

SUNRISE/I-95 BEAUTIFICATION

Representatives from the Broward Beautiful Board, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), the City of Fort Lauderdale, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners, Broward County Department of Planning and Environmental Protection (DPEP) and the MPO came together November 13th to formulate a plan to re-landscape the interchange around I-95 at Sunrise Boulevard. This project conceived under Broward Beautiful's new "Highway Beautification Grants Program" would be the first of a number of I-95 interchange landscaping projects to enhance "gateways to Broward County." The Sunrise project will be the model for future projects incorporating six key concepts:

- A strong positive impact on the aesthetics of the "Gateway"
- Provide shade tree canopy
- Provide wildlife habitat
- Use native plant species
- Use a diversity of plant species
- Incorporate Xerescaping (using plants with low water needs) concepts.

It was agreed that while long term funding for the ongoing projects would be sought through various sources; the partner agencies identified nearly \$300,000 in discretionary funds which would be used to begin the first phases of the Sunrise interchange immediately. A collaborative design team from the partner organizations was tasked to draft a conceptual plan and cost estimate for review by January 2003.



WHAT A REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY WOULD MEAN FOR BROWARD COUNTY:

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

One of the most critical issues facing residents of Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach Counties is the need for an efficient, reliable, affordable regional public transit system. The lack of meaningful mass transit alternatives impacts every facet of our lives: where we work, where we live, where we play, our economic stability and even our physical and mental well-being.

Although we are continually working to keep up and improve mass transit in Broward County, each year we are confronted with funding shortfalls. The current Long Range Transportation Plan has an estimated \$400 million in unfunded transit needs, which could go up to \$1.06 billion, if the county does not receive its expected \$660 million in discretionary Federal Transit Agency New Start funding.

With these kinds of financial deficiencies the tri-counties can no longer work in isolation, but must explore new ways to not only build a seamless, easy-to-use transit system throughout the South Florida region, but also take advantage of special funding opportunities available when legislative power is pooled so that federal and state funding can be sought on a unified regional basis.

By creating a Regional Transportation Authority special funding opportunities can be pursued. For instance, if approved by the state legislature, the authority would be able to collect up to \$2 on license plate fees in the tri-county area. Leveraged with state and federal aid, the authority would have \$65 million to \$70 million annually for regional transit projects-these dollars would not otherwise come into the region.

This new funding would allow us to continue our regional transit projects such as the "transit bridge". The Broward County Transit "Bridge" study area is bounded by University Drive on the west, I-595 on the north, I-95 on the east, and the Biscayne Canal on the south (including the Golden Glades Interchange). When complete this system will connect two key transit services in Miami-Dade County (i.e., the Golden Glades Intermodal Terminal and the North Corridor; NW 27th Avenue high-performance transit extension) with connections to the I-595 high-performance transit corridor in central Broward County.

A Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) could coordinate transit marketing efforts and integrate procurement processes. This will enhance the efficiency and coordination of all transit service in the region and establish a unified entity to meet South Florida's transportation planning and funding needs.

It just makes "cents" to work as a unified region.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING Changing Directors



Bruce Wilson, who has served as Transportation Planning Director for Broward County since 1980, will retire January 4, 2003.

"The most important aspect of our work, and the point that I am most proud of, is the working relationships we have developed with other local agencies and the community-at-large." Wilson said. "I'm also very proud of the Transportation Planning staff members who have built a solid reputation as being able to do sound technical work that now serves as a model for other MPO's in the state and our active involvement with the Technical Coordinating Committee and Community Involvement Roundtable allows us to hear the community's opinion in the planning process and make sure we are building systems that work for the people who are using them."

For the purpose of succession planning, Ms. Jennifer Schaufele has worked with Mr. Wilson in directing the division since February 1999. To better understand the regulatory and funding requirements and processes applicable to transportation planning, Schaufele has assumed responsibility for administering several related activities including supervision of a professional planning and engineering staff of thirty. Schaufele, whose degree is in Professional Business Management, has worked for Broward County for fourteen years, the last six serving as Assistant to the Department Director of Planning and Environmental Protection. "I'm extremely pleased with the way the transition has been going," Wilson said. "Our clients can expect a very smooth changeover."

"I look forward to making a positive impact on the community and helping the Commission and the MPO implement their vision for transit, safety, and economic vitality in Broward County" Schaufele said.

OPA-LOCKA STATION EXPANSION

The primary benefit of the Opa-Locka Station expansion is to support Tri-Rail's goal to double ridership and make the system more reliable and convenient for Tri-Rail passengers. The project consisted of:

- Installing a second mainline track and building a new station platform on the East Side of the existing station;



Passengers with disabilities who can not purchase a ticket through the automated ticket machines, can request a self-addressed stamped envelope from onboard security personnel, in order to mail payment after their trip (transfers purchased by Tri-Rail riders can be included in the payment envelope and the cost of the transfer can be deducted from the Tri-Rail fare).

The Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged staffs the TD Helpline, 1-800-983-2435, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- Constructing a pedestrian overpass with stairs and elevators to access the new platform;
- Providing a new emergency exit road for emergency situations; and
- Enhancing canopy structures, landscaping and lighting for the station.

HOLLYWOOD/PINES Corridor Study

The Broward County Congestion Management Team has been preparing to go forward with the Hollywood/Pines Boulevard Corridor study.

This study seeks to identify the mix of transportation improvements that would be most effective in moving people and goods effectively through this corridor while balancing enhancements with available funding and community concerns.

This study will also examine the feasibility of **Intermodal** connections with the Tri-Rail Stations, Bus Transfer Stations, Airports, Port, and other transportation facilities.

The study area boundaries are: US 1 to the east, SW 172 Avenue to the west, Sheridan Street to the north, and Hallandale Beach Boulevard to the south.

This study is expected to be completed by 5/15/2004, with public involvement taking place beginning in February of 2003.

Q: What is Intermodal?

A: Denotes the seamless movement of people or goods between transport modes.

Q: What are transport modes?

A: Any one of the following means of moving people or goods: aviation, bicycle, highway, paratransit, pedestrian, pipeline, rail, transit and water.



WHAT IS THE MPO?

Established in 1977 by the Florida Legislature, the MPO was created to direct urban transportation planning and allocate federal and state funds. It is the lead agency responsible for developing and administering plans and programs to maintain eligibility and receive funds for the transportation systems in Broward County.

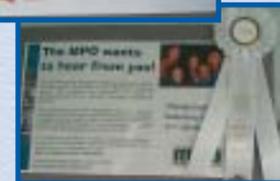
Made up of government representatives who plan and recommend transportation project priorities, the MPO consists of nineteen members including representatives from local cities, Tri-Rail, the School Board of Broward County, and the Board of Broward County Commissioners.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The public involvement team has been busy making contact with the community. Since September they attended:

- Transit Fair: October 3
- Viva Broward: October 11 and 12
- 2002 South Florida Disability Expo: October 19 and 20
- Pioneer Days: November 2 and 3
- Dillard Elementary School's Community Day: November 16

The mission of the Public Involvement Team is to inform, educate, involve and provide resources to create a more livable community for the people of Broward County. Look for the MPO booth, fill out a survey, and get a free T-Shirt.



Pioneer Days awarded the MPO display exhibitor ribbons in two categories; 2nd Place for Government Organizations and 3rd Place for Nature and Environmental.

CALENDAR of Events

MPO	BAC	BCCB	CIR	TCC
January				
Thursday 9 at 9:30 a.m. Room 422	Wednesday 8 at 7:00 p.m. Room 302	Monday 27 at 2:00 p.m. Room 422	Tuesday 7 at 6:00 p.m. Room 422	Monday 27 at 2:00 p.m. Room 301
February				
Thursday 13 at 9:30 a.m. Room 422	Wednesday 12 at 7:00 p.m. Room 302	Cancelled	Tuesday 4 at 6:00 p.m. Room 422	Monday 24 at 2:00 p.m. Room 422
March				
Thursday 13 at 9:30 a.m. Room 422	Wednesday 12 at 7:00 p.m. Room 302	Monday 17 at 2:00 p.m. Room 422	Tuesday 4 at 6:00 p.m. Room 422	Monday 24 at 2:00 p.m. Room 422
April				
Thursday 10 at 9:30 a.m. Room 422	Wednesday 9 at 7:00 p.m. Room 302	Monday 21 at 2:00 p.m. Room 422	Tuesday 1 at 6:00 p.m. Room 422	Monday 28 at 2:00 p.m. Room 422

Meetings are at the Government Center, 115 S. Andrews Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale. The public is invited and encouraged to participate.



Transportation Planning Division
115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 329H
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

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
CAA 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

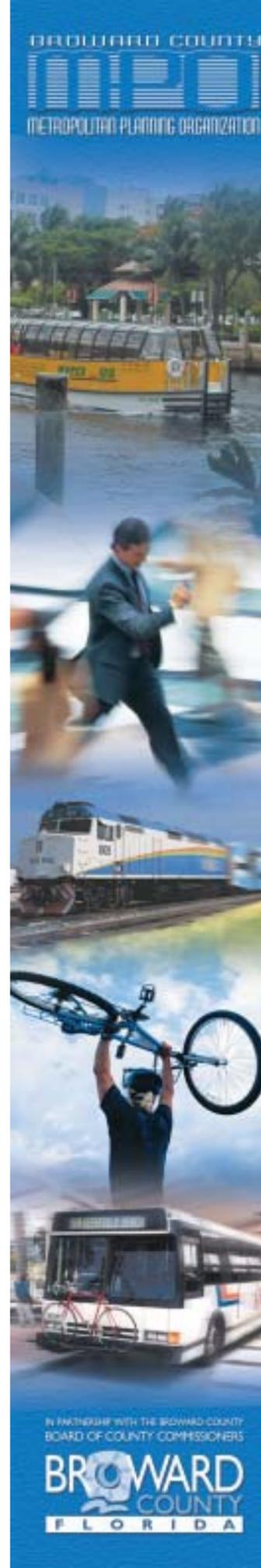
For more information visit:

www.broward.org/bcmpo

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 \$.46 per copy to provide information about Broward County MPO services and programs.



SHORTCUTS

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DON'T GET STUCK IN TRAFFIC - Call 511!

Wouldn't it be great to receive up to the minute travel information before you leave home or work on a daily basis? Well, 511 is here and available to residents in the Miami-Dade, Broward and West Palm Beach areas for free. 511 provides real-time traffic, road condition and traffic updates, it also tells the status of an incident and lets you know when roads are clear or what alternate routes you can take.



roadway. All information is confirmed before it is released to the public.

511 has been made possible by a public-private partnership which was formed to bring this service to the tri-county area. Fifteen agencies and organizations including the three tri-county MPO's, FHP, DOT, and Florida Turnpike are participating.

Since its debut the 511 call service has received a 96% approval rating and gets 67,000 calls per month. In 2003 the public will be able to access transit and traffic info by dialing 511. For more information on how to receive traffic reports, become a road reporter and other services visit the website at: www.smarttraveler.com.

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NEWSLETTER OF THE BROWARD COUNTY MPO