



**A Message from
Broward County Mayor
Lois Wexler**

Gas prices have skyrocketed recently and the average price of gas in Florida remains at more than \$4.00 per gallon. Many people are choosing to leave their cars at home and use public transportation.

Since January, ridership on Broward County Transit (BCT) buses increased more than five percent. In May, a record-setting 129,000 passengers rode the bus. In June, BCT's call center logged more than 100,000 phone calls for information on bus routes. Using public transportation saves money, lessens traffic on the roadways and is good for the environment. In an effort to promote public transportation, Broward County Transit recently announced the launch of "Green Thursdays" to encourage residents to use an alternate method of transportation at least once a week.

BCT is offering incentives to those who commit to "Green Thursdays." Complimentary bus passes, contests, drawings, and tee-shirts will be given away on Thursdays throughout the campaign, which runs through September 25. Alternate modes of transportation include riding the bus, Tri-Rail, car or van pooling or walking or biking to get to your destination.

Broward County businesses are being encouraged to allow flexibility in work schedules for employees using alternate modes of transportation.

If you haven't used public transportation and don't quite know how to get from here to there, you might want to visit Google Transit at www.google.com/transit. Google Transit will provide you with an aerial map of your neighborhood and your destination point. It also tells you what bus route to take, where convenient bus stops are located and which routes and schedules are most suitable for you. It even estimates how long it will take for you get to your destination depending on your mode of transportation and the time of day. If you don't have a computer, call BCT at (954) 357-8400 for assistance in planning a public transportation route.

In support of Green Thursdays, I myself plan on using public transportation and hope that you'll join me.

Broward County Transit is asking for public input on a multi-year Transportation Development Plan (TDP) that will provide guidance on the capital and operating priorities for public transit for 2009 through 2018. BCT wants to hear your comments to the following questions:

What are the three major public transportation issues in our region?

What should be done now and in the future to improve public transportation?

Please send your comments to bctsurvey@broward.org. Please write in the subject field: TDP Workshop Comments. To learn more go to www.broward.org/bct/transitplan.htm. Public transportation workshops are planned throughout the year.

If you have any questions or issues that you'd like to discuss, please call my office at (954) 357-7005 or e-mail me at lwexler@broward.org.

Sincerely,

Lois Wexler
Broward County Mayor
Commissioner, District 5

