

CALENDAR of Events

MPO	BAC	BCCB	CIR	TCC
March				
Thursday 17 at 9:30 a.m. Room 422	Wednesday 9 at 6:30 p.m. Room 329 F	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
April				
Thursday 14 at 9:30 a.m. Room 422	Wednesday 13 at 6:30 p.m. Room 329 F	Monday 18 at 2:00 p.m. Room 422	Tuesday 5 at 6:00 p.m. Room 430	Monday 25 at 2:00 p.m. Room 302
May				
Thursday 12 at 9:30 a.m. Room 422	Wednesday 11 at 6:30 p.m. Room 329 F	No Meeting	Tuesday 3 at 6:00 p.m. Room 430	Monday 23 at 2:00 p.m. Room 302
June				
Thursday 9 at 9:30 a.m. Room 422	Wednesday 8 at 6:30 p.m. Room 329 F	Monday 20 at 2:00 p.m. Room 422	Tuesday 7 at 6:00 p.m. Room 430	Monday 27 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

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
CAAA 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. 8

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FOR THE 4-1-1 ON TRAFFIC, DIAL 5-1-1 The Intelligent Transportation System That Works For You

Over one million commuters in the tri-county area (Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties) are able to take advantage of technology that can put them "in the driver's seat" on a daily basis to avoid traffic congestion. Implemented in 2002 as part of the region's Intelligent Transportation System (ITS), the 511 Traveler Information Service is a result of a public-private partnership between 15 agencies and organizations. Some of the organizations include the Broward County MPO, Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Florida Turnpike.

The 511 Traveler Information Service provides convenient, reliable, real-time traffic information to travelers and commuters 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The service has also been improved recently. Verizon Wireless, the largest wireless company in the nation, has activated the 511 Traveler Information Service for all Florida customers. Verizon subscribers can now use their cellular phones to receive up-to-the-minute traffic information instantly and roadway condition information. These updates can also help travelers plan alternate routes and anticipate trip times.

In order to make the 511 system available to its customers, Verizon Wireless invested some \$1.3 billion (including more than \$700 million in the last three years)

to build and enhance its network in Florida. Consequently, the system, which is operated by the Florida Department of Transportation, now has coverage that reaches each of the highly traveled corridors such as Interstate 95, I-75, I-595, the Florida Turnpike, Palmetto Expressway, Sawgrass Expressway, Airport Expressway, US1, and the Dolphin Expressway.

The 511 Traveler Information Service collects data from roadway cameras, the Florida Highway Patrol, FDOT Road Rangers, police scanners, road sensors, and even commuters. The service is accessed via email, webpage, fax or telephone and is available in both English and Spanish. Although the call is toll free, regular airtime fees apply, based on individual mobile phone calling plans. In its first six months of operation, the 511 Traveler Information Service received a 96% approval rating and averaged more than 67,000 calls per month.

Thousands of motorists in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties obtain up-to-the-minute traffic information at the touch of their telephones every month. The free service can be accessed by dialing 511 from a BellSouth land line or from almost any cellular phone.

For additional information, dial 511 or log on at www.smartraveler.com.



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NEWSLETTER OF THE BROWARD COUNTY MPO

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"TAKING IT TO THE STREETS"

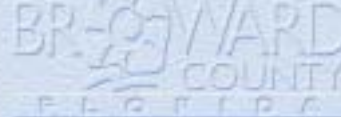


Broward County Pioneer Days

One of Broward County MPO's main public involvement goals is to engage the community in the transportation decision-making process by taking the message to the streets. Among the many events the MPO participated in during 2004 was the celebration of the 32nd Annual Broward County Pioneer Days held on October 16th and 17th. The City of Dania Beach hosted the event at Dania Beach City Hall with help from the Dania Beach Historical Society.

The 2004 Broward County Pioneer Days commemorated Broward County's 89th anniversary and honored the men and women that have made Broward County thrive. MPO staff was on hand with a Mobile Information Station (MIS) and the MPO community outreach display booth. The staff shared current and future transportation improvements with the community, while focusing on significant components of Broward County's history, growth and development.

As the MPO staff provided transportation history and transportation decision process education to event attendees, some 63 participants completed the MPO survey forms in English and Spanish. Most written comments focused on public transit/tri-rail improvements, bus transit, bicycle/pedestrian facilities, and safety concerns. Many expressed an interest in the regionalization of transportation, one of the current endeavors in which the MPO is involved.



MPO HOLDS LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN WORKSHOPS

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

Long range transportation planning is crucial to an efficient, safe, and progressive transportation system in Broward County. Broward County MPO Public Outreach activities in 2004 included a series of 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update Public Workshops in October. Held at the Emma Lou Olson Civic Center in Pompano Beach and at the South Regional Broward County Library, the public workshops were conducted to obtain public input regarding the draft cost-feasible plans for the Broward County 2030 LRTP Update. The workshops also provided education on the LRTP process for attendees via informational workstations, which described the components of the LRTP.

The LRTP consists of a group of transportation projects designed to meet Broward County travel demand projections for the next 20 years. Consequently, the LRTP focuses on accommodating

anticipated growth and development in Broward County by incorporating bicycle and pedestrian facilities, mass transit developments (such as Bus Rapid Transit and transit accessibility), roadway improvements, and waterborne transportation. At the workshops, MPO staff and consultants addressed public concerns such as management of traffic congestion, safety, roadway access management, and funding for transportation improvements.

The fact that the LRTP Update Public Workshops were well-attended and that written MPO transportation questionnaires were submitted at the workshops is a testament to the high interest level that Broward County residents share regarding the importance of participating in the transportation needs assessment and the transportation planning process.

Strong public participation in transportation planning is also a testament to the value that Broward County citizens place on a high quality transportation infrastructure that is so vital to not only Broward County, but to the connectivity of the entire South Florida region.

TRI-RAIL DOUBLE TRACKING Mass Transit Regionalization in Progress



The final phase of the Double Track Corridor Improvement Program continued to move forward during the 2004 calendar year. Known as Segment 5, this portion of the program began in fiscal year 2003 and has an anticipated completion date in early 2005. It is the largest construction project in the history of the South Florida Regional Transit Authority (SFRTA), and is also the result of South Florida's three counties' (Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade) agreement to work together as a single entity in the creation of a regional mass transit system. The program includes reconstruction of 72 miles of railway and a second mainline track that parallels the existing track.

When faced with critical issues, such as a reliable transit system, the Broward County MPO supports the SFRTA, a collaborative entity that is expected to improve transportation connections in the tri-county region by building a seamless, easy-to-use transit system. Over the next twenty years, \$3 billion is earmarked to build 67 transit improvements. This

shift toward public transit will help ease congestion, improve air quality, and help business and economic growth.

Segment 5 also includes installation of approximately 45 miles of double track, upgrades to existing track, renovation of nine existing stations, construction of a new station in Boca Raton, enhancements to grade crossings, upgrades to signal safety systems and acquisition of new cab cars and locomotives. As a result of this project, service will increase from the current 28 daily trains to 48 trains per day that run every 20 minutes during rush hour. Enhanced, on-time performance and greater scheduling flexibility for passengers and daily commuters will be also be a priority. By 2015, the SFRTA estimates, these improvements will sustain average daily passenger boardings of 27,900.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE (TCC)

Did you ever wonder how the Broward County MPO evaluates transportation-related plans? The MPO established the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) to advise and provide expertise for the MPO's decision-making process and to provide valuable assessment for MPO plans and programs.

The TCC is composed of a group of 28 technical staff members. This membership primarily consists of engineers, planners, and other specialists who represent Broward County local governments and transportation agencies. This group of professionals and experts serve the Broward County MPO in an advisory capacity. They provide recommendations to the board based on technical sufficiency, accuracy, and completeness of studies, plans and programs.

The TCC complements the Broward County MPO in taking responsibility for coordinating transportation planning and programming and for reviewing all transportation studies, reports, plans, and programs required under state and federal laws. Additionally, the TCC provides technical resources.

The TCC meets the fourth Monday of every month at 2:00 p.m. in Room 302 at the Broward County Governmental Center. These meetings are open to



TCC meetings are open to the public and public participation is encouraged.

the public and public participation is encouraged. For additional information on how you can be involved in the transportation planning process, please visit the Broward County MPO's website at www.broward.org/mpo or contact the MPO staff at (954) 357-6608.

MPO Continues SCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRAM

In the spring of 2004, the Broward County Metropolitan Planning Organization embarked on an endeavor to include elementary school students in its community outreach activities. The efforts began with an interactive, transportation planning assembly for 50 children at Dillard Elementary School. This group of fourth and fifth graders participated in an educational pilot program, where they were literally put on the road to understanding what the Broward County MPO does and what the transportation planning process involves. The presentation was MC'd by Buddy, a talking, remote controlled car. Students quickly learned that before answering the question: "Why did the chicken cross the road?" there has to be a process for building the road for the chicken to cross.

During the presentation students played educational games, learned about careers in transportation, and even participated in planning a new sidewalk for their school. The inaugural event was so successful that it has become the catalyst for six additional educational presentations that are being planned for other elementary schools in Broward County in 2005.

County Commissioner Josephus Eggelletion (former MPO member) and School Board member Benjamin Williams (current MPO member) — each a Dillard Elementary alumnus — attended the kick-off learning activity. In the words of Dillard Principal Patricia Dixon, "The big picture is to empower them (the students) and show them they have a voice."



"Chic" and "Egg" help answer the question... "Why did the chicken cross the road?"

BUS RAPID TRANSIT

The Broward County MPO Long Range Transportation Plan Update focuses the majority of its resources on transit improvements and transit supportive projects. Among the possible improvements for Broward County is Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). BRT bus service is different from typical local bus service in that it utilizes technology to reduce travel time by operating in mixed traffic in either a designated or grade separated/exclusive right of way. Also, technological advancements allow BRT buses to have signal priority.

BRT has the ability to operate at medium to high speed (20 to 65 miles per hour), uses short to moderate station spacing (0.5 to 1 mile apart), and is designed for short to medium distance trips. The MPO fully supports BRT as a venue that can move



more people in less time and thus increase transportation efficiency as part of Congestion Management System (CMS) goals and objectives.

"TAKING IT TO THE STREETS"



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Event

The MPO is continuing in its efforts to increase community involvement throughout the county by making public outreach appearances in the many special events and festivals in Broward County. One focus is providing information to communities that have historically been under-represented in the transportation decision-making process. When families throughout the Ft. Lauderdale area gathered to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with a parade along Sunrise Boulevard, the Broward County MPO was on hand to take its message to the streets.

Immediately following the parade, celebrants of the national holiday gathered at the newly renovated Joseph C. Carter Park. The park setting presented a perfect opportunity to engage the public regarding the MPO's purpose and activities. Despite the chilly weather, the crowd seemed to represent the 10,000 attendees that event organizers had estimated would attend.

Many visitors to the MPO booth expressed particular interest in congestion management and were grateful to learn of the recent 511 traffic information system expansion. Others expressed interest in long range planning, funding, safety, service for the transportation disadvantaged, and the need for aesthetic improvements along roadways. Well over 100 participants took the time to complete written transportation planning questionnaires provided by the MPO.

