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.

Members of the public listened intently as the meeting proceeded.

- Message from the Chair
- SFRTA Holds Public Workshops
- Broward MPO Welcomes Gregory Stuart...
- Take a Taxi to Work Today...the River Taxi!
- City of Plantation’s Green Day
- Did You Know?...
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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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

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

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.

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.

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 Eggleton. 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, chairman 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.
The Department and the Broward County staff proceeded to provide the Broward County Board with $40 million in emergency money for both transportation and transit projects; approximately half of the funding was estimated to be available.

In this issue...

**Message from the Chair**

**10th Annual D.C.A. Holds Public Work ’s Green Day Festival**

**Waxi!**

**You Know?...**

**In this issue...**

**January**

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

**February**

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

**March**

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

**April**

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

**Acronyms**

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<tr>
<th>AADT</th>
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<tr>
<td>APTA</td>
<td>American Public Transit Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>BCCB</td>
<td>Broward County Coordinating Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>BCT</td>
<td>Broward County Transit</td>
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<tr>
<td>BPAC</td>
<td>Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee</td>
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<td>CAAA</td>
<td>Clean Air Act Amendment</td>
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<td>CBD</td>
<td>Central Business District</td>
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<td>CMA</td>
<td>Congestion Management</td>
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<td>CIR</td>
<td>Community Involvement Roundtable</td>
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<td>DCA</td>
<td>Department of Community Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>DRI</td>
<td>Development of Regional Impact Statement</td>
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<td>Environmental Impact Statement</td>
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<td>EPA</td>
<td>Environmental Protection Agency</td>
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<td>FAA</td>
<td>Federal Aviation Authority</td>
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<td>Florida Administrative Code</td>
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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 public document was produced at a cost of $1,400.00 or $467, including postage, per copy to provide information about Broward MPO services and programs.

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