

Summary of Event

EVENT: Miramar/Pembroke Pines Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee

DATE/TIME: Monday, December 19, 2013, 8:15 AM

LOCATION: Miramar Pembroke Pines Chamber of Commerce, 10100 Pines Boulevard
Pembroke Pines, FL 33026

PRIMARY AUDIENCE: Miramar/Pembroke Pines Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs
Committee

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE REACHED: 7

PROJECT TEAM MEMBER PARTICIPATION: Lynda Mifsud and Pamela Adams

PRIMARY CONTACT: Robert Goltz, robert@miramarpembrokepines.org

SUMMARY OF EVENT: The purpose of the meeting was to introduce Speak Up Broward to the Chamber Government Affairs Committee. The presentation "Let's Talk Transportation" was given by Lynda Mifsud. The Committee members were asked to become active in the Speak Up Broward initiative as volunteers in the Speakers Bureau, Ambassadors, and to identify presentation opportunities.

Discussion after the presentation about transportation challenges in Broward is summarized below by topic.

- ✓ **Technology:** New technologies will over time resolve some of the challenges that current transportation studies and plans are expected to solve over the next 20-30 years. A lot can happen in that time. Examples cited included congestion management and safety. New vehicles are being equipped with accident-prevention technology. The use of technology is better capable of controlling traffic flows and increasing throughput. We could make better use of existing express lanes with reverse flow to accommodate peak direction. (Someone pointed out that 595 were reversible lanes.) And technology makes it possible for more people to work from home. Technology will reduce congestion and increase throughput in our future and that needs to be taken into account as we plan for transportation investment. All of these improvements could reduce congestion and allow more flexibility. **Response: Ms. Mifsud acknowledged the ability for technology to solve transportation challenges is very important to our planning and priority setting.**
- ✓ **Safety:** Bicycle and pedestrian safety should be a focal point in the transportation discussion. Today's buses do not have the capacity to accommodate more than three bicycles. Drivers and roadways are not safe for bicyclist or motor bikes. **Response: Ms. Mifsud pointed out that complete streets designs roadways for all users, but in some cases it may be more appropriate to split types of users to adjacent roads in the interest of safety. In response to more bicycle users on the Tri-Rail trains, South Florida Regional Transportation Authority is converting 10 of their older passenger cars to accommodate**

riders with their bikes. Bicycle access is becoming a more popular way for Tri-Rail riders to get to/from their stations without a car.

- ✓ **Lifestyles:** Attitudes and lifestyles are changing about cars and public transportation. There is no longer a desire to be reliant on cars. Mr. Rose explained that his daughters would rather live elsewhere (in Washington DC and Raleigh NC) because they can get around without a car there. The same choices are not readily available in Broward. Generational changes should be a part of Speak Up Broward's exploration. Make sure to look at the demographics. We believe most of the population growth will occur in southeast and southwest. We need solutions for the south end of Broward.
- ✓ **Expense:** The cost of owning a vehicle is out of hand and it continues to increase. Car sharing and Zip-Cars were mentioned as an option for those who do not need a car every day. This has become quite popular in the northeast. Mr. Rose commented that he owns two cars and on most days his car sits in his garage because he works from home and his wife's car sits at her place of business for ten hours per day. ***Response: Ms. Mifsud commented that some of the car rental companies have expressed an interest in car-sharing in Broward and that South Florida Regional Transportation Authority is exploring this interest. She also stated that the new bike sharing program has become quite popular in Broward especially with tourists.***
- ✓ **Transportation Options:** Mr. Moyer commented that trolleys are not new. He used the downtown trolley as a young child in Philadelphia. ***Response: Ms. Mifsud commented that the modern streetcars are very similar to capabilities of today's light rail.***

Taxes: Mr. Moyer went on to say that if this initiative calls for new taxes, garnering support will be a problem. Why invest in public transportation when the roads are already paid for except for maintenance?

Broward County Transit: Reference was made to the recent article about Broward County Transit bus drivers' accident rate and the fact that there is an accountability issue with the operator. ***Response: Ms. Mifsud indicated that these issues need to be addressed. Union renegotiations reopen in September and it is certain that many of these issues will come up at that time.***

FOLLOW UP / ACTION RESULTS:

- ✓ Mr. Rose as Chair of the Pembroke Pines Planning and Zoning Committee offered to schedule a presentation to the committee. Pamela Adams will confirm a date.
- ✓ Three members of the committee signed up for inclusion on the Network List for notifications.

EVALUATION OF EVENT: The meeting generated discussion, suggestions and interest from the Government Affairs Committee members with a goal to continuing the conversation.