

**Public Transportation/Flood Mitigation Advisory Board**  
**Annual Report to City Commission**  
**April 1, 2009**

Committee Members

Lawrence Grimson, Chairman  
Joe Sher, Vice Chairman  
Patricia Brennan  
Bonnie Gusky  
Shaundra Hicks  
Aileen Hochwert  
Mark Sadolf

The Public Transportation/Flood Mitigation Advisory Board meets quarterly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 8:30 AM. Meetings are very well-attended. The last meeting was held January 22, 2009.

This board is unique because we have a dual responsibility:

1. Advising the Commission concerning public transportation issues
2. Advising the City concerning methods of disseminating information concerning flood damage protection

**PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

- The City's minibus service is contracted to Limousines of South Florida.
- Each meeting Mark Levitt, President of Limousines of South Florida, reports to the board on news pertaining to the minibus program.
- Over the past few years, there have been several improvements that have resulted in markedly increased ridership.
  - June 2005 – City began offering minibus service free of charge
  - October 2005 – Hours of service were increased to 10 hours per day
  - May 2007 – Route 3 was inaugurated, offering minibus service to the NW and SW areas
  - September 2007 – Hours of service were increased to 12 hours per day, Monday through Saturday
- The graphs demonstrate the increase in ridership over the past years.
- Currently the City's minibus program services an average of 12,513 riders per month. This represents a 239% increase over 2005.
- The increase in ridership in Route 3 is especially impressive, as shown on the second graph: an increase of 119% in one year.
- Though there are occasional complaints (which are addressed), the riders are typically very pleased with the service. There is approximately 1 complaint for every 1000 riders.
- Over the past two years, the appearance of 2 of the 3 minibuses has improved through use of wrap. (After the third minibus is replaced, it will also be wrapped.)

- A fourth route will be added this year. (The City has secured an FDOT grant to begin its implementation.)
- The fourth route will serve primarily to reduce the headway of Routes 1 and 2.
- This board would like to highlight the fact that traffic will be a major concern for the City and public transportation will be increasingly important as a solution.
- We appreciate the support of the Commission for continued expansion of public transportation.

### **FLOOD MITIGATION**

- The primary responsibility of this board as it pertains to flood mitigation is producing and pursuing a strategy to inform the community of the importance of flood protection, flood insurance and flood safety.
- Each year the board adopts a strategy for accomplishing this. Each year we increase our public information campaign. For the first time this past year, the City distributed a flyer explaining flood insurance to all residents.
- In addition to helping to inform the community, there is another important benefit that our community is receiving as a result of the work of this board: we work to help improve the City's CRS (Community Rating System) score.
- On October 1, 2008, the City's rate improved from a Class "7" to "6". That translates to a total 20% reduction in flood insurance for residents and businesses in the special flood hazard areas of the City and a 10% reduction for those outside these areas.
- Total savings for this rate improvement are \$1,115,321 annually, as depicted in the graph.

The Public Transportation/Flood Mitigation Board is pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to our community, and looks forward to continuing to do so in the coming year.