
CMAQ Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality	FY Fiscal Year
CMS Congestion Management System	GIS Geographic Information System
CTC Community Transportation Coordinator	MPO Metropolitan Planning Organization
	TCC Technical Coordinating Committee

For more information visit:

www.broward.org/mpo

For information on how to become a member of the Technical Coordinating Committee or Community Involvement Roundtable call 954-357-6608.

This publication can be made available in large print, tape cassette, or braille by request.

This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$1,400.00 or \$.467 per copy to provide information about Broward County MPO services and programs.

Transportation Planning Division
115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 329H
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301



SHORTCUTS

VOL 10, No. 3

2nd Quarter 2003

FREE SHUTTLES AT SOUTH FLORIDA EDUCATIONAL CENTER

With over 65,000 people working, going to school or visiting daily, the South Florida Educational Center (SFEC) has become Broward County's second largest traffic generator. The SFEC is the consortium of educational institutions including Broward Community College, Florida Atlantic University, Nova Southeastern University, the University of Florida Extension and McFatter Technical Center.

In order to help relieve traffic congestion in this area, in June of 2002, the MPO approved \$994,392.00 for a three-year pilot shuttle bus service for the South Florida Education Center Transportation Management Association (SFECTMA).



The service, which began in January 2003, offers both an internal campus shuttle and an express shuttle from Weston Road to the South Florida Education Center (SFEC).

The SFEC/Weston Road Express Shuttle service is designed to keep cars off the road between the intersection of Weston Road and I-595, and the SFEC campus in Davie. It runs Monday through Friday, from 7:05 a.m. to 7:50 p.m., every half-hour, and connects the SFEC campus with the county's west-central areas including Weston, Pembroke Pines, and four BCT routes:

- BCT #2 bus at the intersection of University Drive and SW 30th Street;
- BCT #9 bus at the Broward Community College Central Campus, Building #19;
- BCT #12 bus at the Broward Community College Central Campus, Building #19; and
- BCT #23 bus at the intersection of Weston Road and I-595.

The SFEC/Weston Road Express Shuttle service also connects with the SFEC/Tri-Rail Express Bus service,



which goes from the SFEC campus to the Fort Lauderdale Airport Tri-Rail station and back between 7:00 a.m. and 8:04 p.m.

Once riders have reached the campus they are able to get virtually anywhere on the campus by using the SFEC/NSU Library Internal Shuttle. This shuttle runs daily, every 15 minutes, and allows riders to get to any SFEC institution including the new NSU Research Information Technology Center (Technology Library). It also connects with BCT routes 9 and 12.

This public transportation service provides riders a way to travel from Weston and surrounding areas to the SFEC campus and from any SFEC institution to the NSU Library, without using their cars, thus reducing congestion, and improving air quality. **AND THE SERVICE IS FREE!**

The SFECTMA currently runs 3 FREE bus routes:

1. SFEC/Tri-Rail Express Bus service
2. SFEC/Weston Road Express Shuttle service
3. SFEC/NSU Library Internal Shuttle service

For more information about the SFEC shuttles, please contact SFEC TMA executive director, Larry Penso at 954-262-8847 or visit the web site at www.sfec.org.

In This Issue ...

- Free Shuttles
- Shifting Focus in Transportation Planning
- Keep America Beautiful
- Taking it to the Streets
- We're Listening!
- Commuting Solutions - Vanpool
- What is the Transit Bridge Project?
- What is the MPO?
- May is Clean Air Month

KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL

We all know that clean streets encourage neighborhood pride and increase property values. Broward Beautiful, an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, Inc., and Keep Florida Beautiful, through a partnership with the Adopt-A-Street program will be cleaning the streets throughout Broward County in March and April celebrating the Great American Cleanup. Throughout the year the hard working Adopt-A-Street volunteers have removed over 81,000 pounds of litter from the streets of Broward County.



WE'RE LISTENING!

Ever wondered what happens to information after you fill out a survey? Over the past few months, the MPO has distributed and gathered surveys at nine different community events asking the public what transportation issues they would like to know more about. Survey says: Traffic Congestion is the number one transportation issue, followed closely by Mass Transit, and Bicycle Facilities rounding out the top three. Your comments and feedback not only go directly to decision makers, but also allow us to provide you with relevant information. So, how do our survey results rank with you? Is there a bigger issue not listed on our top three list? Visit our website at www.broward.org/mpo and give us your feedback. We're Listening!



SHIFTING FOCUS IN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING:

~Richard J. Kaplan,
MPO Chair,
Mayor, City of Lauderhill

Realizing that traffic will always grow to fill road capacity, the MPO has concluded that simply improving the efficiency of roadway designs or traffic management, will never get us where we want to go. Over the last few months we have collected hundreds of public opinion surveys indicating concern about traffic congestion, mass transit and improved bicycle facilities.

In order to respond to our public and ensure improved mobility, safety, economic opportunity and environmental quality, the MPO board is shifting its focus from simply expanding roadways and adding more lanes to existing roads, to a multi-modal approach to transportation planning with a heavy emphasis on mass transit system improvements.

Maryland DOT estimates that a full bus takes about 60 cars off the road, a full van pool takes 12 cars off the road, and a full commuter railcar can take up to 200 cars off the road. In St. Louis, a full MetroLink light rail train removes 125 cars from the roads, and the entire system removes 12,500 cars from daily rush hour traffic.

This shift towards mass transit will not only help ease traffic congestion and improve air quality, it will also help the businesses and the economic growth of our community. Studies show that only 6% of welfare recipients own cars, and lack of proper transportation is a critical barrier to finding and keeping a job. An improved public transportation system will be of

benefit as employers around the county take advantage of the expanded labor pool that public transportation will provide.

Safety is another key concern of our public. The National Safety Council estimates that riding the bus is over 170 times safer than automobile travel. Compared to road systems, transit systems are significantly safer. Trips with similar destinations result in 200,000 fewer deaths, injuries and accidents when made by public transit than by car, adding up to between \$2 billion and \$5 billion per year in safety benefits.

And not to be forgotten are the economic benefits of an excellent mass transit system. A study by the prestigious Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) at the University of South Florida showed that to residents statewide, transit provided annual economic net benefits of \$362 million. Among the benefits quantified were \$33 million derived by reducing the cost of the federally mandated transportation disadvantaged program, \$83 million resulting from incomes due to federal transit dollars flowing into Florida, and a \$12 million positive impact on highway capacity. Mobility benefits to transit users comprised the remainder.

To make sure we are moving people from where they are to where they want to go efficiently, a 10-year Transit Master Plan is being developed. This plan will review current transit options and identify and evaluate transit services, transit infrastructure, capital improvements, and prioritize recommendations for the future vision of Broward County. Design, prioritization and funding are key components of this "Master Plan" and will set the tone for transportation for our future.

TAKING IT TO THE STREETS:

Recognizing that the public's time is precious, the MPO has been expanding opportunities for the public to give input by attending special events and festivals in the community — in effect taking our message to the streets. The MPO display booth has traveled to such events as Viva Broward, Pioneer Days, the Senior Games and the Renaissance Festival. At these events a variety of opportunities were provided for citizen's to give us their opinions, ideas and suggestions. These included a MPO survey form in Spanish, French and English and a Transportation Questionnaire asking them to rank transportation projects by priority. Staff members were on hand to answer questions and explain project details.



Staff also distributed T-shirts, citizen's guides, fact sheets and newsletters to help the public understand what the MPO is and what the board's responsibilities are.

During these events staff gathered valuable feedback from over 850 citizen surveys and shared it with BCT and

other agencies. These public outreach efforts are a crucial part of connecting with our citizens and letting them know how to get involved in the transportation planning process.

This program of public outreach will continue throughout the year with booths planned for Earth Day, the Kuumba Festival and Clean Air Day.

Come tell us what you think!

COMMUTING SOLUTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE SOUTH FLORIDA COMMUNITY

New Vanpool Subsidy Makes Getting to Work Easier Than You Think

Commuting frustration is one of the drawbacks that our area has to face on a daily basis. If this constant battle has you in its grip, then South Florida Commuter Services (SFCS), a program funded by the Florida Department of Transportation, has options for you. This program saves consumers thousands of dollars each year on gas, car maintenance, and even federal taxes.

One travel mode that is gaining in popularity and helps to relieve congestion is vanpooling. Through a new County subsidy supported by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the cost for vanpooling will be dramatically reduced for trips originating in Broward County. The County subsidy represents a \$400 per van "lease incentive" every month and South



Florida Vanpool Program (VPSI) covers 100% of the vehicle maintenance and insurance.

A service like this offers flexible month-to-month leasing (driver/captain keeps van nights and weekends for personal use), and costs the average commuter around \$65-\$95 a month. All vanpoolers are automatically eligible to receive six free taxi rides home for emergencies under the Emergency Ride Home program (ERH).

Call South Florida Commuter Services and speak with one of their knowledgeable commuter service professionals at 1-800-234-RIDE. You may also visit www.1800234RIDE.com for additional information or to register online.

WHAT IS THE TRANSIT BRIDGE PROJECT?

- The Transit "Bridge" is a project that will improve transit service between southern Broward and unincorporated north Miami-Dade Counties. The project will evaluate high performance transit alternatives along the State Road 7 corridor that will serve as a connector to the Golden Glades Intermodal Terminal, the NW 27th Avenue Metrorail Extension, and a Central Broward East-West Transit Corridor, yet to be determined.

- Phase II of the project will explore alternatives to expand transit services south of Hollywood Boulevard that will connect to a major Broward East/West corridor.

- A public kick-off meeting to address transit services along State Road 7 (US 441) will take place on April 3rd and will be held at the South Florida Regional Planning Council, 3440 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 140, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

- For more information or to be placed on the mailing list for the Transit "Bridge" Report, or to volunteer for the Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC), contact:

Dickey Consulting Services
PO Box 892, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33302
954-467-7822
sadickey@bellsouth.net



WHAT IS THE MPO?

Established in 1977 by the Florida Legislature, the MPO was created to direct urban transportation planning and allocate federal and state funds. It is the lead agency responsible for developing and administering plans and programs to maintain eligibility and receive funds for the transportation systems in Broward County.

Made up of government representatives who plan and recommend transportation project priorities, the MPO consists of nineteen members including representatives from local cities, Tri-Rail, the School Board of Broward County, and the Board of Broward County Commissioners.

MAY IS CLEAN AIR MONTH

Every May, the State of Florida and Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties recognize Clean Air Month. By devoting resources toward numerous outreach activities, Clean Air Month increases public awareness of air quality issues so that citizens and visitors are empowered to take actions to protect, restore and enhance the air quality of South Florida.

From driving our cars, to mowing our lawns, to using electricity, all people impact air quality through every-day choices. Clean Air Month provides a forum to explore the effects of our choices and provide alternative, clean-air options. Clean Air Month activities include exhibit and display booths at various community events, educational presentations, poster and essay contests in local schools, and public service announcements.

If you are interested in participating in Clean Air Month activities or need more information on protecting and preserving our air quality please contact the Broward County Department of Planning and Environmental Protection at 954-519-1220 or www.broward.org/air.