

Agenda Item #:

3A2

PALM BEACH COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: August 18, 2009

Consent  
 Ordinance

Regular  
 Public Hearing

Department:

Submitted By: Legislative Affairs

Submitted For: Administration

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

**Motion and Title:** Staff recommends motion to adopt: a Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County supporting increased flexibility in the use of federal funds by allowing transit systems of all sizes to use a percentage of their formula funds for operating purposes.

**Summary:** At the request of Commissioner Shelley Vana, staff was directed to draft this resolution. COUNTYWIDE (DW)


**Background and Justification:**

**Attachment:**

1. Resolution

Recommended by:   
Department Director

8/5/09  
Date

Approved by:   
Assistant County Administrator

8/17/09  
Date

**II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS**

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

Fiscal Years	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Capital Expenditures	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>
Operating Costs	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>
External Revenues	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>
Program Income (County)	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>
In-Kind Match (County)	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>
<b>NET FISCAL IMPACT</b>		<u>-0- * See below</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>
<b># ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)</b>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Is Item Included in Current Budget? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
 Budget Account No.: Fund \_\_\_ Department \_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_  
 Object \_\_\_ Program NA

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

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

**III. REVIEW COMMENTS**

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

\* The net fiscal impact is indeterminable at this time.

MC SL 8/12/09  
 OFMB 8/10/09 8/11/09

James J. [Signature] 8/12/09  
 Contract Development and Control

**B. Legal Sufficiency:**

[Signature] 8/13/09  
 Assistant County Attorney

**C. Other Department Review:**

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

REVISED 10/95  
 ADM FORM 01

This summary is not to be used as a basis for payment

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY SUPPORTING INCREASED FLEXIBILITY IN THE USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS BY ALLOWING TRANSIT SYSTEMS OF ALL SIZES TO USE A PERCENTAGE OF THEIR FORMULA FUNDS FOR OPERATING PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, last year, Palm Tran, Palm Beach County's public transit system, cut weekend and evening hours on some routes and began charging fares for low-income disabled persons; and

**WHEREAS**, Palm Tran is facing another round of service cuts and fare increases to make up for a \$5 million deficit; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to close the budget gap, Palm Tran is proposing to limit low-income trips to medical, employment or nutritional purposes, raise fares for low-income disabled persons from \$4 round trip to \$6 round trip, raise the cost of a monthly bus pass from \$55 to \$60, and increase the cost of a daily bus pass from \$3.50 to \$4; and

**WHEREAS**, in recent years, Palm Tran has set ridership records; and

**WHEREAS**, nationwide, while record high gas prices have caused millions of people to try public transportation, at the same time, transit agencies are being forced to implement painful service cuts and fare increases because of shortages in state and local revenues; and

**WHEREAS**, federal funds are vital toward enabling transit systems to maintain critical service; and

**WHEREAS**, H.R. 2746 was introduced on June 8, 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, the bill would provide for increased flexibility in the use of federal transit funds by allowing transit systems of all sizes to use a percentage of their formula funds for operations; and

**WHEREAS**, under current law, only systems located in urbanized areas under 200,000 in population may use their federal transit funds for operating purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, H.R. 2746 would provide transit systems with local control of their federal transit funds, allowing them to prevent service cuts and hold down fares during tough economic times so that working people may be offered quality, affordable public transportation.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:**

1. Supports the need for additional federal transit funding and consistent with H.R. 2746 supports federal legislation that would enable transit properties of all size to use these funds for operating purposes.
2. The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners urges the South Florida Congressional Delegation to work to support additional funding for transit that incorporates the funding plan as envisioned by H.R. 2746 into the six-year federal surface transportation reauthorization bill.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ and upon being put to vote, the motion passed as follows:

Commissioner John F. Koons, Chairman  
Commissioner Burt Aaronson, Vice Chairman  
Commissioner Karen T. Marcus  
Commissioner Shelley Vana  
Commissioner Steven L. Abrams  
Commissioner Jess R. Santamaria  
Commissioner Priscilla A. Taylor

The Chairman thereupon declared the Resolution duly passed and adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND  
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

By:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant County Attorney

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
BY ITS BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SHARON R. BOCK, CLERK & COMPTROLLER

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk