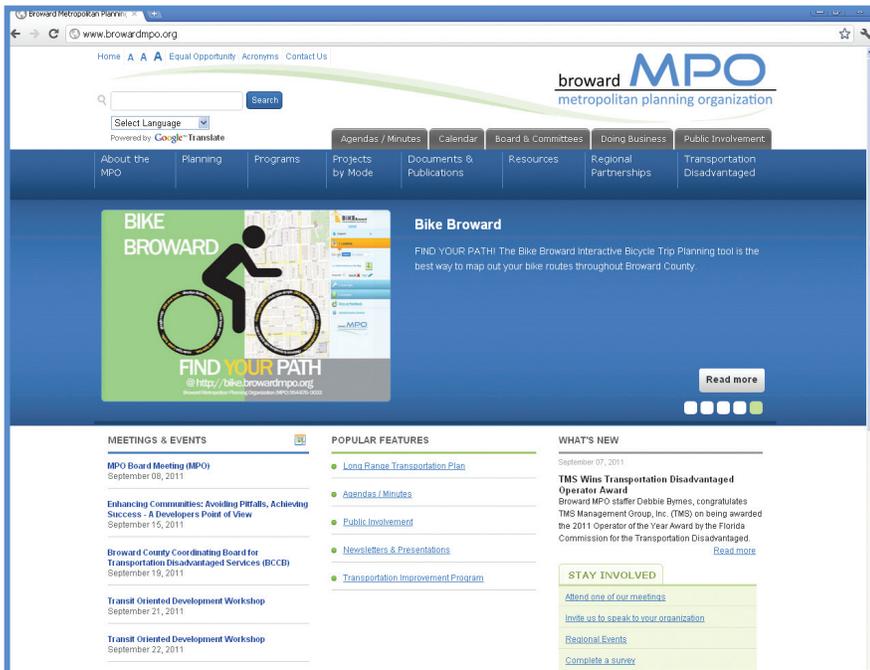


Transportation Transformation

Connecting Communities Through Transportation Choices

OUR WEBSITE HAS TRANSFORMED!



The Broward MPO website www.browardMPO.org has transformed. The updated website has many new features with user-friendly additions that make it easier to navigate and find interesting transportation information the Broward MPO has to offer. For example, there are tabs for a "Calendar" and "Public Involvement" providing all of the upcoming meetings as well as events and links to documents that will keep you informed and up to date on how you can get and stay involved. There is also a "Projects by Mode" tab. This will allow the user to find mode-specific information on bus/rail, bicycle/walk, car, freight, and air/sea. Now let's hear from Chris Ryan, Broward MPO Public Information Officer/Title VI Coordinator about more of the details of the transformed website:

Chris, what is one of the most exciting features of the new website?

"One of the most important features is that we are hosting the website ourselves and we are able to make changes quickly and without delay. This will enable us to keep things current and everyone informed with up to the minute details and information."

What would the Broward MPO want the user to know most about the update?

"We would like for everyone to know that we intend to add a social media aspect soon, as well as electronic surveys as part of this new website. Enjoy!"

BROWARD MPO's INTERACTIVE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) TOOL

In addition to the newly transformed website, the Broward MPO is working on an interactive internet based tool for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Broward MPO's Transportation Planner, Roxana Ene is leading the way with the Interactive TIP webpage. This interactive site will allow you to research information about projects in a flexible format that makes it possible to generate the entire TIP document, or sections of the document covering only those projects that are of special interest. There will be three search options on the Interactive TIP site, "Maps", "Custom Reports", and the "TIP Search" that will allow users to locate and learn about projects by road name, by State or MPO project number, by political jurisdiction, or by geographic location. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Roxana Ene at (954) 876-0042.



WHAT'S INSIDE

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



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

On August 24th, Commissioner Jacobs and I participated in a panel discussion of transportation, sponsored by the Sun-Sentinel and held at Lynn University.

On the panel with us was Husein Cumber, EVP for Corporate Development for the FEC; and Robert Poole of the Reason Foundation and Governor Scott's Transportation Transition Team. Commissioner Jacobs represented the SFRTA/Tri-Rail on this panel, while I represented you...the Broward MPO.

The forum, which was open to the public, was part of the Sun Sentinel Outlook Series.

The discussions were spirited, partly because of an issue that had just surfaced where the State was in private discussions with the FEC concerning Tri-Rail. Commissioner Jacobs represented the SFRTA very aggressively, and appropriately... with reference mostly to discussions taking place without the SFRTA or the public represented. Stay tuned for more of this issue as it unfolds.

The public came prepared and asked good questions. One of the things I mentioned is that when I get in my car, I don't think about the cost of the roadway...I think about moving people around. How are people getting from home to where they want to be? As an MPO, we talked about this as recently as our last meeting, when there was discussion about community shuttles. When people have to rely on friends and family to get from home to the store, or to a doctors appointment and there is no public transportation available, then we have a problem. That is why funding for public transportation, especially community shuttles (which connect with key BCT routes) is so important.

Our 2035 long range plan includes buses, rapid transit lanes, and hub systems to name a few elements, and the hub systems are also key to the economic redevelopment of communities along the route. This is something that the Reason Foundation doesn't address at all when they place all their emphasis on expanding roads.

I would like to thank Greg Stuart and his staff for helping me prepare for this event, and also want to encourage us to continue our work to create a balanced transportation system that benefits all of Broward County's communities and residents.

BCT's EXPRESS BUS SERVICE TO MIAMI SURPASSES RIDERSHIP EXPECTATIONS

In January 2011, FDOT funded a new Broward County Transit (BCT) express bus service from Miramar to the Miami-Dade hospital district as well as to downtown Miami. The increased service and added destinations greatly contributed to the soaring ridership of the express bus service. The latest ridership report, June 2011, indicates ridership on the Pembroke Pines route increased 102% since the same time last year! The Pembroke Pines route had a monthly ridership of 7,009 and the Miramar route almost doubled that number with monthly ridership of 13,660.

BCT is challenged to meet the demand for express bus service to Miami, even with 60-foot articulated buses. Which all goes to prove that when given a choice of comfortable, convenient travel to destinations people want to go, the public will park their cars and take transit. For more information please visit BCT's website at www.broward.org/BCT



Miramar Mayor Lori C. Moseley, with Broward MPO Board Member Broward County Commissioner Barbara Sharief and Miramar City Commissioner Troy R. Samuels



New 60-foot hybrid articulated buses with Wi-Fi access provide a comfortable and convenient ride to downtown Miami

CITY OF HOLLYWOOD IS FIRST TO INSTALL MOBI-MATS - NEW ADA TECHNOLOGY COMES TO THE BEACH

In January 2009 the City of Hollywood received a Department of Environmental Protection permit authorizing the first approved installation of Mobi-Mat RecPaths within the State. Mobi-Mats are semi-permeable mats, meeting the American Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements that are designed to offer wheelchair users safe and efficient access to beaches. The City hosted a 2-year pilot project to allow the State's environmental agency the opportunity to gather data on the ecological impact of this new technology. Four mats were permitted to be located along the Hollywood Beach boardwalk at Tyler Street, New York Street, Johnson Street and Connecticut Street under strict maintenance conditions.

The City was required to provide an assessment of the project at the end of each turtle season. The assessment material included documentation of installation, storms, or significant events; documentation of interactions or effects on nesting sea turtles or hatchlings; and documentation of mats' effectiveness as an ADA access tool. During the last two turtle seasons, no negative interactions were reported and the mats became a popular amenity on Hollywood Beach. The pilot project was successfully completed in January 2011, allowing the City to continue with this project. As the first permit holder in the State, Hollywood continues to set the precedent for cities in Florida and hopes to help spread this program to all of Broward's beaches along the A1A Scenic Highway. For more information contact Manuel Pila mpila@hollywoodfl.org.



BROWARD MPO EDUCATION AND OUTREACH EFFORTS

MPO Chair, Commissioner Richard Blattner, City of Hollywood and MPO staff attended the Eller Drive Overpass Groundbreaking.

Sunrise Commission meeting - Greg Stuart, Executive Director and James Cromar, Livability Planner with partners from FDOT provided an update on transportation projects as they relate to the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan and the Sunrise/Plantation Midtown Livability Study.

Greg Stuart, was a panel member that briefed the Urban Land Institute's District Council Infrastructure Committee on Regional Planning efforts.

James Cromar, along with representatives from the State Road 7 Coordinating Committee, presented the recommendations of the Northern Broward County Livability Study to both the Margate City and City of Coconut Creek City Commissions for their review.

Greg Stuart presented to the Realtor Association of Greater Fort Lauderdale, Government Affairs Committee an explanation of the Broward MPO 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan in relation to land use, redevelopment, and real estate investment. Greg conducted a similar presentation with Chris Ryan to the Leadership Broward Foundation.

BROWARD MPO RECEIVES FHWA FEDERAL AND STATE CERTIFICATION

In the last quarter newsletter we reported on the two-day federal certification review and public meeting that was held at the Broward MPO office in May. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) jointly review the metropolitan transportation planning process every four years for those areas with a population over 200,000. We are happy to report that this process is now complete. At the September 8, 2011 Broward MPO Board meeting Ms. Tamara Christion, FHWA provided a summary of the findings including best practices and recommendations. Both the federal and state certification reports are available on the MPO's website at www.browardMPO.org, just click on the "Documents & Publications" tab.

BROWARD MPO BOARD ADOPTS THE 2012 TIP

The Broward MPO Board unanimously approved the 2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) at their July 14th Board meeting. The TIP is produced annually and is a short-range program which allocates resources and dollars over a five year period. The TIP includes a list of prioritized projects for all modes of transportation such as transit, commuter rail, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, roadway landscaping and greenways, and much more. The purpose of developing a TIP is to create a staged, multi-year, program of transportation projects which is consistent with the Long Range Transportation Plan. Be sure to read about the new interactive TIP webpage in this newsletter

For information, please contact Roxana Ene by email at Roxana@browardmpo.org or by phone at (954) 876-0042.



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

	SEP 2011	OCT 2011	NOV 2011	DEC 2011
Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) <i>Meets every 2nd Thur. at 9:30 a.m.*</i>	8	13	17*	8
Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) <i>Meets every 4th Mon. at 2:15 p.m.*</i>	26	24	28	No Meeting
Community Involvement Roundtable (CIR) <i>Meets every 4th Tues. at 6 p.m.*</i>	27	25	29*	No Meeting
Broward County Coordinating Board (BCCB) <i>Meets 3rd Monday at 2 p.m. when scheduled*</i>	19	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.

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?

The Florida Department of Transportation 511 System, that offers up-to-date bilingual traffic information on your computer, is available on your iPhone with a free app through iTunes. The app offers text and audio updates on congestion, incidents, construction and more. Android is currently developing their version.

Users can get information in their area, along a personalized route for most Florida cities or metro areas. The app has the following features:



- Traffic information based on GPS location
- Personalized route
- Traffic updates provided in text, map-based or audio format
- Estimated travel times
- Feedback to submit traffic incidents
- Define area you want traffic alerts

For more information visit the web site at www.511southflorida.com.