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On The Move

July 2007, No. 20

[7-Day Visitor Passport Is Tourists' Ticket To Ride](#)

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[New Tri-Rail Schedule Helps Cross-County Commuters](#)

Cross-county commuters now can get to work more easily than ever before, while avoiding today's high gas prices, thanks to Tri-Rail's new and dramatically improved schedule.

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PTP At Work

[Florida City Gets New PTP-Funded Bus Shelters](#)



Getting You There

[Buses On Expressway Shoulders A Success](#)



Florida City recently installed five stylish bus shelters along SW 344 Street (Palm Drive) to protect transit riders from the rain and sun.

Funded by the People's Transportation Plan (PTP) half-penny tax, which was approved by Miami-Dade voters in 2002, the shelters are designed to withstand hurricane-force winds and are made of structural steel, with a 4-foot bench, powder-coated finish, polycarbonate windscreen on two sides, and multi-ribbon decorative roof.

Florida City is one of 31 municipalities that receive funds as part of the municipal component of the PTP.

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If you take the Don Shula or Snapper Creek expressway on your way to work and see a Miami-Dade Transit bus traveling in the shoulder, don't be alarmed! It's all perfectly legal, thanks to a partnership between Miami-Dade Transit, MDX, FDOT, and the Florida Highway Patrol.

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[Next Train Signs A Hit At Government Center](#)



New electronic display signs are taking the guesswork out of waiting for the train at the Government Center Metrorail Station.

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Tell Us Why You Use Transit!

How would you like to be profiled in the next issue of Go Miami-Dade? If you're a regular transit rider, we'd like to share your story about why you take the bus or train. Passenger profiles will feature a photo and brief interview. To find out how to be the subject of a passenger profile, please contact us at Gomiamidade@miamidade.gov or 305-375-1278.

Safety and Security Corner

Help Keep Our System Safe

If you see a suspicious package or strange activity in, on, or near a bus, a Metrorail or Metromover train, a bus stop, a rail station, or any transit property, please notify the bus operator, station security officer, or any transit official as quickly as possible. You can also call Transit Watch hotline at 305-375-2700. All reports are kept confidential. For more information about Transit Watch, visit: www.miamidade.gov/transit/transit_watch.asp.

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**Stephen P. Clark Center
People's Transportation Plan**
111 NW 1st Street, Suite 910
Miami, FL 33128
gomiamidade@miamidade.gov

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Complete Articles

7-Day Visitor Passport is Tourists' Ticket to Ride

Friends are visiting Miami for a week and want to enjoy the many activities and attractions Greater Miami and the Beaches have to offer. Wouldn't it be great if they could explore Miami-Dade County for less than it costs to rent a car for one day?

Now they can, thanks to a new 7-day transit pass.

Miami-Dade Transit recently launched the 7-Day Visitor Passport to meet the needs of the more than 10 million tourists who visit Greater Miami and the Beaches every year.

The \$19 transit pass lets passengers enjoy unlimited rides on Metrobus and Metrorail for seven consecutive days.

It comes with a countywide transit system map, including detailed maps of Miami Beach and downtown Miami, that show visitors how to get to numerous tourist attractions and destinations using Metrobus, Metrorail, and Metromover. A scratch-off calendar will let customers choose the seven consecutive days they wish to use the pass, and instructions are clearly stated on the back. The 7-Day Visitor Passport will allow tourists to save substantial amounts of money by avoiding rental car, gas and parking expenses.

"The 7-Day Visitor Passport offers an easy and inexpensive way to travel around Greater Miami and the Beaches by using our system," MDT Interim Director Harpal Kapoor said. "It offers substantial savings and easy access to sightseeing, and



VISITOR PASSPORT: Miami-Dade Transit recently launched the 7-Day Visitor Passport, a \$19 transit pass tailored to the needs of the 10 million annual visitors to Greater Miami and the Beaches.

our brochure map provides the information to get you there."

The 7-Day Visitor Passport is available at several sales outlets in Miami Beach, downtown Miami, Miami International Airport, select hotels and businesses, and MDT's transit service centers. For exact pass sales locations and hours of operation, call 305-770-3131 or visit www.miamidade.gov/transit. Online sales of the pass will begin in the fall on MDT's website, as well as a number of international travel websites.

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New Tri-Rail Schedule Helps Cross-County Commuters

Cross-county commuters now can get to work more easily than ever before, while avoiding today's high gas prices, thanks to Tri-Rail's new and dramatically improved schedule.

Tri-Rail now offers service every 20 to 30 minutes during rush hours - the result of Tri-Rail's recently completed double-tracking project and the construction of the New River Bridge in Fort Lauderdale, as well as the addition of 10 new trains for a total of 50 weekday trains.

Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) provides a convenient rail connection to Tri-Rail at the Metrorail/Tri-Rail station.

ON THE DOUBLE: Tri-Rail's recently completed double-tracking project is making life a lot easier for cross-county commuters, with more frequent connections to Metrorail and Metrobus.

Commuters can hop aboard a Tri-Rail train from as far away as West Palm Beach and transfer to Metrorail for free at the Tri-Rail/Metrorail transfer station in Hialeah. They can then continue their trip to downtown Miami, the Civic Center, Dadeland or any other station on the Metrorail line. Broward and Palm Beach commuters also can take Tri-Rail to the Golden Glades station, where they can connect to one of many convenient MDT bus routes.

Planning a flight? Metrorail passengers can transfer to Tri-Rail at the Metrorail/Tri-Rail station to access all three of South Florida's major airports: Miami International, Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International, and West Palm Beach International.

For the new Tri-Rail schedule, visit www.tri-rail.com or call 1-800-TRI-RAIL. For Metrorail and Metrobus schedules, visit www.miamidade.gov/transit or call 305-770-3131. (Residents south of Southwest 216th Street should call 305-891-3131.)

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Florida City Gets New PTP-Funded Bus Shelters

Florida City recently installed five stylish bus shelters along SW 344 Street (Palm Drive) to protect transit riders from the rain and sun.

Funded by the People's Transportation Plan (PTP) half-penny tax, which was approved by Miami-Dade voters in 2002, the shelters are designed to withstand hurricane-force winds and are made of structural steel, with a 4-foot bench, powder-coated finish, polycarbonate windscreen on two sides, and multi-ribbon decorative roof.

Florida City is one of 31 municipalities that receive funds as part of the municipal component of the PTP.

MUNICIPALITIES PUTTING PTP FUNDS TO WORK: Above is a picture of one of the five stylish bus shelters installed along SW 344th Street in Florida City.

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Buses On Expressway Shoulders A Success

If you take the Don Shula or Snapper Creek expressway on your way to work and see a Miami-Dade Transit bus traveling in the shoulder, don't be alarmed! It's all perfectly legal, thanks to a partnership between Miami-Dade Transit, MDX, FDOT, and the Florida Highway Patrol.

Buses on MDT's KAT routes started using the shoulders of both expressways in March in order to bypass congestion, improve on-time performance, and encourage more commuters to use transit as an alternative to gridlock. Buses enter the shoulder whenever speeds on the regular lanes drop below 25 mph, they can travel on the shoulder up to 35 mph, and they must re-enter the main travel lanes whenever there is a breakdown or emergency vehicle in the shoulder.

Be aware that motorists must yield to buses attempting to reenter the main lanes. Signs are posted on both expressways to alert motorists that buses are permitted to use the shoulder.

The pilot program eventually could be expanded to other expressways and has already shown signs of success, with a significant improvement in on-time performance. For KAT route schedules, [click here](#).



IN THE FAST LANE: Buses on MDT's KAT routes have been running on the shoulders of the Don Shula and Snapper Creek expressways to bypass congestion and get commuters to work faster.

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Next Train Signs A Hit At Government Center

New electronic display signs are taking the guesswork out of waiting for the train at the Government Center Metrorail Station.



SIGN OF THE TIMES: New signs display train arrival times at Government Center.

Located over the Metromover turnstiles on the second floor of the Stephen P. Clark Center, the new Next Train signs count down the arrival time, in minutes and seconds, of the next southbound and northbound Metrorail train. Part of a pilot study that began on May 17, the signs - which use a track relay system to determine a train's arrival time - eventually will begin showing up at other stations as part of MDT's ongoing efforts to improve customer service. Credit for the new signs goes to MDT systems analyst Andrew Whitehorn and his team.

Customers already are giving the new signs rave reviews. "The new signs are great!" said Metrorail passenger Gloria Aguirre. "It is so good to be able to decipher whether or not I need to race up the escalator to make sure I don't miss the next train."

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**Stephen P. Clark Center
People's Transportation Plan**
111 NW 1st Street, Suite 910
Miami, FL 33128
gomiamidade@miamidade.gov

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