

T ransportation r ansformation

Connecting Communities Through Transportation Choices

PLANNING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE...THE PLANTATION MIDTOWN AND SOUTHWEST SUNRISE LIVABILITY STUDY

The Plantation Midtown and Southwest Sunrise Livability Study is one of several Livability Planning initiatives to identify existing and future land uses, explore transit improvements and provide the public with ample opportunity to give input on the future of their community. The Broward MPO is working with the Cities of Plantation and Sunrise, as well as local stakeholders to conduct Livability Planning studies that result in recommendations to improve the quality of life in our local communities.

The studies focus on issues that affect how we live, work and play. They are consistent with the guiding principles of the federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities which are: gaining better access to housing that is affordable, increasing transportation options, and lowering transportation costs while at the same time protecting the environment.

Study outcomes will identify future land use and improved transit options. The Study will explore the design of bus shelters, and recommend how sidewalks, streetscapes, and transit stations will look. The findings will help protect existing neighborhoods and make our community more walkable.

The Broward MPO will develop recommendations with local decision-makers to determine the appropriate locations for transit-oriented development. In addition, they will address zoning and guidelines for pedestrian-friendly design, and better access to transit from nearby neighborhoods.

The Study Area is approximately 27 square miles and covers the cities of Plantation and Sunrise. The boundaries are the



An interactive version of this graphic showing a Gateway Hub can be found at www.browardmpo.org. The 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan identifies two Gateway Hubs, three Anchor Hubs and one Community Hub for future implementation in this Study area.

Sawgrass Expresssway to the west, the New River Canal (north of I-595) to the south, Florida's Turnpike to the east and Sunset Strip to the north.

The study results will go before the Broward MPO Board and the Plantation and Sunrise City Commissions for review and approval of an Action Plan that identifies projects, assigns responsibilities and identifies potential funding sources.

For more information, please visit the new MPO Livability Planning webpage at www.browardmpo.org (then click on the Livability Planning link) or contact James Cromar, Livability Planner at (954) 876-0038.

Timeline for the Plantation Midtown and Southwest Sunrise Livability Study

January 2010	Planning activities, data gathering
August-September 2010	Municipal collaboration on design plans
October-November 2010	Public input regarding neighborhood improvements
December-January 2011	Develop recommendations
February-June 2011	Review of recommendations with municipalities, agencies, and the Broward MPO

WHAT'S INSIDE

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Mayor Rae Carole Armstrong
Chair, Broward MPO
Mayor, City of Plantation

As I reflect upon the role of Chair of the Broward MPO, I feel extremely privileged to have served for 12 years as Vice Chair under Mayor Richard Kaplan and Commissioner Daniel Stermer. It has been a very rewarding road to walk, playing a supporting role in the MPO's mission and the future of transportation in Broward County.

Historically, I was not always in an elected position. I was a member of the public just like you. One of the early motivations that I can recall that got me involved happened in the early 70's. This was when the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) began planning the widening of State Road 7 in Plantation.

This pilot program, that later became a collaborative between the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), FDOT, the Plantation Garden Club, and the property owners was eventually renamed the

Gateway Seven Plan. The median in the project was a source of frustration for me. We were amending the gateway into our community and it felt like we were adding to the concrete jungle. I aspired to a better aesthetic and spent many hours communicating with FDOT officials to get buy-in for a landscaped median that is, to this day, still an enhancement and gateway into my local community.

That was one of my first lessons in how much influence the public has over projects and programs. Community activism gave me a sense of pride, and inspired me to stay involved!

As Chair of the Broward MPO, I will continue to support the vision that the MPO's independence will bring and the strong planning it will take to visualize the big picture for Broward County. I hope that you will join me in continuing to improve and shape our local communities.

TAKING IT TO THE STREETS Town of Lighthouse Point Hosts Community Bike Rodeo

MPO staff worked with the Lighthouse Point Police Department to conduct a Bike Rodeo skills course aimed at educating children about bicycle safety.

Community education classes examine and discuss the seven most common types of crashes children experience. Skills training teach participants ways to avoid crashes. Training topics include driveway safety, what to expect at intersections, how to avoid road hazards, and best practices for looking behind one's self while riding as components of the curriculum.

Broward MPO in cooperation with Broward Safe Kids Coalition helped to coordinate the provision of 50 youth-sized bicycle helmets to event participants. Any child in attendance who did not own a helmet or needed a replacement helmet was provided with one free of charge.



Broward MPO Bicycle Coordinator, Mark Horowitz, provides event attendees with a new bicycle helmet.

The Broward MPO Bike Coordinator conducts a community bike education program annually. The program generally takes place in February to coincide with Florida Bicycle Month in March. To learn how to conduct a safe Bike Rodeo in your community, please contact Mark Horowitz, Broward MPO's Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator at (954) 876-0048 or horowitzm@browardmpo.org.

Commuter Information Event at Nova Southeastern University

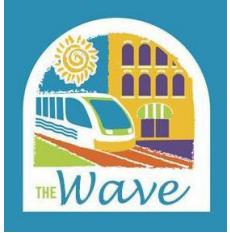


On November 23rd the Broward MPO participated in the Commuter Information Event held at the University Center on the Nova Southeastern campus in conjunction with South Florida Commuter Services, Tri-Rail, South Florida Vanpool, 511, and Broward County Transit.

Visitors to the booth were encouraged to complete transportation surveys and were provided with information and resources on the Broward MPO.

CATCHING THE WAVE IN FORT LAUDERDALE - A 2014 REALITY

In 2004, a downtown transit and pedestrian mobility study was completed through a partnership between the Downtown Development Authority of Fort Lauderdale (DDA), the City of Fort Lauderdale, the Fort Lauderdale Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Broward County, the Broward MPO, the Clean Air Cooperative, the Downtown Fort Lauderdale Transportation Management Association (TMA) and the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA operators of Tri-Rail). The study demonstrated the need to invest in transit and pedestrian improvements in downtown.



Downtown Fort Lauderdale may soon have a fixed rail system like other great urban cities such as Portland, Oregon and San Francisco. The Wave is a proposed streetcar system that will serve as a local circulator operating from six blocks north of Broward Boulevard and go south 17 blocks to Broward General Medical Center, along Andrews and 3rd Avenues eventually extending along Broward Boulevard to the Tri-Rail Station. In addition to enhancing mobility, the

project is environmentally friendly and will have a major economic impact on the region. It is anticipated to be the first of many rail projects in the County.

In 2006, along with many steps taken to improve mobility associated with completing the transit improvement, the DDA partnered with FDOT and the Broward MPO to conduct an Alternative Analysis and Environmental Assessment, steps federally mandated to identify potential routes and technology, and to determine potential environmental impacts.

In 2008, a locally preferred alternative (LPA) was endorsed and significant funding commitments were made.

In 2009, the Broward MPO included the updated LPA in the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan.



The Preliminary Engineering phase is anticipated to start next summer, with hopes to have the system fully operational by the end of 2014. Stay informed and join the Wave's Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Fort-Lauderdale-FL/The-Wave-Streetcar/137549182923606?ref=t&s&ajaxpipe=1&a=6>



Check out the Wave's website for more information at www.wavestreetcar.com.

EXPLORING THE NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON RAIL & LAND USE

Members of the Broward MPO staff, along with several local government agencies attended the national Rail-Volution conference, in Portland, Oregon in October. During the conference, citizens, elected officials, and professional land use and transportation planners convened as equal partners to discuss the connection between land use and transit in the quest for improved livability in our communities.

The mission of the conference was to create a national movement to develop livable communities with transit. Livable communities are healthy, economically vibrant, socially equitable, and environmentally sustainable.



Charles Hales, former Portland City Commissioner, led a tour of the Portland Streetcar system. Tour participants included staff from the Broward MPO, SFRTA, the Fort Lauderdale Downtown Development Authority, and two citizen representatives from downtown Fort Lauderdale.

TWO BIG WINS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

South Florida Receives Prestigious Sustainable Communities Planning Grant

The federal interagency partnership between the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), supports innovative regional planning and the integration of housing, land use, economic development and transportation planning. A highly competitive federal grant was awarded to South Florida in mid-October to provide momentum and support for the sustainability of the South Florida region and implement strategies that will improve the quality of life for the people of the tri-county area. The federal partnership reviewed 225 eligible grant requests. South Florida ranked in the top nine for the nation and was awarded 4.25 million dollars.

Broward County Transit Receives \$8 Million Grant for Broward Boulevard Corridor

Broward County Transit was awarded \$8 million from the Federal Transit Administration's Bus Livability Initiative competitive grant program, a \$300 million investment by the Obama administration as part of its Livable Communities Initiative to integrate transportation, housing, and commercial development in communities nationwide.

The grant application was submitted with support from partner agencies, including, the Florida Department of Transportation, City of Fort Lauderdale, the Downtown Development Authority, the Broward MPO, and the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority. Grant funds are anticipated to be available for project work to start in early 2011.



Help us GO GREEN!
Request to receive the Broward MPO
newsletter via e-mail by contacting
Chris Ryan at ryanc@browardMPO.org
or call (954) 876-0036

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

	JAN 2011	FEB 2011	MAR 2011	APR 2011
Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) <i>Meets every 2nd Thursday at 9:30 a.m.*</i>	No Meeting	10	10	14
Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) <i>Meets every 4th Monday at 2:15 p.m.*</i>	24	28	28	25
Community Involvement Roundtable (CIR) <i>Meets every 4th Tuesday at 6 p.m.*</i>	25	22	22	26
Broward County Coordinating Board (BCCB) <i>at 2 p.m.*</i>	10	No Meeting	21	No Meeting

*Dates could change due to holiday or conflict.

All meetings are held in the Broward MPO Board Room, Suite 850, in the Trade Centre South building. For more information on upcoming meetings, please contact **Chris Ryan, Broward MPO Public Information Officer**, at (954) 876-0036.

DID YOU KNOW?

The South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) opened a new parking facility at the Tri-Rail Cypress Creek Station on November 17, 2010.

The lot, adjacent to the station's west platform has 345 spaces with a bus lane and a 235 foot pedestrian canopy leading to the station. There are designated areas for taxis and for cars dropping off passengers.

The SFRTA's free shuttle buses will now serve the west parking lot. Broward County Transit buses will continue to pick up passengers in the Park & Ride lot on the east side of Andrews Avenue.

For more information, contact 1-(800) TRI-RAIL (874-7245) or log onto www.tri-rail.com.

This publication can be made available in large print, audio recording, or braille by request.

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