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# Go Miami-Dade

The People's Transportation Plan monthly newsletter

On The Move

September 2007, No. 22

## [Miami-Dade Transit Kicks Off Anti-Vandalism Campaign](#)

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### PTP At Work

## [Pedestrian Overpass Will Provide Safe Crossing Over U.S. 1 near UM Campus](#)



### Getting You There

## [Join the Busway Walk & Run on Sept. 8](#)



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Determined to prevent similar tragedies, UM students and a group of community leaders have been lobbying hard for the last two years for construction of a pedestrian bridge at the site, which is next to a Metrorail stop. Their hopes moved one step closer to reality at a recent public meeting to discuss plans for a pedestrian overpass across U.S. 1 at University Metrorail station.

"I'm excited about the plans for an overpass because of the safety students and residents will finally have when crossing U.S. 1," said UM Student Body President Danny Carvajal.

Slated to open in 2010, the bridge will feature elevators and stairs on both sides and will serve as an architectural "gateway" to the community. The project will be partially funded by the People's Transportation Plan half-penny tax.

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Miami-Dade Transit is inviting the entire community to the Busway Walk & Run for Transit Employees, Family and Friends to benefit Habitat for Humanity on Saturday, Sept. 8, from 7 a.m. to noon at SW 100th Street on the South Miami-Dade Busway.

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### [MDT Employee's Inventions Earn National Attention](#)



Morris Penrod could be called the Thomas Edison of Miami-Dade Transit. In his 30 years as a bus maintenance technician, he has come up with scores of ideas to improve efficiency and save money.

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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](mailto:Gomiamidade@miamidade.gov) or 786-469-5386.

## **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](http://www.miamidade.gov/transit/transit_watch.asp).

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## Complete Articles

### Miami-Dade Transit Kicks Off Anti-Vandalism Campaign

Miami-Dade Transit has launched a new initiative that seeks passenger participation in helping arrest vandals. The anti-vandalism and anti-graffiti campaign kicked off this month at an event at the Civic Center Metrorail station in conjunction with an anti-terrorism awareness operation by the police departments of Miami-Dade County and the city of Miami.

MDT officials handed out Transit Watch brochures that have been updated to urge passengers to report incidents of graffiti and vandalism and offer up to \$1,000 from Miami-Dade Crime Stoppers for information leading to the arrest of a vandal. MDT's anti-graffiti message also now appears on Metrorail station platform posters and panels inside buses and trains.

"I'm very glad to see this campaign happening," said transit rider Angela Darling-Miller. "I like to see the trains and buses clean and free of graffiti and trash."



**STOP VANDALISM:** A Miami-Dade Transit security officer at the Civic Center Metrorail station hands a passenger a brochure including information about the department's new anti-vandalism initiative.

The event was the sixth time in the last year that MDT has teamed up with local law enforcement as part of its Transit Watch terrorism awareness campaign, but the first time the anti-vandalism message was included.

MDT has spent about \$2.5 million since last October to clean up and repair damage from graffiti and vandalism, including

painting over graffiti at rail stations, repairing seats and replacing windows that have been damaged by etched-on "scratchiti."

To report a vandal, call Miami-Dade Crime Stoppers at 305-471-TIPS (8477) or toll-free at 1-866-471-8477, or call Transit Watch at 305-375-2700.

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### **Pedestrian Overpass Will Provide Safe Crossing Over U.S. 1 near UM Campus**

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Determined to prevent similar tragedies, UM students and a group of community leaders have been lobbying hard for the last two years for construction of a pedestrian bridge at the site, which is next to a Metrorail stop. Their hopes moved one step closer to reality at a recent public meeting to discuss plans for a pedestrian overpass across U.S. 1 at University Metrorail station.

"I'm excited about the plans for an overpass because of the safety students and residents will finally have when crossing U.S. 1," said UM Student Body President Danny Carvajal.

**BRIDGE TALK:** MDT recently held a public meeting to discuss design plans for a pedestrian overpass over U.S. 1 at University Metrorail station to improve pedestrian safety.

Slated to open in 2010, the bridge will feature elevators and stairs on both sides and will serve as an architectural "gateway" to the community. The project will be partially funded by the People's Transportation Plan half-penny tax.

Coral Gables resident Tamara Barreda is looking forward to the pedestrian bridge so she won't have to walk across U.S. 1 to catch the train. "It's almost impossible for me to cross the street to the other side of U.S. 1 all by myself," she said.

For more information about the pedestrian overpass and upcoming public meetings on the project, call 786-469-5550.

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### **Join the Busway Walk & Run on Sept. 8**



Miami-Dade Transit is inviting the entire community to the Busway Walk & Run for Transit Employees, Family and Friends to benefit Habitat for Humanity on Saturday, Sept. 8, from 7 a.m. to noon at SW 100th Street on the South Miami-Dade Busway.

Enjoy free health screenings, food vendors, trivia contests and more. Park for free at the Dadeland South Metrorail Station and take a free shuttle to the event. Registration is \$5 and includes a race T-shirt. Race-day registration begins at 6 a.m. You can also register Sept. 5-7 at The Runner's High, 11209 S. Dixie Highway. For more information, call 305-375-2632 or 305-255-1500, or visit [www.miamidade.gov/transit](http://www.miamidade.gov/transit).

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## MDT Employee's Inventions Earn National Attention

Morris Penrod could be called the Thomas Edison of Miami-Dade Transit. In his 30 years as a bus maintenance technician, he has come up with scores of ideas to improve efficiency and save money.

Among his many inventions are a number of tools to dramatically reduce the time and labor it takes to remove various bus parts, including one now being used worldwide. His ingenuity has earned him thousands of dollars from the County's Employee Suggestion Program, which rewards employees whose ideas save the County money.

"When I have to do something, I try to think of an easier way to do it," he said. "I just luck out usually."

Penrod, who hopes to retire next year, recently gained national attention when he was interviewed about his inventions on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered." You can listen to the interview [here](#).



**MAN OF IDEAS:** MDT's Morris Penrod, whose many ideas have saved the County money and time, accepts an award for his latest invention. He is joined, from left, by MDT Human Resources Chief William Foster, Assistant County Manager Susanne Torriente and Bus Maintenance Superintendent of Support Services William Attias.

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