

**PALM BEACH COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

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Meeting Date:    12-4-07           [ ] Consent   [X] Regular
                  [ ] Ordinance  [ ] Public Hearing
Department:     Metropolitan Planning Organization
Submitted By:   Metropolitan Planning Organization
Submitted For:
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**I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF**

**Motion and Title: Staff requests Board direction to:** continue the Lake Region Commuter Route (LR CR) Service for one (1) additional year at a cost of \$70,000 which would be contingent upon receipt of \$66,343.20 from Hendry County and a \$70,000 grant award from Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

**Summary:** In 2000, the Workforce Development Board (now the Workforce Alliance, Inc.) for Palm Beach County identified transportation as a barrier to jobs and education in the Lake Region of Palm Beach County and Hendry County. With the assistance of FDOT, a study was completed and funds were sought for a first rural regional commuter route between Belle Glade and Clewiston. FDOT provided demonstration funds which will be depleted this year. Commuter service was initiated October 2002, under a contract by Palm Tran with a private operator. Service is provided 16 ½ hours a day, 7 days a week, bi-hourly (6:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.). Ridership has increased yearly. Trips are expected to exceed 20,000 in CY 2007. Hendry County has committed \$66,343.20 and FDOT has committed \$70,000. The \$70,000 requested from Palm Beach County represents a total of \$206,343.20 for this project. (Attachment 2 and 3) District 6 (D.R.)

**Background and Justification:** The Lake Region has one of the highest rates of unemployment and lack of automobile ownership in the State of Florida. The LR CR is the only transit route that connects 2 hubs for employment, education, and life sustaining destinations in the Lake Region. Former Governor Bush declared the Heartland Region, which includes the Lake Region, an area of "Critical Economic Concern". The Florida Heartland Rural Economic Development Initiative (FHREDI), a private, not-for-profit economic development organization representing the Heartland Region, is undertaking a mobility study that includes the LRCP. This study is to address a governing structure and financial plan for mobility options in six counties and four communities, including Belle Glade, South Bay and Pahokee. This study includes the service area of the LR CR and is scheduled to be completed in 2008. Both Hendry County and FDOT have committed funding to provide uninterrupted service for the existing LR CR this year with the expectation that the FHREDI study will provide direction for ownership and funding sources for rural transportation and assume responsibility for funding and operating the service next year and in the future.

- Attachments:**
1. Ridership Data
  2. Florida Department of Transportation Funding Letter
  3. Hendry County Commission Board Commitment Letter
  4. Lake Region Commuter Route Map

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Recommended by: Randy Whitfield / vgs           11/26/07
                  Department Director              Date

Approved By:   Wendy J. Bennett                11/26/07
                  Assistant County Administrator    Date

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**II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS**

**A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

Fiscal Years	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
Grant Expenditures					
Operating Costs		206,343			
External Revenues		(136,343)			
Program Income (County)					
In-Kind Match (County)					
<b>NET FISCAL IMPACT</b>	<b><u>\$70,000</u></b>				

# ADDITIONAL FTE  
POSITIONS (Cumulative)

Is Item Included In Current Budget? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X



Budget Account No.: Fund \_\_\_\_\_ Department \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_  
Object \_\_\_\_\_ Reporting Category \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

**C. Departmental Fiscal Review: \_\_\_\_\_**

**III. REVIEW COMMENTS**

**A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:**

 11/26/07 OFMB 11/26/07	 11/27/07 Contract Dev. and Control
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**B. Legal Sufficiency:**

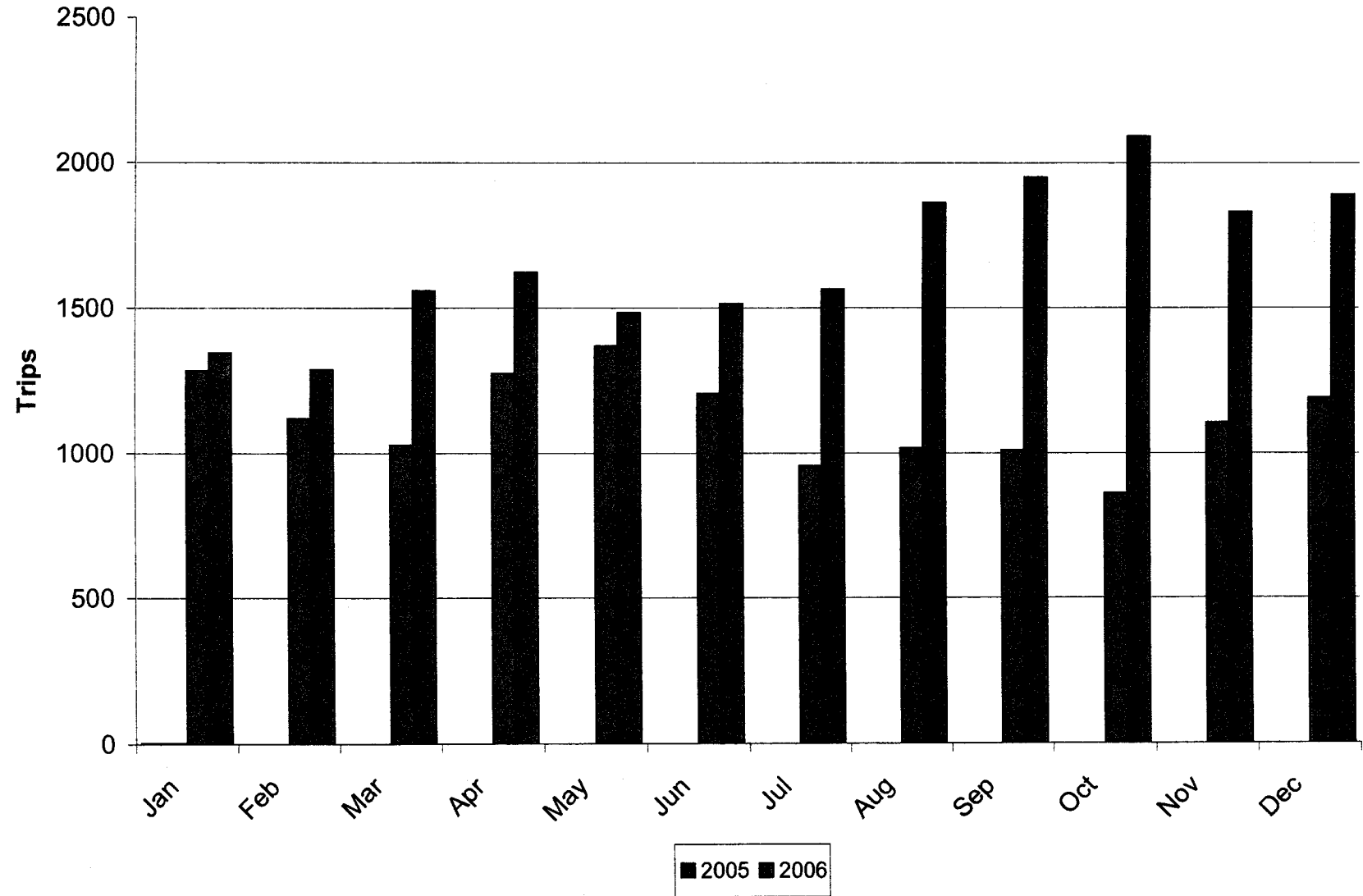
  
 11/30/07  
 Assistant County Attorney

**C. Other Department Review: \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department Director

**(THIS SUMMARY IS NOT TO BE USED AS A BASIS FOR PAYMENT.)**

# Lake Region Commuter Route Ridership





CHARLIE CRIST  
GOVERNOR

## Florida Department of Transportation

OFFICE OF MODAL DEVELOPMENT  
3400 W. Commercial Blvd.  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309-3421  
Telephone: (954) 777-4490 Fax: (954) 677-7892

STEPHANIE C. KOPELOUSOS  
SECRETARY

October 17, 2007

Mr. Randy Whitfield, Director  
Palm Beach MPO  
2300 North Jog Road, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33411-2749

RECEIVED  
OCT 22 2007  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORG.  
PALM BEACH COUNTY

Dear Mr. Whitfield:

**Subject:**           **FM No:**                   **410959-1-84-01**  
                          **Contract No:**           **AL615**  
                          **County:**                 **Palm Beach**  
                          **Description:**           **Lake Region Commuter Route between Belle Glade in  
Palm Beach County and Clewiston in Hendry County**

The Department is in receipt of your letter dated July 30, 2007 requesting an additional \$70,000 to continue the Lake Region Commuter Route. Based on the continuous increase in ridership, this pilot project has proven to be more than successful. Therefore, the Department has approved your request. Keep in mind, that any additional requests for funding related to this project will not be honored. Alternative funding sources should be sought to prevent disruption or loss of service.

A Supplemental Joint Participation Agreement (SJPA) for the referenced project is attached. Please print (5) copies of this agreement, execute and return to this office.

We also need two (2) copies of a Resolution, with original signatures, authorizing the Agreements. Both Resolutions and Agreements must be original signature documents.

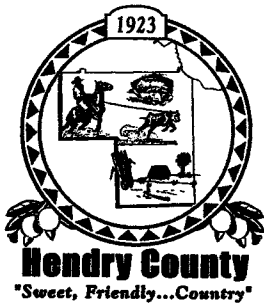
Please do not fill in the dates on the Agreements, as the District Director of Transportation Development will do this upon final execution. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (954) 777- 4365.

Sincerely,

Lisa Peterson  
Transit Planning Coordinator  
Office of Modal Development

Attachment(s)

[www.dot.state.fl.us](http://www.dot.state.fl.us)



**HENDRY COUNTY**  
**Board of County Commissioners**  
**P.O. Box 2340**  
**LaBelle, Florida 33975-2340**

A3

D. Wayne O'Neal  
County  
Administrator

Mark F. Lapp  
County  
Attorney

Barbara Butler  
Clerk  
of the Courts

November 7, 2007  
2007-333

Mr. Randy Whitfield, Director  
Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization  
2300 N. Jog Road, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
West Palm Beach, FL 33411-2749

**RECEIVED**  
**NOV 13 2007**  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORG.  
PALM BEACH COUNTY

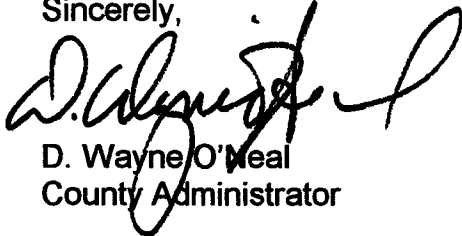
Subject: Letter of Intent  
Lake Region Commuter Route

Dear Mr. Whitfield:

Please consider this document Hendry County's Letter of Intent to fund the County's portion of the Lake Region Commuter Route for calendar year 2008. The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) voted at the October 9, 2007 BOCC meeting to fund \$66,343.20 for that purpose.

Please advise if any additional information is required. Thank you.

Sincerely,



D. Wayne O'Neal  
County Administrator

DWO/jmc

L:Agencies/Boccc/Judith/miscletter

Janet B. Taylor  
District 1

Darrell R. Harris  
District 2

W.T. "Bill" Maddox  
District 3

Kevin S. McCarthy  
District 4

W.C. "Bo" Pelham, Jr.  
District 5

