



A Message from
Broward County Vice-Mayor
Lois Wexler

I would like to take this opportunity to let readers know about a series of important meetings concerning public transportation that have begun to take place in Broward County. Public transportation may not be the most exciting of topics but it is one which will have huge impacts, both economically and environmentally, on our daily lives. We are now at a critical junction and something must be done soon. Broward County's current population of 1.8 million people is expected to increase by 1 million by 2030. These additional residents will need to get around on Broward County's already congested roads. The Texas Transportation Institute recently conducted a study and found that the cost of congestion in South Florida, based on wasted time and fuel, was approximately \$2.7 billion. This is about \$900 per driver; money that I am sure Broward County residents would be happy to have in their pockets.

On October 16, 2007, Broward County held a Transit Summit at the Broward County Convention Center. This event brought transportation entities from the federal, state and local levels together to discuss and outline what is currently on the drawing board and what needs to be done in order to create a community-based public transportation plan for Broward County. Transportation experts explained the complexities involved with public transportation, and began the process of collecting community input with regard to what the future of public transportation in Broward County should be. The overall goal is to put together a public transportation plan created by the public, a plan that will take people where they tell us they want to go!

This is where the new effort of transportation planning differs from those previously undertaken. In the past, well-intentioned groups created plans for public transportation and then presented those plans to the people. The public did not always buy into the creation of the plan; they were

less willing to accept it, especially considering the costs that would have to be assumed in order to pay for the new transportation projects and improvements. The work of these groups was a noble effort and very well-intentioned, but it was not always a grassroots effort which is one of the reasons former plans failed.

The Transit Summit kicks off a series of public meetings that will be hosted by Broward County Transit. I hope that you will make the time to attend one of them and tell us what you would like to see in a transportation plan. Public hearings are being scheduled throughout Broward County. If your Homeowners Association or community group would be interested in hosting a meeting please call Broward County Transit at (954) 357-8300. Currently, there are plans to hold additional public meetings throughout the County during the next 18-to-24 months. These meetings will be posted on our webpage at www.broward.org/bct.

As always, I welcome your thoughts and comments. Please feel free to contact me by phone at (954) 357-7005 or by e-mail me at lwexler@broward.org.

Best Regards,

Lois Wexler
Broward County Vice-Mayor
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