

CALENDAR of Events

MPO	BAC	BCCB	CIR	TCC
April				
Thursday 8 at 9:30 a.m. Room 422	Wednesday 14 at 7:00 p.m. Room 301	Monday 19 at 7:00 p.m. Room 422	Tuesday 6 at 6:00 p.m. Room 430	Monday 26 at 2:00 p.m. Room 302
May				
Thursday 13 at 9:30 a.m. Room 422	Wednesday 12 at 7:00 p.m. Room 301	No Meeting	Tuesday 4 at 6:00 p.m. Room 430	Monday 24 at 2:00 p.m. Room 302
June				
Thursday 10 at 9:30 a.m. Room 422	Wednesday 9 at 7:00 p.m. Room 301	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
July				
Thursday 8 at 9:30 a.m. Room 422	Wednesday 14 at 7:00 p.m. Room 301	No Meeting	Tuesday 6 at 6:00 p.m. Room 430	Monday 26 at 2:00 p.m. Room 302

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



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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, including postage, 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. 6

1st Quarter 2004

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF BROWARD COUNTY

By December of 2004, Broward County's population is expected to increase by 33,300. How will the County handle future travel demands for people and freight? The Broward County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) uses a needs assessment process to make recommendations to prioritize transportation projects. This needs assessment incorporates long and short range goals for the County.



The Broward County MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is a list of project needs in Broward County encompassing 20 years. Projects in

the LRTP include bicycle, pedestrian, transit, and roadway facilities. The plan is updated every three years and is at the center of all transportation planning, as it is the starting point for any transportation program that uses federal funding.

What is being done about transportation planning for the future? The Broward County MPO is implementing alternative measures such as Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Technology and moving forward on initiatives such as Bus Rapid Transit (BRT).

In addition to the LRTP, the MPO also maintains a Congestion Management System (CMS), a tool for monitoring and evaluating the performance of the County's transportation system to identify and implement practical alternative solutions for transportation problems. It focuses on efforts to save time and money, improve air quality, and reduce adverse environmental impacts. This is accomplished by planning short and medium range transportation network improvements to enhance mobility and reduce congestion.

Public input received by the Broward County MPO has led to many changes for the commuter. Increased ridership and improvements to the transit systems are goals fully supported by the Broward County MPO.



Here are just a few recent highlights:

The Double Track Corridor Improvement Program

This program, scheduled to be completed by 2005, consists of

a 45-mile upgrade to existing track, which will allow Tri-Rail to increase services from 28 trains to 48 trains daily.

State Road 7/441 Corridor Study and Transit Bridge Project

The MPO staff held more than 15 public meetings before deciding that the best alternative would be Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). As a result of the State Road 7/US441 Corridor Study, the Transit Bridge Project will use special buses and improved traffic signalization to link transit service between southern Broward County and North Miami-Dade Counties on State Road 7.

The Opa-Locka Station Expansion

The Tri-Rail Opa-Locka Station has been expanded with a new station platform, pedestrian overpass, enhanced lighting and landscaping and a second mainline track.



Through close coordination with Broward County Transit and Tri-Rail, the Broward County MPO has been instrumental in the transit projects that are supporting the growth in rail and bus transit ridership. To find out more about any of the County transit options or agencies, call the Broward County MPO at (954) 357-6608 to request a free copy of the Multi-Modal Transportation Information Directory.

*According to the Broward County Population Forecast Model in 2002.

In This Issue...

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- Kids Connection
- Did You Know?

“TAKING IT TO THE STREETS”



Seminole Tribe Annual Festival

Exhibiting amid the superior craftsmanship of sterling silver jewelry and Native American artwork, the Broward County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) discussed transportation issues and the impact that transportation planning has on people in the Davie community.

The event staff received a warm reception and many people took the time to learn more about how the MPO can assist them in their daily lives.

People from all over the County came to the event, held over Valentine's Day weekend. Some attendees were eager to discuss the impacts of the new Hard Rock Casino, its impact on the local economy, and traffic on State Road 7. Attendees also discussed road widening projects, bus service and traffic congestion.

School children arrived at the festival early Friday morning by the busload with many area schools participating from Broward County. Over 60 people visited the Mobile Information Station (MIS), which acted as the MPO booth.

The MIS is one of the newest tools the MPO has enlisted for 2004. It is a 34-foot Recreational Vehicle conceptualized to link Florida's projects with Florida's communities.



BROWARD COUNTY MPO'S PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

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

- Involve the public by providing opportunities early and often in the transportation planning and decision-making process.
- Reach out to all communities in the planning area to inform, educate and involve; with special emphasis on those communities with people who have been underrepresented and/or underserved.
- Improve the public involvement process.

As with any private sector business, the Broward County MPO continually reviews internal processes and procedures. Our most recent review of the Public Involvement Plan (PIP), however, is a part of the triennial certification process conducted by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration as a component of the MPO certification process.

The PIP provides guidelines for establishing and maintaining optimum public involvement and connecting with the citizens and stakeholders in Broward County.

The objectives of the plan are to:

- Inform the public of transportation meetings and other events.
- Educate the public regarding their role in the transportation planning and decision making process.

The metropolitan planning process establishes a design for making transportation investment decisions in metropolitan areas like Broward County. It also provides a major funding source for transportation projects.

In addition, the MPO and its advisory committees review the PIP to ensure that our planning process provides full and open access to all segments of the County's diverse population. The PIP is also integral to the development and adoption of our plans and programs.

The Public Involvement Plan is accessible from the MPO website at www.broward.org/mpo or you may call (954) 357-6608 and request that a printed copy be sent to you. Your comments are always welcome!

LOOKING FOR A BETTER WAY TO NAVIGATE THROUGH TRAFFIC ON THE WEEKEND?

Add intermodal travel to your itinerary!



Water Bus

With road improvements taking place all over the County, getting around even on the weekends can be a chore. By using an alternative mode of travel, such as a WaterBus, you can turn the weekend into something fun and environmentally friendly at the same time!

Equipped with a line of commercial vessels, Fort Lauderdale's Water Taxi is doing its part to reduce downtown congestion and central beach traffic by

offering increased operating hours starting as early as 6:30 a.m. and running until after midnight.

Future enhancements to WaterBus service will add additional Ferry Boat service and help to merge WaterBus into future transportation plans as prepared by the Broward County MPO.

The new LRTP is expected to contain a Waterborne Transit Component that will examine Capital and Operating Needs to expand waterborne transportation.

Previously, MPO funding allocations and grant endorsements have initiated a very popular and successful WaterBus service — the challenge for the future is to extend and institutionalize waterborne transit in an all-mode planning framework.

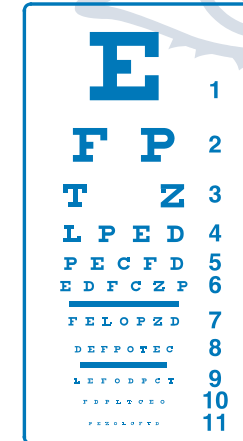
Water Taxi fares have been reduced from \$16 to \$5 for an all-day pass and a one-way point-to-point

THE “EYES” HAVE IT!

New Florida law requires drivers 80 and older to pass vision test.

In 2004, Florida passed a law requiring over half a million drivers in the state over the age of 80 to pass a vision test each time they renew their driver's license. According to Florida State records in 2002, approximately 694,000 citizens meet this criterion.

State lawmakers and senior advocacy groups such as American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), with 2.6 million members in Florida, are working on a state task force formed to help seniors stay on the road as long as they can remain capable drivers. Florida AARP, previously opposed to the mandatory eye test, has changed their stance on the issue. The organization has also suggested reforms such as a shorter license renewal period for seniors (from 6 years, currently, to a 3 year period) special mass transit for seniors, and requested that State agencies



study ways of improving transportation for those that can no longer operate a vehicle safely.

The new requirement will assist the State in confirming that citizens affected by the new law have their eyes checked by a licensed physician.

In order to meet the requirements for a Florida driver's license, applicants that meet the age criteria are required to have at least 20/70 vision in both eyes. According to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, a driver who has lost sight in one eye or has below 20/200 vision must have sight in the other eye that is 20/40 or better.

Florida is not alone in creating tougher restrictions. California lawmakers passed several mandated laws applying to senior drivers. One such rule says that drivers over the age of 70 that are involved in two automobile crashes or more in a year must take a driver's test.

Prior to January 1, 2004, drivers no matter the age could legitimately keep from taking a vision test for up to 18 years.

charge of \$4.00 versus \$7.50. Special pricing is also available for seniors, disabled citizens and children. For more information please visit www.watertaxi.com.

City Cruiser

City Cruiser is the yellow bus shuttle system connecting Fort Lauderdale Beach and the Fort Lauderdale downtown area at no cost. Recently, City Cruiser increased service to 15 minute headways and expanded the service time from 6:00 pm to 1:30 am. The buses provide service from Las Olas Beachfront and Beach Place and remain free to the public. The service allows nearby residents to access downtown Las Olas or the visitors to shop without having to find parking more than once.



The MPO has been successful in helping City Cruiser with grant and Federal funding to implement a new service that will operate along 17th Street Causeway as well as capital funding to replace all of the City Cruiser buses with trolleys by January 2005.

This alternative can enhance your weekend or daily commute, while placing less stress to this beautiful County we call home. For more information please visit www.citycruiser.org or call 954-761-3543.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The MPO, along with the state and the operators of public transit systems, is responsible for carrying out metropolitan transportation planning.
- From 1982 to 1999 the region's population increased 42% while the average number of miles driven by each driver increased 62%.
- Broward County Transit fixed route service makes 34.4 million passenger trips annually. BCT buses travel 13.2 million annual service miles.

“TAKING IT TO THE STREETS”



Kids Konection, Pembroke Pines

What could be better than taking a trip to the park on a Saturday morning for an elementary-aged child? Going to one of the largest kid's events in Broward County, that's what!

Hundreds of children and their parents joined sponsors of the event, South Florida Parenting Magazine, at Pembroke Shores Park to learn more about child nutrition, day care, education, tutoring, child safety, and the MPO.

Over 80 parents were surveyed at the daylong event with many of them requesting additional information and reading materials on how the MPO affects transportation planning. The MPO distributed promotional items like: yo-yos, tee shirts, and brochures when visitors completed the transportation survey.

Most of the attendees were parents of elementary school students, but there were also many grandparents, aunts, uncles and guardians at the event, with a turnout of over a 1,000. Issues such as bicycle safety, pedestrian sidewalks, and transportation funding were just a sampling of the topics discussed.

One of the hottest issues was Broward County's Public Transit system. There were many good ideas provided by the citizens regarding improving the system for the future.