Agenda Item No.

PALM BEACH COUNTY **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

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Meeting Date:	June 8, 2010	[]	Consent Ordinance	[X]	Regular Public Hearing
Department:	Palm Tran		-		abile Houring
Submitted By:	Palm Tran				
Submitted for:	Palm Tran				
=========	=======================================	I. EXECUTIVI	E BRIEF	=====	

Motion and Title: Staff requests Board direction: regarding Palm Tran's participation and providing partial funding for the Lake Region Commuter Route that provides service between Belle Glade and Clewiston.

Summarv:

The Lake Region Commuter Route (formerly the Belle Glade Clewiston Shuttle) currently operates one bus on a seven (7) day a week basis providing ten (10) hours of service on weekdays and nine (9) hours of service on Saturday and Sunday.

The service is being operated by Good Wheels, a non-profit provider, through a funding plan with the Florida Department of Transportation, District 1 (FDOT), the Florida Heartland Economic Development Initiative (FHREDI), and the Lake Okeechobee Regional Initiative (LORI). Palm Beach County is being asked to provide \$42,000 annually for the next three years to support and maintain the operation of one bus, and ideally would like an additional \$42,000 (a total of \$84,000 annually) to enable this service to operate two buses in service. Commissioner Koons as part of his comments at the May 4, 2010 Board of County Commissioner's meeting, recommended that the County provide this service with \$20,000 in funding for the remainder of this fiscal year. Staff was directed at that time to bring this back for further Board discussion and possible action. The Palm Tran Service Board (PSTB) discussed this at its May meetings and recommends that the County provide \$42,000 in funding for at least the next year. The members of the PTSB were very concerned about making this recommendation in light of anticipated Palm Tran fare increases and other changes as part of the proposed FY2011 budget but felt that the Lake Region Commuter Route provides an important service to the people in the Glades area. District 6 (DR)

Background and Policy Issues:

Attachment(s):

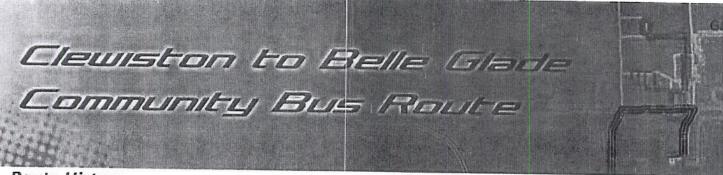
This service had for years been partially funded by Palm Beach County under a contract with FDOT. The County's funding for this service was terminated during the FY09 budget process (and ended in February 2009), as part of other overall budget cuts to Palm Tran's service. The Lake Region Commuter service uses a mid size (20 seat) passenger van. The service has been transporting approximately 1000 passengers per month and they have experiencing regular overcrowding on certain trips due to the size of the vehicle being used. They would also like to operate a second bus providing additional service if funding can be provided. Palm Tran is prepared to donate an existing spare/surplus bus for their use. The annual cost of operating this service with one bus for Good Wheels is \$168,000 annually. The Florida Department of Transportation has provided grant funding of up to \$84,000 (50%) of the operating cost dependent on the service providing that there be a local match for the other 50% funding. Currently, the service has been able to raise only \$31,826 in local match funds:

- Collins Center	\$ 12,085
 Quantum Foundation 	\$ 12,085
- Hendry County	\$ 3,450
- City of Clewiston	\$ 4,206
Total	\$ 31,826

Attachment(s):	 Good Wheels Clewiston to Belle Glade Lake Region Commuter Route Map and 	Information Sheet Time Points
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Recommended By	Department Director	May 25, 20/2

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summar	y of Fiscal Imp	act:			
Fiscal Years	2010	2011	2012	2013	200-
Grant Expenditures					
Operating Costs					
External Revenues					
Program Income (County)					
In-Kind Match (County)					
NET FISCAL IMPACT	#				
# ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)					
Is Item Included In Cur Budget Account No.:	rent Budget? Func Prog	Yes <u>NA</u> i Dep't. ram	No Unit _ Reporting Cat	Object_	
B. Recommended	Sources of Fu	nds/Summary o	of Fiscal Impact		
C. Departmental Fi	scal Review: (John Murphy,	Finance Manag	ger	
	III. <u>R</u>	EVIEW COMME	NTS		
A. OFMB Fiscal and Whiscal impact w in FY 2010 and OFM	Nor Contract I Ill dipend on 3 84,000 on INS \$28	Dev. and Control Coard's dire	Hn	. J. Janol	A 20,000 A FY 2011. Control
B. Legal Sufficiency Assistant County	6/3/2010	· G			
C. Other Departmen	it Review:	×			
Department Direct	ctor	_			



Route History

In 2002, at the request of a concerned group of local professionals and officials, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) initiated a new bus route between the Cities of Clewiston and Belle Glade to provide reliable fixed-route public transportation access to job training centers and work locations in the region. The Clewiston to Belle Glade Community Bus Route continues to meet the important community mobility needs of the region. Initially, FDOT funded the bus route at 100 percent state funding and Palm Tran managed the service. The service is now funded through FDOT-administered federal rural transit funds requiring a local financial match, and limited state funds. Good Wheels, Inc., is the current operator.

Route Highlights

- The Cities of Clewiston and Belle Glade are within the Florida Heartland Rural Economic Development Initiative (FHREDI) and the Lake Okeechobee Regional Initiative (LORI) regions. FHREDI and LORI direct their efforts to develop a sustainable diverse economic engine, jobs, good wages, and enhanced regional participation in the world market.
- The recently completed FDOT Heartland Rural Mobility Plan documents the need for and recommends the continuation of the Clewiston to Belle Glade Community Bus Route that connects in Belle Glade to Palm Tran routes.
- Eighty-one percent of the riders reported in a survey in late
 2009 that they are satisfied to very satisfied with the service.
- The bus service averages about 1,000 riders each month.
- FDOT has assigned a transit technical assistance consultant to assist the operator by conducting analyses and making recommendations to enhance the route for the public.

Summary of Riders

- One-third of all riders are Palm Beach State College Students, when the college is in session.
- If the buses were not available, 25 percent of the riders would not make their trips.
- Nearly 50 percent of the riders do not own vehicles.
- The typical rider is a loyal user with 81 percent riding three days a week, and over 60 percent earning less than \$20,000 per year.
- Over 75 percent of the riders walk to the bus for their trips.

Beginning in 2000 with the lay-off over 300 sugar industry employees, the Transportation Subcommittee of the Work Force Alliance, Inc., working closely with Palm Beach State College, the Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization, and many others, planned to provide access to job training.

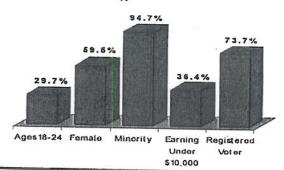


The Clewiston to Belle Glade Community Bus Route Ribbon Cutting at the Clewiston Wal-Mart, 2002.



Clewiston to Belle Glade Community Bus Route.

Clewiston-Belle Glade Community Bus Route Typical Rider





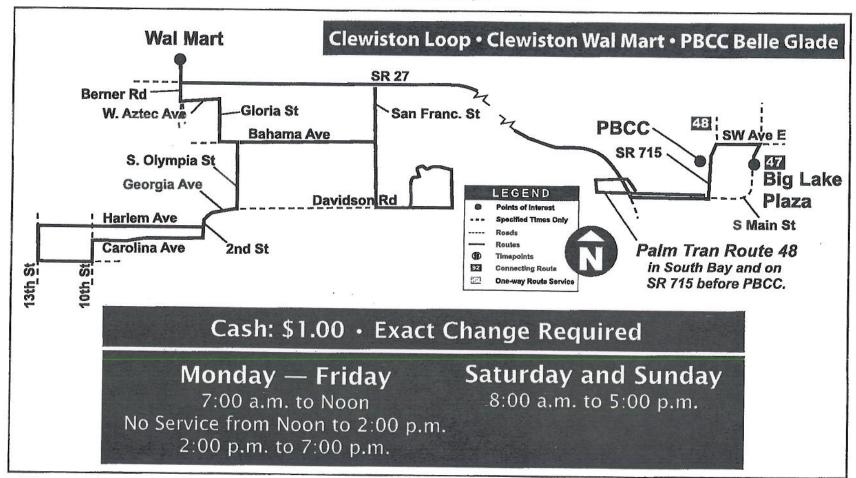
LAKE REGION COMMUTER ROUTE

Seven Days A Week Service

Los Operadores de los Buses Paran Donde Usted Quiera en la Ruta No Hay Paradas Especificas

Operator Stops On Demand Along the Route No Set Bus Stops

Chofe a ka kanpe pou ou sou rout la si ou mande'l bus la pa Kanpe nan you lokasyon ekzat





Fully funded by Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)

Service is operated by Good Wheels, Inc. Good Call (800) 741-1570 for information Wheels

CLEW-BELLE EXPRESS AM TIME LINE

- 7:00 Clewiston WalMart
- 7:15 Berner Rd, Venture Ave, Georgia Ave, Harlem Academy 10th and Carolina Ave
- 7:25 Davidson Road (Hooker's Point)
- 7:45 Clewiston WalMart
- 8:15 Big Lake Plaza (Winn Dixie)
- 8:30 Palm Beach Community College (PBCC)
- 9:00 Clewiston WalMart
- 9:15 Berner Rd, Venture Ave, Georgia Ave, Harlem Academy 10th and Carolina Ave
- 9:25 Davidson Road (Hooker's Point)
- 9:45 Clewiston WalMart
- 10:15 Big Lake Plaza (Winn Dixie)
- 10:30 P.B.C.C.
- 11:00 Clewiston Wal Mart
- 11:15 Berner Rd, Venture Ave, Georgia Ave, Harlem Academy 10th and Carolina Ave
- 11:25 Davivson Road (Hooker's Point)
- 12:00 Clewiston Wal Mart

CLEW-BELLE EXPRESS PM TIME LINE

- 2:00 Clewiston WalMart
- 2:15 Berner Rd, Venture Ave, Georgia Ave, Harlem Academy 10th and Carolina Ave
- 2:25 Davidson Road (Hooker's Point)
- 2:45 Clewiston WalMart
- 3:15 Big Lake Plaza (Winn Dixie)
- 3:30 Palm Beach Community College (PBCC)
- 4:00 Clewiston WalMart
- 4:15 Berner Rd, Venture Ave, Georgia Ave, Harlem Academy 10th and Carolina Ave
- 4:25 Davidson Road (Hooker's Point)
- 4:45 Clewiston WalMart
- 5:15 Big Lake Plaza (Winn Dixie)
- 5:30 P.B.C.C.
- 6:00 Clewiston Wal Mart
- 6:15 Berner Rd, Venture Ave, Georgia Ave, Harlem Academy 10th and Carolina Ave
- 6:25 Davivson Road (Hooker's Point)
- 7:00 Clewiston Wal Mart

CLEW-BELLE EXPRESS WEEKEND TIME-LINE

- 8:00 Clewiston Wal Mart
- 8:15 Berner Rd, Venture Ave, Georgia Ave, Harlem Academy 10th and Carolina Ave
- 8:25 Davidson Road (Hooker's Point)
- 8:45 Clewiston Wal Mart
- 9:15 Big Lake Plaza (Winn Dixie)
- 9:30 Palm Beach Community College (PBCC)
- 10:00 Clewiston Wal Mart
- 10:15 Berner Rd, Venture Ave, Georgia Ave, Harlem Academy 10th and Carolina Ave
- 10:25 Davidson Road (Hooker's Point)
- 10:45 Clewiston Wal Mart
- 11:15 Big Lake Plaza (Winn Dixie)
- 11:30 P.B.C.C.
- 12:00 Clewiston Wal Mart
- 12:15 Berner Rd, Venture Ave, Georgia Ave, Harlem Academy 10th and Carolina Ave
- 12:25 Davidson Road (Hooker's Point)
- 12:45 Clewiston Wal Mart
- 1:15 Big Lake Plaza (Winn Dixie)
- 1:30 Palm Beach Community College (PBCC)
- 2:00 Clewiston Wal Mart
- 2:15 Berner Rd, Venture Ave, Georgia Ave, Harlem Academy 10th and Carolina Ave
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