

# Transportation

Transportation continues to be a vital concern of residents, as well as visitors. Steps have been taken this year to improve mobility throughout the County. The Mass Transit Division was elevated to an office under County Administration and became the Broward County Office of Transportation in February.

In 2007, Broward County conducted a Transit Summit at the Convention Center in Fort Lauderdale, attended by approximately 200 elected officials, community and business leaders and concerned citizens. Following the summit, a community forum on transit was held at the South Regional/BCC Library in Pembroke Pines. The forum and future venues are designed to inform the public about transit issues and to solicit community input on public transportation concerns and solutions.



Ridership on Broward County Transit—BCT—continued to increase, reaching 39.2 million passenger trips a year, or a nearly five percent increase over 2006. Broward County entered into partnerships with 23 of the County's 31 municipalities for community bus service. Hallandale Beach and Wilton Manors are the newest partners. Additional community bus service was added to five existing partner cities. Ridership on community buses continues to show a slight increase.

This year, Broward County conducted groundbreaking ceremonies for the new Northeast Neighborhood Transit Center in Pompano Beach and launched limited-stop "Breeze" service along State Road 7 and U.S. 1. A new route was added along Stirling Road, between U.S. 1 and Flamingo Road, and more frequent service has been added to several routes.

County Commissioners approved a program to provide bus passes at a reduced fare to agencies that serve homeless individuals, and Paratransit Services introduced its newly restructured Transportation Options—or TOPS—program to provide a better quality of service to paratransit customers. The County received a \$3.36 million award from the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged to provide services for persons not eligible for services from other federal, state or local agencies.



Broward County began three major highway construction projects in 2007—Sheridan Street, from S.W. 184 Avenue to S.W. 196 Avenue—Sunrise Boulevard, from Hiatus Road to Pine Island Road—and, Plantation Bridges, from S.W. 125 Avenue to Commodore Drive.

Workers installed 330 transfer switches at signalized intersections to allow generators to be hooked up when the power fails during emergencies. More than 10,000 emergency Stop/No Right Turn signs were distributed to municipalities to assist in traffic flow during power failures.

The design phase of the mast-arm conversion project for traffic signal locations was completed for 44 locations and workers retimed ten arterials and evaluated the signal timing at nearly 900 intersections. In addition, the County installed 250 emergency vehicle preemption systems.