

T ransportation ransformation

Connecting Communities Through Transportation Choices

COCONUT CREEK PARKWAY BECOMES BROWARD'S "EDUCATIONAL CORRIDOR"

In northern Broward County, getting smart is easier. Several municipalities, including the City of Coconut Creek, City of Margate, City of Pompano Beach, and City of Coral Springs, are working together to link their educational facilities and improve transportation connections.

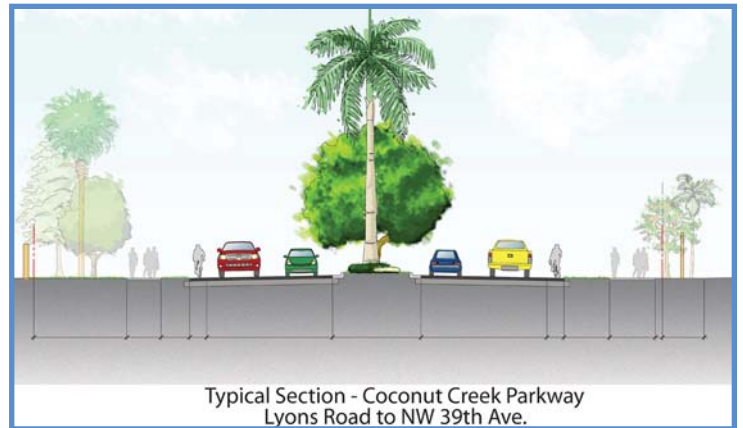
The City of Coconut Creek is taking the first big step towards redeveloping the Coconut Creek Parkway into an Educational Corridor. With the eastern segment reaching into Pompano Beach and the western segment ultimately extending to Coral Springs, the project will establish a transit, cyclist and pedestrian-oriented network among educational facilities.

Home to several educational campuses, the two-mile long Coconut Creek Parkway is a four-lane road with an open median that has been the subject of safety concerns. The City and its partners have developed a master plan for this stretch of roadway that will transform it into a pedestrian-friendly linear park. This includes pedestrian sidewalks with lighting for safety and beautification, and the construction of a neighborhood transit center.



The Coconut Creek Parkway is the recipient of multiple grants to make positive changes for travel throughout the corridor, including sidewalk beautification.

The educational facilities along the Educational Corridor have an estimated population of over 20,000 full & part-time students and a residential population of 18,000 within a ¼ to ½ mile. This phase of the project will connect educational facilities such as Atlantic Technical Center, Coconut Creek High School, Broward College, and the Broward County Library. On completion of the improvements proposed to the Education Corridor, educational facilities would be accessible to one another by bus, shuttle, bicycle and foot. This redevelopment of the Coconut Creek Parkway provides a unique opportunity to benefit several municipalities, as



Typical Section - Coconut Creek Parkway
Lyons Road to NW 39th Ave.

The rendering above depicts a typical section of how the finished corridor will look.

well as the County, from air quality to safety issues.

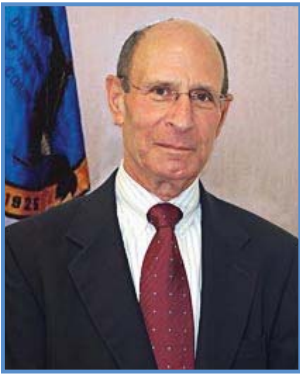
The Broward MPO has awarded 6 enhancement grants totaling \$3,500,000 within the corridor. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), who has previously awarded multiple grants for planning, bus shelters and a transit hub along the roadway, currently has \$150,000 programmed for the development of a Transportation Management Initiative. The project phase currently underway includes raised medians and the addition of bike lanes. Permits have already been issued by Broward County and construction began in May 2011. The City's portion is expected to be completed within 270 days. Broward County will resurface and restripe the road to complete this segment of the project.

These improvements are the foundation for future connectivity to educational facilities in Pompano Beach, Margate and Coral Springs and transit-supportive development. The project is not simply a roadway improvement; it will improve educational access for the student population, and provide transit options and other multi-modal connections for a larger cross-section of the population, including seniors and families.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- *Message from the Chair*
- *What Does TIP Mean to You?*
- *Federal Certification Review*
- *Education and Outreach Efforts*
- *Did You Know?*

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



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

This is my first article as the Chair of the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization. Having been a part of the Broward MPO since 2007, it is a very exciting time to serve as Chair as well as being part of this dynamic organization.

The task of transforming transportation in the region to achieve maximum mobility is both a challenge and the vision for members of the Broward MPO Board. One of our main goals is to assist the public in moving seamlessly throughout the region, whether they live, work or play in Broward, Palm Beach or Miami-Dade counties.

This commitment to regionalism does not come with easy answers. There are tough transportation issues and decisions to be made, from funding and governance, to planning and development opportunities.

One example that affects transit riders when moving from county to county is that our current system does not have an integrated fare system. In most cases, commuters switching between modes of travel are

required to pay full fare for each segment of travel, and each of the regional transit systems has a different payment collection system. When travelling "inter-county," switching from the Tri-Rail to a Broward County Transit bus, or using the Miami-Dade Transit 95 Express Bus to the Miami-Dade Metro Mover, riders not only want seamless multi-modal travel, but a seamless fare system to accompany the trip.

I can remember in the early 90's being a part of the process with the old South Florida Regional Transit Organization. Miami-Dade Transit was tasked with selecting a fare system that could later be integrated with other regional transit partners, only to see less than favorable end results when the time came for implementation...unconnected.

The Broward MPO is working with the public, other regional planning partners, government agencies, elected officials, and stakeholder groups to develop these transportation plans. We are working to develop transit systems connected with information technology systems, that cross county lines, and we will accomplish this with your input and support!

TWO DAY FEDERAL CERTIFICATION REVIEW AND PUBLIC MEETING

As part of the two-day Federal Review, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) held a public meeting as part of the Broward MPO's Federal Certification Review, providing members of the public with an opportunity to share their opinion regarding the local and regional transportation planning process.

The meeting took place on the evening of May 10, with more than 15 members of the local community participating and providing feedback to the federal review team on local and regional transportation issues.

The federal agencies jointly review the transportation planning process every 4 years for all metropolitan areas that have a population over 200,000. Members of the federal review team included FHWA's Ms. Tamara Christian, and Mr. Carey Shepherd, Ms. Tameca Macon from FHWA Headquarters in Washington D.C. and Mr. Keith Melton of FTA Region IV, based in Atlanta.

The Federal Team provided the framework for public discussion and gave members of the public the opportunity to speak. All oral and written comments received at the meeting, as well as additional correspondence received by June 10, 2011, will be incorporated into the summary report that will be prepared by FHWA/FTA later this year. The report will summarize the review findings and provide recommendations and highlight best practices.

The MPO Board Members and staff would like to thank our partners who actively participated during the review process. Partners included representatives from Broward County Transit, FDOT, the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, and Port Everglades.



During the two-day site visit, members of the Federal Review Team sat down with Broward MPO staff members and partners, to take part in a Q&A roundtable session to discuss local transportation planning issues.



Several members of the public participated when given the opportunity to address the federal review team during the public meeting.

INVESTING YOUR DOLLARS IN TRANSPORTATION: WHAT DOES THE TIP MEAN TO YOU?

Each year, the Broward MPO, along with many other national planning areas around the country, conduct an annual task of selecting projects from their Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP - a plan with a 20-year horizon) to be included in a short range transportation plan (a plan with a 5 year horizon), called the **Transportation Improvement Program** or **TIP**.

The TIP represents the Broward MPO and its partners intent to implement and construct specific projects over the next five years. It is also a comprehensive report that compiles all of the federal, State, and locally-funded transportation projects for transit, roadways, bridges, aviation, seaport, rail, bicycle facilities, pedestrian provisions, and enhancement projects like landscaping and greenways.



For more information on how you can become involved in this process, or if you'd like more information or a copy of the TIP, please go to www.browardmpo.org and visit the TIP section, or call Roxana Ene at (954) 876-0042. The comment period for this year's TIP is open until the morning of July 14.

TRI-RAIL MAKES COMMUTING EASIER WITH EXPANDED SHUTTLE BUS ROUTING



Connecting commuters to more locations is just one of the many perks of riding Tri-Rail, and now with expanded shuttle bus services, there are new commuting options.

As before, Tri-Rail offers free dedicated shuttle services at multiple stations, and now they have made it even easier by adding routes throughout the tri-county area including:

- from the Fort Lauderdale Station to Downtown Fort Lauderdale, Las Olas Boulevard, Florida Atlantic University, Broward General Medical Center and other employment centers;
- from the Opa-locka Station, a commuter can travel to the Jackson Health Center, Bunche Shopping Center, Miami-Dade College North Campus, the City Library and the downtown area; and
- from the Lake Worth station, a dedicated shuttle bus provides weekday service to the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office at Gun Club Road, the South Florida Water Management District Service Center and the Palm Beach County School District's Main Office and Operations Center.

For more information on shuttle schedules and trip planning services, visit www.tri-rail.com or call 1 (800)TRI-RAIL.

BROWARD MPO EDUCATION AND OUTREACH EFFORTS

The Broward MPO continually strives to provide meaningful opportunities for the public to participate in the transportation planning process, encourages questions, and provides opportunities for the public to raise concerns and educates the community on current transportation issues. One of the ways we achieve this is through public outreach. Here are a few events that we participated in during the second quarter, 2011.

- Broward MPO staffed a booth at Water Matters Day on March 12, where the public was encouraged to take part in a brief survey and voice their opinions and concerns.
- Staff presented local projects at the Livability in Transportation: Workshop & Peer Exchange in Orlando on March 29.
- As a part of the Broward MPO's work with Volunteer Broward, a presentation was made to the local Children's Services group on March 29.
- On April 14, Greg Stuart, Executive Director, presented the 2035 LRTP to the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Partner Council, hosted by the City of Fort Lauderdale Community Redevelopment Agency
- The Broward MPO hosted the National Transit Institute's Transit Oriented Development Course on May 17-18.
- The Broward MPO hosted Enhancing Communities: Complete Streets Issues and Initiatives in partnership with the Smart Growth Partnership on May 24.

Looking for more exciting opportunities to become involved? Please visit www.browardmpo.org.



Broward MPO Public Information Officer, Chris Ryan, presents to a local group of stakeholders in March.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

	JUL 2011	AUG 2011	SEP 2011	OCT 2011
Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) <i>Meets every 2nd Thur. at 9:30 a.m.*</i>	14	No Meeting	8	13
Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) <i>Meets every 4th Mon. at 2:15 p.m.*</i>	No Meeting	22	26	24
Community Involvement Roundtable (CIR) <i>Meets every 4th Tues. at 6 p.m.*</i>	No Meeting	23	27	25
Broward County Coordinating Board (BCCB) <i>Meets 3rd Monday at 2 p.m. when scheduled*</i>	No Meeting	No Meeting	19	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?

Transit benefits both riders and non-riders! Whether it's more jobs, a cleaner environment, energy independence or an alternative to traffic congestion, transit is important to Florida's future!

Meanwhile, as gas prices create more demand, about 85% of the transit systems across the country are having to cut routes and service due to budget cuts.

You can make a difference. **IM4Transit** is a campaign of the Board of the Florida Public Transportation Association to identify, recruit, and mobilize at least 100,000 pro-transit Floridians. These supporters are a non partisan virtual community that can be mobilized to "give transit a voice" in the public marketplace of ideas.

Be a part of the solution, joining is easy! Visit www.IM4Transit.org today and help raise awareness of the benefits and importance of public transit!

