

Transportation Voice

Alternative Transportation Options

Fall 2008

OPTIONS FOR A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

Times are quickly changing and transportation agencies are making adjustments in planning the future of transportation facilities and services. The sustained growth of Miami-Dade County's population over the last few decades has indeed created a heavy demand upon the transportation infrastructure. The increase in licensed drivers and registered vehicles continues unabated, despite marketplace trends such as rising fuel prices and worsening traffic congestion.

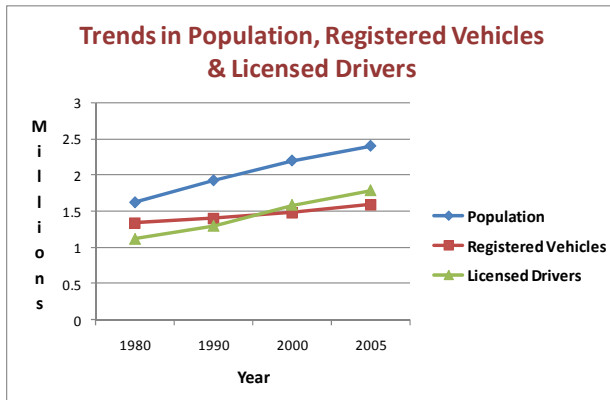
Today we have more vehicles utilizing our roadways with people traveling longer distances as a result of new housing developments throughout Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties. Unfortunately, the

land available for the construction of new highways is limited. Since 1987, the State and the County have only built 40 and 118 center-line miles of new roadways, respectively. More has to be done, but resources have become extremely scarce. Other options for alleviating traffic congestion

need to be considered.

This newsletter discusses several strategies to relieve traffic congestion. These strategies are focused on short

and medium-term alternatives that can have long lasting effects in order to provide extra capacity for a smoother and safer ride on our roadways without adding new roads, while at the same time providing incentives to save money and/or time.



DID YOU KNOW?

You can obtain information on the following programs:

Bicycle/Pedestrian Program
305-375-1647
www.miamidade.gov/mpo

South Florida Vanpool Program
Abraham Jivanjee
305-558-1355
abe.jivanjee@vpsiinc.com

Carpool Matching/Emergency Ride Home Program
Commuter Services
1-800-234-RIDE (7433)
www.1800234ride.com

Real Time Traffic Information
Dial 511
<http://511southflorida.com>

Real Time Transit Information
www.miamidade.gov/transit/traintracker.asp

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Jesus Guerra is a Transportation System Manager for the Miami-Dade MPO and manages the South Florida Vanpool Program. Mr. Guerra is a Civil Engineer with a Masters degree in Transportation Systems. He has over 30 years of experience and for the last 15 years, he has been working with the MPO managing several transit and highway studies, as well as special projects.

TRANSIT ON THE GO

Miami-Dade Transit offers quick service and trip planning for users.

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) combines the quality of rail transit and the flexibility of buses. It can operate on exclusive transit ways, HOV lanes, expressways, or ordinary streets. An ideal BRT system combines advanced technologies, priority for transit vehicles, cleaner and quieter vehicles, rapid and convenient fare collection, and integration with land use policy. Today, BRT type services run along I-95 from the Golden Glades Interchange to downtown Miami and the Civic Cen-



ter and along the South Dade Busway from the Dadeland South Metrorail Station south to SW 344th Street. Additional BRT services for the Kendall area will become available in the near future.

Regional Trip Planning is available at www.miamidade.gov/transit and shows you how to travel with ease throughout Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach counties using public transit. A user can access schedules and maps, fare information, service alerts, and much more. They can also use the trip planner to create a customized itinerary.

TRANSIT'S BIKE & RIDE PROGRAM

Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) and TriRail make it possible for you to travel with your bike.

Metrobus: All Metrobuses are equipped with a front rack that carries two bikes. No permit or extra fare is required.

Metrorail: Bikes are allowed in the last car of all Metrorail trains when you have a MDT "Bike & Ride" permit. Permits are available at all Metrorail stations and at the transit information booth at the Government Center.

Tri-Rail: Bikes are allowed on specially marked Tri-Rail cars when you have a Tri-Rail Bicycle Permit sticker. Permits are available by calling 800-TRI-RAIL or on their website at www.tri-rail.com.

Bike Parking: Your trip can be completely car free if you use the bike racks provided at MDT and Tri-Rail stations. The MPO also provides bike lockers at some rail stations for secure long-term bike parking.



Bicycle Parking at the Coconut Grove Metrorail Station

SOUTH FLORIDA VANPOOL PROGRAM

There are currently 173 vanpools being operated by the South Florida Vanpool Program (SFVP) in the tri-County area. The program started in 1998, and provides vans to commuters traveling together on a regular basis to and from work.

Groups of 7 to 15 people commute together to work in a comfortable van driven by one of the participants, who is responsible for the van. Usually, the group decides how many stops to have along the route, as well as when and where to

meet. Based on the size of the group and the monthly mileage, an appropriate individual monthly contribution is determined.

Currently, the program allows a \$400 subsidy per vehicle per month. The balance of the cost is shared by all members of the group, except the volunteer driver. Direct costs such as gasoline, parking, and tolls are shared. The monthly fee includes the lease of the vans, insurance (no-deductible), and all scheduled and unscheduled maintenance.



The South Florida Vanpool Program can be reached at 1-800-234-RIDE (7433)

95 EXPRESS PROJECT

Phase 1 of the 95 Express Project has been deployed along I-95 to provide congestion relief through selective management of the existing highway infrastructure. When complete, the project will provide 2 express lanes in each direction for the 21 miles from just north of downtown Miami to I-595 in Fort Lauderdale. The project also expands and enhances transit service allowing bus riders to use the facility toll-free as well as registered

3+ carpoolers/vanpoolers. Vehicles with less than three people must pay a toll to use the express lanes.

The lanes are managed through congestion-priced tolls that will vary depending on given levels of traffic demand in the general purpose lanes. Vehicles in the express lanes will operate at between 45-50 MPH even during peak periods. Learn more at www.95Express.com.



Two express lanes along I-95 separated by delineators from the general purpose lanes

BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN PROGRAM

The MPO's Bicycle/Pedestrian Program works to increase the number of people bicycling/walking and reduce the number of traffic accidents. The MPO has recently completed or funded several planning studies of bicycle facilities:

- The Snake Creek Bike Trail Planning and Feasibility Study
- The Bicycle Facilities Project Evaluation of non-motorized corridors and a more detailed master plan for the Commodore Trail connecting Cocoplum Circle to the Rickenbacker Causeway
- Safe Routes to School Program Procedure Manual
- North Miami Beach Bicycle Plan
- Bicycle Parking Plan for Miami-Dade Transit

- Bicycle Safety Plan
- Sunny Isles Beach Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge Evaluation
- 107th Avenue Pedestrian Transit Greenway Plan

The 2000 Census reported that more than 4,000 adults ride their bike to work in Miami-Dade County. Over 12,000 people have received a Bike & Ride permit from MDT. Many more ride for exercise, to shop, or to visit friends, and are served by 50 specialty bike shops as well as other bike retailers in Miami-Dade.

Building a bike-friendly community makes it easier for more people to get around and stay healthy. To learn more about the Bicycle/Pedestrian Program visit: www.miamidade.gov/mpo



Walk to School events help promote safe walking practices for school aged children

OTHER AVAILABLE ALTERNATIVES

Several other options are available to commuters: *Flextime* provides flexibility to employees for coming to work during a specific span of time. Usually, this period may range from 6:00 am to 9:00 am in the

morning, and from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm in the afternoon. *Compressed Work Schedule* allows employees to work 10 hours a day for 4 days a week, or work 80

hours within 9 days with the tenth day off. *Staggered Work Hours* is defined as an eight-hour day, five-day work week, with various starting and ending times by time inter-

vals. These intervals are usually within a range of 15 and 30 minutes. *Telecommuting* allows employees to work at home on certain days. Call 1-800-234-RIDE to learn more.



CALENDAR OF MONTHLY MEETINGS

	OCTOBER 2008	NOVEMBER 2008	DECEMBER 2008
MPO	10/23	11/20	12/18
TPC	10/06	11/24	NO MEETING
TPTAC	10/29	11/19	NO MEETING
CTAC	10/22	11/19	12/17
BPAC	10/22	11/19	12/17
TARC	10/07	11/05	12/03
FTAC	TBA	TBA	TBA
LCB	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	12/09

MPO - Metropolitan Planning Organization
 TPC - Transportation Planning Council
 TPTAC - Transportation Planning Technical Advisory Committee
 CTAC - Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee
 BPAC - Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee
 TARC - Transportation Aesthetics Review Committee
 FTAC - Freight Transportation Advisory Committee
 LCB - Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged

MPO Governing Board
 Bruno A. Barreiro, Chairman
 Barbara J. Jordan, Vice Chairwoman
 Lynda Bell
 Kevin A. Burns
 Jose "Pepe" Diaz
 Audrey M. Edmonson
 Shirley M. Gibson
 Carlos A. Gimenez
 Perla T. Hantman
 Sally A. Heyman
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 Joe A. Martinez
 Dennis C. Moss
 Julio Robaina
 Dorrin D. Rolle
 Marc D. Sarnoff
 Natacha Seijas
 Katy Sorenson
 Rebeca Sosa
 Sen. Javier D. Souto
 Richard L. Steinberg

Non-Voting Members
FDOT District VI
 Gus Pego, P.E., Secretary
 Gary L. Donn, P.E.

County Administration
 Carlos Alvarez, County Mayor
 George M. Burgess, County Manager
 Ysela Llort, Assistant County Manager
 Jose-Luis Mesa, Ph.D., MPO Director

“ Delivering Excellence Every Day ”

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