

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Chair

SUBJECT: TRANSITWAY ACCESS

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The South Dade Transitway is a lane dedicated to transit solely by sanctioned vehicles, such as county buses and emergency vehicles. Running parallel to U.S. 1, the South Dade Transitway travels from the northernmost point at Dadeland Station, south to 344th Street in Florida City.

South Dade residents can attest to increasingly heavy traffic and congestion on U.S. 1 causing delayed travel times and frustration. Most recently, *The Miami Herald* covered aspects of traffic and the role of zoning and urbanization along the U.S. 1 corridor. The article cited national standards that grade roadways using an A to F scale and noted that “stretches of U.S. 1 in South Dade get grades of D, E, or F”. Further, according to the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization, traffic gets an F during the morning rush hour. Needless to say, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) buses transporting students through this roadway during the morning rush hour are subject to these traffic conditions.

Recently, collaborative efforts between Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava, the South Dade Economic Redevelopment Council, and my office have yielded possible solutions that address traffic congestion for the community, while simultaneously benefiting students and families through expedited travel times. One such solution is the proposed county access to the Transitway for M-DCPS buses. Access to the Transitway would effectively remove school buses from U.S. 1 and congested peripheral roadways, easing congestion during peak traffic hours in the morning and afternoon. For students and families, the added benefit of reaching their homes earlier to begin afterschool activities is immeasurable.

Based on current routes, 120 buses could potentially benefit from access to the Transitway. As many as 40 M-DCPS buses approach the Dadeland Metrorail Station, north of Killian Parkway (104 Street SW). Another 80 routes would benefit from using portions of the busway south of Killian Parkway. Preliminary estimates propose an estimated reduction in travel time from 15 to 45 minutes for approximately 500 students.

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Daniella Levine-Cava has filed Legislative Item Number 171452, a Resolution seeking to analyze the potential benefits of allowing M-DCPS buses to utilize the South Dade Transitway to transport students to and from school or school-related events. It is the intent of this item to support the Resolution and, pending its approval by the Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County, authorize the Superintendent to assist in providing data, as necessary and appropriate, to the County for the purpose of this analysis.

H-9
(Withdrawn - - 07/06/2017)

This item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney's office as to form and legal sufficiency.

ACTION PROPOSED

BY DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County Public Schools support Miami-Dade County Legislative Item File Number 171452 and authorize the Superintendent to provide assistance, as necessary and appropriate, to the County for the purpose of this analysis.