



TRANSPORTATION MATTERS

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May is National Bike Month

Looking for an alternative to high gasoline prices? Well, perhaps you might want to bike to work, shopping or to run errands. The League of American Bicyclists is promoting Bike-to-Work Week from May 15-19 and Bike-to-Work Day on Friday, May 19. Activities all across the country are planned to advocate bicycling as an alternative to motorized transportation. Some of the activities

taking place in Palm Beach County are in conjunction with Clean Air Month promoted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Through a cooperative effort the MPO, South Florida Commuter Services (SFCS), American Lung Association (ALA), Florida Department of Health, Tri-Rail, Palm Tran, West Palm Beach Downtown Development Authority, and

Safe Bike Coalition, events and information will be available to the public at large.



Comm. Marcus presents Proclamation to Baronak

SEFTC Selects Regional Projects

The Southeast Florida Transportation Council (SEFTC) held its second meeting on April 12 in Fort Lauderdale. The SEFTC Board received presentations on regional corridors and projects to be considered for funding. The Regional Corridors include facilities crossing county lines and major roadways connecting these corridors. Projects in these corridors were identified from the long range plans adopted

by the MPOs in Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties. The Board adopted a series of projects for Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) funds. State TRIP funds provide half of the capital costs associated with a project. The projects for Palm Beach County include ten buses for Palm Tran, additional lanes on Atlantic Avenue and Okeechobee Boulevard west of the Turn-

pike and turn lanes on Indiantown Road at Military Trail. These projects with supporting documentation will be submitted to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for funding.

The SEFTC Board will begin developing a mechanism for prioritizing future projects and establishing performance measures for regional transportation planning.

MPO STAFF NEWS & NOTES

**Guy Milord
Honored**

**New Bicycle/
Greenways/
Pedestrian
Coordinator
joins MPO**

Vanpool Coordinator Wins Star Award

South Florida Vanpool Coordinator, Guy Milord, who works from the Palm Beach MPO office, was honored by VPSI, Inc. for his diligence and for exceeding their expectations in developing 20 vanpools in one campaign. He was chosen out of a total of 250 possible recipients. His first campaign as Vanpool Coordinator for Palm Beach County was to work with the Veteran's Hospital in West Palm Beach with his 20 vanpools.

The next major campaign will involve van-

pools for the move of four county offices to the new county facility at Vista Center in West Palm Beach. Over 800 employees who will relocate include the MPO, Environmental Resource Management, Engineering and Public Works, and Planning, Zoning and Building. An opportunity for those employees moving to the Vista Center will be made available to form carpools or vanpools. With the rising cost of gasoline, the 800 employees will have more options for transporta-

tion to and from the office.

Palm Beach County is fortunate to have someone like Guy Milord working on our behalf to alleviate the stress that comes with commuting on our crowded roadways.



Guy Milord, Vanpool Coordinator

Bret Baronak Joins MPO Staff

The MPO staff has been joined by Bret Baronak who is the new Bicycle/Greenways/Pedestrian Coordinator. Bret came to the MPO from the Office of Community Revitalization under County Administration where he functioned as an Urban Planner.

Prior to moving to PBC, Bret had extensive experience in bicycle and pedestrian planning working with the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (Pittsburgh MPO).

Some of his goals at the Palm Beach MPO are to advocate and help make bicycling and walking a more accepted and

safer means of transportation. The County can capitalize on its substantial public lands by creating recreational greenways and trails to improve the quality of life for the county's residents and visitors. He added he would love to see an urban trail network for bicycle and pedestrian traffic. It would be similar to a bicycle mini-highway taking transportation routes off main highways, and connecting to more green areas. The connecting trails would take the rider to the urban areas where they are employed as an alternative means of transporta-

tion while maintaining a more protective environment for the commuter.

One of Bret's desired results is to see a more active and healthy society.



Bret Baronak commutes to work via his bicycle

Regional Citizen's Committee to Meet

The Annual Regional Citizen's Advisory Committee will meet once again on June 14 at the South Florida Regional Transit Authority's (SFRTA) conference room. Members of the Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade Citizens Advisory Committees will come together to review regional projects, such as the South Florida East Coast Transit Corridor Study, Consumer Information Network System, Smart-Traveler (511), State Road 7 Fast Bus Project

and the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan. Comments from the general public will be accepted.

The Tri-County Area (Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade) was designated a Regional Urban Study Area by the Federal government. The



designation dictates that all transportation projects that are regional in nature must be addressed by the MPO Boards located in that region.

The meeting is scheduled from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. The Tri-Rail Administrative Office Conference Room is located at 800 NW 33rd Street, Pompano Beach. Save Gas — Check the Tri-Rail schedule for your area. Call the MPO with any questions at 561.684.4170.

**MPO
News
&
Notes**

SFECC Transit Analysis Study Update

One of the first public information meetings was held for the Regional South Florida East Coast Corridor Transit Analysis Study (SFECCTA) at the Cohen Pavilion in West Palm Beach. FDOT Project Manager, Scott Seeburger gave an overview of the entire project which reaches from Miami to Tequesta, a total of 85 miles. He also responded to questions and concerns posed by members of the public. Consultants with Gannett-Fleming discussed specific details of the project and how they plan to proceed.

Over 100 people expressed interest in the project. Their concerns ranged from increased noise with additional train traffic, the need for ground transportation connectors and increased east/west traffic congestion.

The purpose of the study is to seek a regional solution to relieve roadway congestion by moving people and visitors more efficiently on mass transit. This mode of transit would connect the three major airports in Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties, the three seaports and connecting surface modes of transportation.

Another aspect of the study is to assure the increase in flow of freight to the air and seaports will not be affected by the addition of passenger rail service.

To follow the progress of the study or for more information, go to the project website at: www.sfeccstudy.com.



Attendees review project route map

**Regional CAC
Meeting
Scheduled for
June 14**



160 Australian Avenue,
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PLANNING FOR TOMORROW

MPO Staff

- Randy M. Whitfield, P.E., MPO Director**
- Angela Morlok, Principal Planner**
- David J. Karwaski, Senior Planner**
- Bret Baronak, Senior Planner**
- Paul C. Larsen, Planner II**
- Patricia Masterman, Public Information**
- Marilyn Tincher, Financial Analyst**
- Elizabeth Requeny, Administrative Secretary**
- Renee Benezra, Secretary**

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We're on the web!
www.pbcgov.com/mpo

This publication can be made available in large print, tape cassette, or Braille by request.

Tips for Bicycle Safety ...



Bicycling can be great fun and excellent physical exercise, however, we need to remember safety first. Here are a few tips to guide you:

1. Get Your Bicycle Checked Out!

Take your bicycle to your local bicycle shop and get a tune-up.

2. Get Yourself Checked Out!

If you really haven't ridden in a long time, it might be wise to check in with your doctor and see if there's any reason you shouldn't be saddling up and going for a spin.

3. Deck Yourself Out with the Latest Gear:

... **A wide variety of helmets** are available in different styles and price ranges. Your local bike dealer will help you get the right size and fit.

... **A sturdy lock** is essential if you're planning on riding your bike and leaving it somewhere for awhile.

... **Front and rear lights and reflectors are required**, and make good sense, if you're going to be riding at night or dusk.

... **Padded shorts, gloves and other special clothing** will make longer rides more comfortable, but probably aren't necessary for riding to the video store and back.

4. Find a Safe Place to Practice.

Again, if you really haven't ridden in a long time, it makes sense to regain your confidence on the bike and practice somewhere safe as opposed to on the main road to work.

5. Follow the Rules of the Road

... **Always ride with traf-**

fic. Don't ride on the sidewalk.

... **Ride on the trail, paved shoulder, bike lane, or bike route.**

... **Be predictable and visible.**

... **Watch for turning traffic.**

... **Watch for stuff on the road or trail that might make you fall or swerve.**

6. Have Fun

Bicycling is fun, healthy, safe, convenient, and by riding you are setting a great example to others.