

## EMERGENCY MEETING HELD ON ECONOMIC STIMULUS PLAN PROJECTS

On Friday, February 20, 2009, the Broward MPO held an emergency meeting to prioritize transportation projects that qualified for stimulus funds. The emergency meeting was held at the Broward County Governmental Center at 9:00 a.m. One of the priorities of the meeting was to provide the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), with prioritized projects that qualified for both the Highway and Bridges Stimulus funds and Transportation Enhancement Stimulus funds. The funds available for Broward County are estimated at \$40 million for highway and bridge projects.

Newly appointed Broward MPO Interim Executive Director, Gregory Stuart, led the presentation by providing the Board with three proposed scenarios for Highway and Bridge Stimulus Funding Distribution. Scenario 1: Build transit shelters and related infrastructure throughout Broward County (approximately 1800 shelters); Scenario 2: Distribute funds between Broward County and municipalities for transportation projects; Scenario 3: Add 2 lanes (four lanes divided) with Bridge on Dixie Highway in North Broward County.

After a lengthy discussion which included the Board asking questions of Broward MPO staff and public comments, including those from elected officials, Scenario 3 was approved by a vote of 13-6, with a special amendment to use whatever money is left over from the Dixie Highway to build bus shelters throughout Broward County. According to FDOT District IV Secretary, James Wolfe, it is estimated about 1200 jobs will be generated within this FDOT project of \$40 million.

The second half of the meeting involved approving the Transportation Enhancement Program Project Priority List, in which Broward County will receive \$4 million from the Federal Economic Stimulus Package to implement Transportation

Enhancement projects which include funding of sidewalks, landscape, streetscape, and bicycle facilities.

To view the entire emergency meeting agenda package please visit [http://www.broward.org/mpo/emerg\\_mtg\\_final.pdf](http://www.broward.org/mpo/emerg_mtg_final.pdf).



*Members of the public listened intently as the meeting proceeded.*

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# BROWARD MPO WELCOMES GREGORY STUART AS NEW DIRECTOR

In March 2009, Gregory Stuart became the Executive Director of Broward MPO. Gregory previously served as the Broward MPO Interim Executive Director and as the Planning Services Division Director, for the Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department for over nine years. Among the duties the Planning Services Division provides is population forecasting, redevelopment efforts, and traditional neighborhood services for unincorporated areas of Broward County.



One of the things Gregory hopes to accomplish as Executive Director is to provide the Broward MPO board with a solid foundation, and to establish the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) as a product that supports appropriate density for transit development. He anticipates the 2035 LRTP will offer a first glimpse of a new direction in transportation planning. "The 2035 LRTP should be a dynamic document that will provide a gateway in developing a transit program voters will understand and agree to fund." Stuart said.

In addition, he intends to provide accurate direction to staff to ensure Broward MPO goals are accomplished and the groundwork is laid for future transportation coordination among agencies and land use planning. He would also like to further the Transit/Housing Oriented Redevelopment (THOR) program working with the cities of Oakland Park, Wilton Manors, Lauderdale, Lauderdale Lakes, Sunrise, and Fort Lauderdale. Another project in development is the North County Study which is one quarter of Broward County's connectivity of mobility. This study includes the cities of Coconut Creek, Margate, and Parkland.

"Moreover, I want the public to know I'm really excited about being here, it's an opportunity to bring change people will see and that will have a direct impact on their lives." Stuart said.

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## TAKING IT TO THE STREETS"



Mark Horowitz, Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator, takes time to talk to event attendees about Broward County's Bicycle Suitability Map.

### City of Plantation's Green Day

It was a perfect day for the City of Plantation to host its second annual Green Day. The event was held on Saturday, February 28th, at Liberty Tree Park. The family friendly event included a bicycle parade and rodeo, alternative transportation displays, environmental programs, tree giveaways, and other activities throughout the day.

The event had over 30 exhibitors, including Broward County Waste & Water Recycling Services, South Plantation High School Solar Knights, National Wildlife Federation, the Broward MPO and Just Fit, a local gym that raffled a free membership.

Broward MPO staff, including Mark Horowitz, Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator for Broward County, was on hand to answer questions about the Greenways System, which is a countywide network of bicycle and equestrian paths, nature trails, and waterways.

### DID YOU KNOW?...

March is  
Bicycle Month

To learn more about local Bicycle Month events, please visit:

<http://www.broward.org/parks/bicyclecalendar.htm>

## “TAKING IT TO THE STREETS”



*Reverend James Dye led festival goers in prayer to kickoff the event celebrating Mr. Carter G. Woodson. Also pictured left to right are: Jenna LaFleur, Sandra Edwards, Mayor Layne Dallett and Commissioner Suzanne Boisvenue.*

### 4th Annual Dr. Carter G. Woodson Festival

On Saturday, February 21, 2009, the Broward MPO exhibited at the 4th Annual Dr. Carter G. Woodson Festival in the City of Oakland Park. This festival has historical significance in that Dr. Carter G. Woodson, an African-American historian, author, and journalist pioneered the celebration of Negro History Week, which later became Black History Month. The festival was established in 2006 to provide the Oakland Park community the opportunity to honor this great achiever.

More than 30 event goers took part in the Broward MPO Transportation Survey and many asked questions regarding the transportation planning process. Mass transit and traffic congestion were the main areas of interest according to the survey results of the event.

The festival boasted a variety of music, traditional food, fun, entertainment, games, contests, and educational experiences for all ages. The Harlem McBride - N.E. 43rd Street Neighborhood Association and the City of Oakland Park – Parks and Leisure Services Department co-hosted the event from noon until 7:00 p.m. at the park named in Dr. Woodson’s honor located at 3490 N.E. 3rd Avenue in Oakland Park.



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Daniel J. Stermer,  
 Broward MPO Chair,  
 Commissioner,  
 City of Weston

In order for projects to be selected to receive transportation stimulus funds they must meet strict federal requirements; such as all projects must have completed the required assessment of environmental impacts, are located in economically distressed areas, and provide congestion relief among others.

Deciding on how to spend \$40 million dollars is not a task we take lightly. While we were in the midst of our discussion our peer to the south, Miami-Dade MPO, was preparing for their own emergency meeting later that afternoon. The previous day, Feb 19, the Palm Beach MPO dedicated stimulus funding to the Dixie Highway Project which connects Broward County to Palm Beach County.

Spending the stimulus money on one project or dividing it among municipalities was debated at length, and rightly so, as we are the planning body responsible for transportation planning in Broward County. Our decisions have a lasting effect not only on present communities, residents, and visitors, but future ones as well. As we move forward, the Broward MPO will continue to work with all communities to improve transportation at the local and regional level.

As noted in this issue’s cover story, on February 20, the Broward MPO held an emergency meeting to prioritize transportation stimulus funds. This was no easy task as staff had to prepare items for this meeting within a seven-day timeline. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), needed to get the information to the Florida Legislature so they could authorize the funding at the beginning of their legislative session in March.

It is estimated Broward County will receive \$40 million for highway and bridge projects. Take note that \$30 million will be distributed for mass transit projects. Broward County Transportation Department, which operates the county’s public transportation system, Broward County Transit (BCT), will receive and assign funds for mass transit projects according to BCT’s priorities.

## SFRTA HOLDS PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

The South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA), held its third regional workshop on Wednesday, November 19, 2008, at the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum. This was a series of workshops held in the tri-county area with the first workshop held on September 26, 2008, in Palm Beach County and the second held on November 14, 2008 in Miami-Dade County.

The workshop was moderated by Director James F. Murley, Center for Urban & Environmental Solutions, Florida Atlantic University. Opening remarks included Broward County Commissioner, SFRTA Governing Board Chair and Broward MPO member Josephus Eggelletion. The morning session of the workshop included presentations on regional and Broward County issues, including presentations from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Broward County Transit, South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC), and the Broward MPO. The afternoon session included attendees dividing into groups to address critical issues affecting the SFRTA, such as dedicated Tri-Rail funding and how to build community support for public transportation funding.

The 2009 Transportation Summit was held on Saturday, February 21, 2009, at the Broward County Convention Center. Mortimer Downey, chairmain of President Barack Obama’s Transportation Team was a special guest at the Summit and urged private and public agencies to work together if they would like to receive federal funding.



*Left: Members of the public were on hand to ask questions of the panel.*



*Right: Pictured L to R: Chris Walton, Roger Del Rio, Joe Guiletti, James Murley, and Gregory Stuart discussed local issues at the SFRTA workshop.*

# CALENDAR of Events

MPO	BPAC	BCCB	CIR	TCC
<b>January</b>				
No Meeting	Wednesday 14 at 6:30 p.m. Room 329F	Monday 26 at 2:00 p.m. Room 422	No Meeting	Monday 26 at 2:00 p.m. Room 302
<b>February</b>				
Thursday 12 at 9:30 a.m. Room 422	Wednesday 11 at 6:30 p.m. Room 329F	No Meeting	Tuesday 3 at 6:00 p.m. Room 430	Monday 23 at 2:00 p.m. Room 302
<b>March</b>				
Thursday 12 at 9:30 a.m. Room 422	Wednesday 11 at 6:30 p.m. Room 329F	Monday 16 at 2:00 p.m. Room 422	Meeting Cancelled	Monday 23 at 2:00 p.m. Room 302
<b>April</b>				
Thursday 23 at 9:30 a.m. Room 422	Wednesday 8 at 6:30 p.m. Room 329F	Monday 20 at 2:00 p.m. Room 422	Tuesday 7 at 6:00 p.m. Room 430	Monday 20 at 2:00 p.m. Room 302

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

## Acronyms

AADT	Annual Average Daily Traffic Counts	FDOT	Florida Department of Transportation
APTA	American Public Transit Association	FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
BCCB	Broward County Coordinating Board	FS	Florida Statute
BCT	Broward County Transit	FTA	Federal Transit Administration
BPAC	Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee	FY	Fiscal Year
CAAA	Clean Air Act Amendment	GIS	Geographic Information System
CBD	Central Business District	L RTP	Long Range Transportation Plan
CMA	Congestion Management	MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
CIR	Community Involvement Roundtable	SAFETEA-LU	Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act - A Legacy for Users
DCA	Department of Community Affairs	SEFTC	Southeast Florida Transportation Council
DRI	Development of Regional Impact	SFR TA	South Florida Regional Transportation Authority
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement	SIS	Strategic Intermodal System
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	TCC	Technical Coordinating Committee
FAA	Federal Aviation Authority	TIP	Transportation Improvement Program
FAC	Florida Administrative Code	EPGMD	Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department
FCTD	Florida Commission Transportation Disadvantaged		

For more information visit:

[www.broward.org/mpo](http://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 MPO services and programs.

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