The Community Involvement Roundtable (CIR) is an advisory committee of the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (Broward MPO) that meets monthly, and is comprised of members of the public from various cities, towns and community organizations, that provide insight into local communities. The CIR acts as a voice for public opinion relating to general transportation issues, ultimately helping to form Broward’s urban landscape.

During their October 2008 meeting, the CIR determined that at least one meeting per quarter would be devoted to transit related issues, and no other items would be placed on the agenda for discussion. As a result, the first transit-focused roundtable meeting was organized, and took place on November 5, 2008.

Chris Walton, Director of the Broward County Transportation Department, which operates the county’s public transportation system, Broward County Transit (BCT), led the presentation, which centered on many important transportation issues, including:

- The Broward MPO will fund 300 new bus shelters.
- A series of community meetings will be planned for the residents of Broward County to get input from the general public with regard to transit-related issues.
- A reduction of 4.3 million dollars in operating budget has forced BCT to scale back service and make cuts in fixed bus routes and community buses.
- 12 hybrid buses have been purchased by BCT.
- Broward County Commission has created a Transit Advisory Committee comprised of transit riders.
- BCT is the first transit system in the U.S. to commit to electric air conditioning on bus.

For more information on the CIR, please call (954) 357-6608.

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**Members of the CIR discussed transit-related issues during their November 5, 2008 meeting at the Broward County Governmental Center.**

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- Florida Atlantic University Hosts Safety Day
- Message from the Chair
- Broward County Transit Paratransit Services Named Best in South Florida
- Broward County Schools Participate in International Walk to School Day
- Did You Know...?
- Broward MPO Exhibits at the 29th Annual Disabilities Expo

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**Newsletter of the Broward MPO**
In November, South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA), held its Phase 3 workshop where members of state agencies, such as the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), the Broward MPO, Broward County Transit and others, made presentations on regional transportation needs and funding in Broward County. We will have more on the SFRTA workshop in the next issue.

Also in this issue our Community Involvement Roundtable (CIR) had the opportunity to have a one-on-one discussion with Mt. Chris Waldref, Director of the Broward County Transportation Department. This was the first meeting of this nature for the CIR, but all involved agreed transportation is such an important issue that these types of meetings are needed in order to have a truly mobile region.

BROWARD COUNTY TRANSIT PARATRANSIT SERVICES NAMED BEST IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA

One of BCT’s most valuable programs is their Paratransit, also known as Transportation Options (TOPS). BCT’s TOPS received the prestigious 2008 Urban Community Transportation Coordinator of the Year award from the State of Florida by the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD). This award, presented at the 16th Annual Transportation Disadvantaged Training and Technology Conference, held on August 27, 2008 in Orlando, highlighted BCT’s commitment to providing paratransit services in the most efficient and cost-effective method for more than 16,000 customers in Broward County.

Having previously won this award in 1999 and 2003, BCT was extremely pleased because they had completely re-structured the paratransit business model in 2007. The award was a great team effort and the Broward MPO shares in this success!

In addition to managing the grant, the Broward MPO is also responsible for the preparation of the grant proposal, overseeing the approval process and administering the grant. For more information about TOPS, call customer service at 954-357-8400 or visit www.broward.org/bct.