

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO EVALUATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EMPLOYEE TRANSPORTATION BENEFITS AND RIDESHARE PROGRAMS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT AND SOUTH FLORIDA COMMUTER SERVICES

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Background

Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) provides public transportation for the Miami-Dade County community via Metrobus, Metrorail and Metromover. MDT has joined forces with the South Florida Commuter Services (SFCS), a regional commuter assistance program funded by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), to provide transportation benefits and rideshare programs to employees who drive to work alone. SFCS and MDT have identified the School District as a perfect candidate to take advantage of these programs.

Additional Information

In a collaborative effort, SFCS would provide all necessary support to design, implement, and promote an effective rideshare program. MDT would assist in implementing a commuter Pre-Tax Benefit Program to provide discount transit passes, including discounted parking rates at its Park and Ride facilities located throughout the County.

The following provides a list of additional programs offered by SFCS:

- Employee Transportation Survey: SFCS would conduct an online survey of district employees to evaluate their transportation needs.
- Carpool: With the results of the online survey, SFCS would assist in grouping two or more employees for carpooling partnerships.

- Vanpool: The program organizes groups of 5-15 employees and provides a van to commute to work. The van is fully insured and offers employees a flexible month-to-month lease. All maintenance costs are covered. The average fee for the program is \$80 to \$120 per month. The Miami-Dade County Metropolitan Planning Organization subsidizes the program. Per Section 768.091, Florida Statutes, the District would not be liable for injuries or damages sustained by operators, passengers, or other persons resulting from the operation of a motor vehicle while being used in a ridesharing arrangement between a place of residence and a place of employment.
- Emergency Ride Home Program: This program provides free taxi vouchers to be used by employees for emergency purposes. It is available to all eligible commuters in the tri-county area who use an "alternate mode" of transportation at least three times per week. The service would be available 24/7 to all commuters registered in the SFCS database. Eligible employees receive up to six vouchers per year.

As an additional incentive to participating in these programs, the School District could offer commuter participants preferential parking in a designated District parking lot.

Numerous benefits would flow to the District, its employees and the community at large by partnering with MDT and SFCS. These include relieving the daily commuter stress, freeing up available District parking, saving money on fuel, and improving the air quality in our environment. As such, it is recommended that the District explore partnering with MDT and SFCS to provide alternate modes of transportation to employees working in the School Board Administration complex.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

VICE CHAIR PERLA TABARES HANTMAN: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to evaluate the implementation of employee transportation benefits and rideshare programs in partnership with Miami-Dade Transit and South Florida Commuter Services, and report back to the School Board at the July 12, 2006 Board meeting.