

FROM VICE-MAYOR BRUCE G. ROBERTS MARCH 2013



BROWARD METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION (MPO): As most of you know, I serve on this board along with representatives from every municipality in Broward County, the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, Broward County School Board, and four Broward County Commissioners. Nineteen are voting members; Fort Lauderdale is the only city with two votes. The MPO is responsible for transportation planning and has developed a strategy through 2035; the MPO also allocates and directs the funding to develop these plans. The Federal Government and the State of Florida (FDOT) are the funding sources. The Broward MPO works with the public, planning organizations, government agencies, elected officials and community groups to develop transportation plans. The Broward MPO's vision is to transform transportation in Broward

County to achieve optimum mobility with emphasis on mass transit, while promoting economic vitality, protecting the environment and enhancing quality of life. The mission is to influence the expenditure of federal and state funds to provide a regional transportation system that ensures the safe and efficient mobility of people and goods, optimize transit opportunities and enhance our community's environmental and economic well-being. In 2012, the MPO continued to forge new partnerships with non-traditional transportation partners, achieving success with the nationally recognized Complete Streets program. We have funded more bicycle, pedestrian, greenway and transit (The Wave streetcar) projects today than at any time in the MPO's 39-year history! The following is just a summary of the many achievements over the past year.

2012 Achievements:

- The Board funded a series of pedestrian and bicycle projects that will be constructed by our partners at FDOT. These pedestrian and bicycle projects provide direct access to our transit corridors and Mobility Hubs and are the implementation of our Complete Streets program.
- Working with our partners at FDOT and BCT, we expanded existing express bus operations and established new express bus operations connecting many of our western Municipalities to Tri-Rail, Downtown Miami, Downtown Fort Lauderdale and the Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport at Dania Beach.
- We began the planning and engineering for our first fully funded Mobility Hub in downtown Fort Lauderdale partnering with the City of Fort Lauderdale, the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority and FDOT. This Mobility Hub will serve as the main station area for the funded Wave Streetcar System, the Sun Trolley, BCT and the near-term FEC regional passenger service, "All Aboard Florida."
- We have started the planning for the \$1.5M Alternatives Analysis (AA) for the full length of University Drive, partnering regionally with Miami-Dade MPO, Miami-Dade Transit, Broward County Transit, the South Florida Regional Transit Authority, FDOT (Districts IV and VI) and the Municipalities along the corridor.
- The Board authorized funding The Wave Streetcar system after receiving a \$18M grant from the Federal Transit Administration and \$35M from FDOT in Tallahassee. The Board recognized that the Wave streetcar will be the first phase of the Central Broward East-West Transit System, which can be expanded to operate across the entire Broward Region. Our funding approval is the turning point in creating new transportation choices for the Broward Region.
- We received an additional \$3.5M for planning efforts that will help expand transit planning, operations and maintenance for the Broward Region.
- Working with the Palm Beach, Martin, St Lucie and Indian River MPOs, we ensured that MPO attributable funds can be used for landscaping projects associated with transportation improvements. And through the same partnership, created the criteria for major landscaping projects funded by FDOT, so that the landscaping can make a bold statement (creating a sense of place) while promoting economic development.
- We have increased our funding to rail and port projects by \$30M from \$201M in FY 11/12 to \$231M in FY 12/13.
- We have increased our overall annual transportation funding for FY 12/13 from \$651M to just over \$1B, with the addition of the I-75 managed lanes project.

Listed below are just a few of our expectations in 2013 for a better transportation system for the Broward Region:

- We will begin the 2040 update to the Long Range Transportation Plan, to be known as Commitment 2040. Each Board Member will have the opportunity to actively participate in the plan's update as well as assist the implementation of our public outreach efforts, via our local cable television stations and on local radio! We will expand our conversation with residents and the business community to gain a better understanding as to which transportation projects they want to advance and what mechanisms they would approve to operate and maintain them.

- We will begin the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan, which is the combination of Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach MPOs' 2040 Long Range Plans with a completely regional perspective.
- We will complete the Regional Freight Plan that will complement freight and goods movement in the region by placing projects in the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan.
- We will identify funding mechanisms available for all planned transit projects, from the local passenger rail on the FEC to the East-West and beyond.
- The Board will select the locally preferred alternatives for several projects including local passenger service on the FEC, Oakland Park Boulevard Study and University Drive Study.
- We will apply for transportation planning grants furthering our relationships with Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration that focus on transportation, economic development, land use and environmental adaptation.
- We will begin to redraft the interlocal agreement for the MPO, which is required every decade, establish new transportation district boundaries and make other changes necessary to make our MPO one of the best MPOs in the Nation.

CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE WINS 2012 FSAWWA DIVISION 5 WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AWARD:

The City of Fort Lauderdale Utilities Bureau was recently named the winner of the 2012 Division 5 Water Distribution System Award by the Florida Section of the American Water Works Association (FSAWWA). The City was selected from among other statewide public and private utilities for the stellar performance, operation, and maintenance of its water distribution system. This is Fort Lauderdale's second consecutive win, and the third time in four years the City has been selected as the winner of this award. The City of Fort Lauderdale distribution and collection system delivers approximately 15 billion gallons of potable water to our residential and commercial accounts. City utility professionals manage and maintain 788 miles of water mains, 475 miles of sewer mains, 119 miles of force mains, and 204 lift stations located throughout the City. FSAWWA committee members with years of professional and municipal work experience judged the City's system based on information provided in seven categories: water quality, operations records, maintenance, professionalism, safety, emergency preparedness, and cross connection/control program. The committee also reviewed extensive supporting documentation included with the application, including public outreach efforts, 24-hour customer service capabilities, and special events offered by the Utilities Bureau.

RESIDENT BEACH PARKING PERMIT: Frequent beachgoers will enjoy the value of free parking and easier access to the beach. City residents will be able to park free at North Beach, Fort Lauderdale Beach Park (formerly South Beach), and the North Birch/Intracoastal E-Lot with the annual purchase of a Resident Beach Parking Permit for \$6. City residents can apply for a Resident Beach Parking Permit online or in-person at Transportation and Mobility, 290 NE 3rd Avenue. Weekday hours are 7:45 am to 4:00 pm. Extended hours on Thursday are 7:45 am to 5:30 pm. Permits cost \$6 for one year (there is an additional \$6 fee if you would like the permit mailed to you). Call 954-828-3700 for more information. NOTE: Proof of City residency is required. Required documents include a valid twelve month residential lease or proof of ownership of a homesteaded property within the incorporated city limits of the City of Fort Lauderdale, a current vehicle registration, a current driver's license, and a current utility bill (within the past 30 days). Acceptable utility bills are water, electric or cable. The name and address on all four documents must be the same. For payment online, we accept Visa or Mastercard only. The expired Resident Beach Parking Permit must be returned to the Parking Services office in order to purchase a replacement permit online or in the office. Web Page: http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/parking/resident_beach_parking_card.htm

DOWNTOWN DEMOGRAPHIC REPORT: Interested in learning more about current residential, population and commercial statistics for downtown Fort Lauderdale? Check out the new 1st and 2nd Quarter 2012 Residential and Commercial Statistics. Go to <http://www.ddaftl.org/view/pdf/Demographics1-2-2012.pdf>.

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- NEVER leave personal items in your car – it is an open invitation for a thief.
- ALWAYS call the police if your car or home has been broken into – even if nothing has been taken. This helps them keep track of what is happening in your area. (954-828-5700)
- CALL Code if you notice blight in your neighborhood, as well as your City. (954-828-5207)
- INFORM your neighbors when you will be away so they can keep an eye on your place. You can also let the police know and they will do drive-bys.
- KEEP your pet on a leash, and PICK-UP any mess they leave behind. Your neighbors don't like walking in it!
- BE CURTIOUS of your neighbor by keeping noise levels low and barking dogs quiet – just to name a few!

2012 NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY: At a very recent commission meeting, we discussed the results of this survey, which is online at the City's website. The random survey was conducted by an independent firm and measured neighbor satisfaction with City services and quality of life. The results, broken down by district and neighborhood, will be used for our strategic planning and the implementation of our 2035 Community Vision. The highlights include:

- The City is a great place to visit (89%), is a place for play and leisure (85%), and a place to live (83%).
- Satisfaction with City services received high marks for police and fire (75%), quality of parks and recreation programs and facilities (75%), and public landscaping (69%).
- Least satisfied areas of concern were with the City as a place to raise and educate children (49%), and overall traffic flow (39%).

There is so much more detail and interesting information that I really encourage you to view the survey on line.
http://fortlauderdale.gov/documents/neighbor_survey/memo_and_final_report.pdf

DON'T FORGET: I will come to your HOA meeting, along with staff, to address any issues/concerns that you may have, as well as give you an update on what is happening in your City.

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