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**Connecting Communities Through Transportation Choices** 

# CREATING HEALTHIER AND SAFER STREETS: BROWARD MPO KICKS OFF COMPLETE STREETS INITIATIVE

The Broward MPO is joining communities across the country that are rethinking road design and balancing their rights-of-way for all users: walkers, bicyclists, transit riders and drivers alike. Through a grant secured by the Broward Regional Health Planning Council, the Broward MPO will provide elected officials, planners and engineers tools to create Complete Streets-- corridors that are deemed accessible by all modes of travel and designed to encourage physical activity. "We are thrilled to partner with the MPO to create healthier, safer streets," Broward Regional Health Planning Council Transforming Our Communities Health Program Director Teina Phillips said. "By tying infrastructure planning to health outcomes, we can impact the health of individuals who live, work, learn and play in Broward County." By September, the consulting team will produce: Complete Streets Guidelines for Broward municipalities; a survey to gauge public attitudes and behaviors; public workshops identifying better uses for existing streets; and strategies for policy implementation. "Roadways can take up to 30 percent of a municipality's land mass. Over the next few months we will highlight the environmental, health and economic development benefits to expanding street design priorities beyond the car," said Patrice Gillespie Smith, Urban Health Partnerships Complete Streets Program Manager. Already, some municipalities are implementing traffic calming measures, which is a big step toward achieving Complete Streets. "Many of our communities are pursuing more walkable and bikeable environments," Mark Horowitz, Broward MPO's Bike/Pedestrian Coordinator said, "The development and implementation of strong Complete Streets policies are important steps towards balancing our transportation system for all users."



Image by National Complete Streets Coalition

#### **LEARN MORE - UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:**

- Tuesday, April 17, 3-7pm North Lauderdale City Complex
- Wednesday, April 18, 6-8pm Carver Ranches Public Library
- Thursday, April 19, 1-3pm Nova University: Don Taft University Center

We encourage you to take the Broward Smart Growth Complete Streets survey at:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/browardcompletestreets

#### **Questions?**

Visit www.browardcompletestreets.org or email: Patrice Gillespie Smith at patrice@urbanhs.com or call at (786) 224-2309



Complete Street Image by Association of American Retired Persons (AARP)

## **WHAT'S INSIDE**

- March is Florida Bicycle Month
- TSM&O Making Our Roads Smarter
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#### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Commissioner Richard Blattner Chair, Broward MPO City of Hollywood, District 4

The Broward MPO Board is engaged and working to make 2012 a great year for transportation planning in Broward County. The most exciting and significant project, which we will be funding for the next five years, is "The Wave," the Ft. Lauderdale Streetcar System. While some may think it's a stretch to call a fairly limited route a "system", the point is that

The Wave is the start of something expected to spread to other communities. That is the organic nature of these streetcar/rail projects; once people see how convenient and neat it is, they want to be the next stop on the line. The first step in this process is the environmental impact process, which upon completion makes The Wave eligible for federal money for design and construction. The MPO recently hosted a Leadership Broward panel discussion, part of a full day of transportation related visits for these future leaders. I discussed with them the recent FDOT Bus Rapid Transit Workshop presentation involving six cities where BRT has made a significant impact, and I pointed out that Cleveland was one of the cities. I explained to them that I was especially impressed with this presentation, having spent time when I was a boy visiting my grandparents in that city. I knew what it had been, and we probably all remember what it had become: the mistake by the lake, when Lake Erie actually caught fire. Well, if you could see what BRT and light rail have caused in Cleveland, you would want to visit immediately. What a transformation, and what amazing economic development has taken place along the right-ofways, and it includes tax dollars too, which get recycled. From all of this, I know we are on the right track (pun intended!) to move forward with the plans and implementations that will make our community a place on the move.



Visit The Wave website at www.wavestreetcar.com.



Broward Leadership Transportation Day Panel Discussion From Left to Right: Commissioner Blattner; Chris Wren, Exec. Dir. Ft. Lauderdale Downtown Development Authority; Robert Poole, Reason Foundation; and moderator Antonio Fins, Editorial Page Editor, Sun Sentinel

## **MARCH IS FLORIDA BICYCLE MONTH**

In conjunction with Palm Beach and Miami Dade MPO's the Broward MPO hosted a Bicycle Rodeo/Training Class on February 27th. Mark Horowitz, MPO Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator facilitated this event – see pictures below. This was a "train the trainer" session in preparation for Florida's March 2012 Bike Month. We encourage all of you to get out and ride your bikes, especially during this special month of March to celebrate. Don't forget to also visit the Broward MPO's Bike Route Planner at <a href="http://bikebroward.fiu.edu/mpobike/">http://bikebroward.fiu.edu/mpobike/</a>.







#### **HOW CAN WE MAKE OUR ROADS SMARTER?**

That was the question at the February 7-8 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) workshop entitled "Improving Transportation Systems Management & Operations - A Capability Improvement" held at the MPO office. The workshop was sponsored by the Broward MPO and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The purpose of this Workshop was to raise awareness of the opportunities for improving the effectiveness of state and local Transportation System Management and Operations (TSM&O) activities. Implementing TSM&O ideas makes our roads smarter by increasing efficiency and reliability, gaining control over congestion, and providing options. The workshop was aimed at managers responsible for TSM&O-related activities in state, regional, and local agencies (pictured right). The results of the workshop were presented to the MPO Board at their February 9th Board meeting.



For more information about TSM&O in Broward County contact Melissa Ackert at FDOT District 4 at (954) 777-4156 or Melissa.Ackert@dot.state.fl.us

#### **BENEFITS OF TSM&O**

- ✓ System Efficiency (such as traffic signal coordination)
- ✓ System Reliability (such as increased management of work zones for traffic)
- System Options (such as reduction of single-occupancy trips)

#### **BROWARD MPO EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**







The Broward MPO has been busy with many outreach activities. Some of them are highlighted below:

James Cromar, Livability Planner participated in the B-Cycle ribbon cutting event on December 14th in Fort Lauderdale (pictured above with Dawn Sonneborn). Broward County Vice Mayor and Broward MPO Board member Kristin Jacobs, performed the ribbon cutting along with Fort Lauderdale Mayor Seiler, and Commissioners Rodstrom, DuBose, Rogers, and Roberts. Even Santa was there! (Pictured above-left).

Greg Stuart and James Cromar participated in the Broward Leadership Transportation Day on January 19th. This was a full day of activities to educate Broward leaders on issues and challenges facing the transportation industry. Pictured (above-right) are Greg and James with Sean Dannelly, Marcie Nolan and Broward Leadership CEO Terri Wallace.

Christopher Ryan attended the Transportation Research Board Annual Conference in Washington D.C. on January 22-26th, and participated in a conference workshop entitled "Conflict Management".

James Cromar made a presentation to the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) in Washington D.C. on February 13-14th. To visit the NARC, go to www.narc.org.

Mark Horowitz, Broward MPO Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator participated in the Complete Streets Policy Development Workshop held in Deerfield Beach on February 16th, as part of the technical assistance grant provided to the City by Smart Growth America. The City was recently selected as one of 15 communities nationwide, and the only one in Florida, to receive this free Smart Growth technical assistance.



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### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

	APR 2012	MAY 2012	JUN 2012	JUL 2012
Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meets every 2nd Thur. at 9:30 a.m.	12	10	14	12
Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Meets every 4th Mon. at 2:15 p.m.	23	21*	25	No Meeting
Community Involvement Roundtable (CIR) Meets every 4th Tues. at 6 p.m.	24	22	26	No Meeting
Broward County Coordinating Board (BCCB) Meets 3rd Monday at 2 p.m. when scheduled	16	No Meeting	18	No Meeting

<sup>\*</sup> Dates changed due to holiday or conflict

All meetings are held in the Broward MPO Board Room, Suite 850, in the Trade Centre South building.

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Christopher Ryan at (954) 876-0036 or ryanc@browardmpo.org. If hearing impaired, telephone 1 (800) 273-7545 (TDD).

For more information on upcoming meetings, complaints, questions or concerns about civil rights or nondiscrimination; or for special requests under the ADA, please contact: Christopher Ryan, Public Information Officer/Title VI Coordinator at (954) 876-0036 or ryanc@browardmpo.org.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

Broward County Transit/Palm Tran Transfer Change

New Transfer to Bus Ticket

As of February 1st all EASY Card customers who transfer to Broward County Transit or Palm Tran must have a Transfer to Bus Ticket to receive a transfer discount



For more information call 1-800-TRI-RAIL (874-7245) or go to www.tri-rail.com