



# MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM #VI.A

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DATE: FEBRUARY 2, 2015  
TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS  
FROM: STAFF  
SUBJECT: CORRESPONDENCE AND ATTENDANCE FORM

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Recommendation

Information only.



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<b>Ex Officio Members --</b>											
<b>BOUCLE, Aileen</b> Florida Dept. of Transportation	CC										
<b>CORRY, Laura</b> South Florida Water Management District	P										

P = Present

A = Absent

D = Designee Present

\* = Excused Absence

- = Not Yet Appointed

CC = Via Conference Call

\*\* Executive Committee Only



January 5, 2015

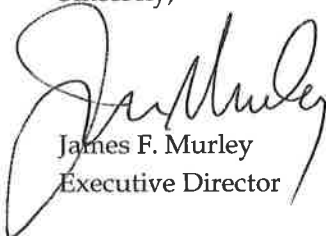
The Honorable Jean Monestime  
Chair, Miami-Dade County Commission  
Governmental Center  
115 South Andrews Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Dear Chair Monestime:

The Council wishes to express its regret that your membership on the Council has ended but extends gratitude to you for your service and valuable contribution to the South Florida Regional Planning Council. Your participation on the Council board will greatly be missed. I look forward to working with you directly as Chair of the Miami-Dade County Commission.

Please feel free to contact me directly if the Council can assist you in any way.

Sincerely,



James F. Murley  
Executive Director

JFM/rhn

*You will be greatly missed!  
Please send us 3 good  
MDA members to SFRPC!*

DECEMBER 2014/JANUARY 2015

[Print](#)

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This is the first time I have had the privilege to write to you as the executive director of the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA), having assumed that position in February 2014, after the departure of long-time executive director Joseph Giulietti.

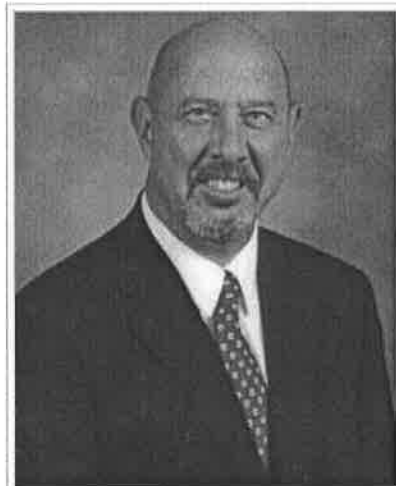
This past year yielded numerous milestones that I am pleased to have the opportunity to share with you. First and foremost, we are finally in receipt of virtually all of the new rolling stock we had on order. Our passengers are now enjoying the comfort of 24 new Hyundai Rotem passenger cars and the reliability provided by 11 new American-made locomotives.

In spite of plummeting gas prices, ridership continued to show modest growth during 2014. The rate increase of approximately 5 percent exceeded the national average of 1.5%, according to the American Public Transportation Association. Ridership again exceeded 4 million passengers with more than 1 million of those passengers taking advantage of the convenience of the complimentary SFRTA-operated shuttle bus connections.

Substantial progress was made on the construction of the new Miami Central Station at the Miami Intermodal Center (MIC), part of Miami International Airport. When the station opens in 2015, it will complete what will become a world-class gateway to South Florida and the entire state.

Our future appears very bright indeed. With a new station coming on board in Miami, the construction of a LEED-certified station and SFRTA operations center in Pompano Beach, continued discussion about operating passenger rail on the FEC corridor, the possibility of expanding service into Jupiter, and the assumption of the responsibility for dispatch and maintenance of the entire corridor, the SFRTA is poised to enhance its positive impact on the region and increase its service to the people of South Florida.

[Haga clic aquí para leer este artículo en español](#)



Jack L. Stephens, Executive Director

[Peze bouton sa si ou vle li an Kreyol](#)

[Back to top](#)

## NEW LARGER SHUTTLES



On December 16, three new larger shuttles were added to the FL-1 and FLA-1 Tri-Rail Shuttle Bus routes. The bigger buses are more spacious and can seat 28-30 passengers. They also feature suitable luggage racks that will prove to be essential for passengers traveling via the Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport. Two additional large buses are expected to arrive in the next month to be incorporated into the airport routes

[Back to top](#)

## FINALISTS SELECTED TO COMPETE IN TRI-RAIL'S "SOUTH FLORIDA'S KIDS GOT TALENT"

Eleven finalists were selected for Tri-Rail's "South Florida's Kids Got Talent," a singing competition featuring youth ages 5 to 17. The young stars will compete for the winning title and a \$500 grand prize during our annual "Rail Fun Day" on Saturday, January 24 at Tri-Rail's Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport Station located at 500 Gulf Stream Way in Dania Beach.



**The eleven young stars selected to advance to the final competition are:**

- **Mecca Alexander, Miramar**
- **Nick Aquilino, Boca Raton**
- **Jalen Depew, Plantation**
- **Eugene Gilmore, Fort Lauderdale**
- **Tamara Hoffenden, West Palm Beach**
- **Morgan Lee, Miramar**
- **Casandra Ortiz, Hollywood**
- **Alyssa Palaez, Miami Lakes**
- **Biana Pinchuk, Sunny Isles Beach**

- **Adrianna Siena, Wellington**
- **Gabriella "Bella Heart" Stroup, Plantation**

[Back to top](#)

**FREE FAMILY FUN FOR EVERYONE!**

**TRI & RAIL™**

# RAIL FUN DAY

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 24**  
**11 am - 3 pm**

Tri-Rail's Fort Lauderdale / Hollywood International Airport Station at Dania Beach  
(located west of I-95 off Griffin Road, next to Bass Pro Shops)

- Meet Tri-Rail's Conductor George Green
- Arts and crafts
- Face painting and clowns
- Cookie decorating
- Food trucks (food for purchase)
- Live entertainment
- Carnival-style games
- Prizes and giveaways

TRI & RAIL presents **South Florida's Kids Got TALENT**

Watch talented singers 5-17 years old as they compete for the winning title.







**RIDE TRI-RAIL TO THE EVENT & RECEIVE A FREE GIFT!!!**

You must present a valid Tri-Rail Ticket dated Saturday, January 24. Valid for first 100 ticket holders.

**Kids 12 & under ride free for the day!**

**TRI & RAIL™**  
Part of the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority  
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[Back to top](#)

## SUPPORTING OUR FESTIVALS

### Renaissance Festival, February 7 – March 15



Step back into the pages of medieval history – both real and imagined – as the Florida Renaissance Festival returns to Quiet Waters Park in Deerfield Beach for its 22nd year. Join the middle ages merriment on four consecutive weekends from February 7 through March 15 (including Presidents' Day) and cheer on jousting knights, sword fighters, strolling minstrels, enchanting magicians, comical wenches and more, on 12 themed stages. Families can behold glass blowing, hammered pewter, wooden toys, unique pottery, clothing and a wealth of other riches in the crafts village

while feasting on tankards of ale, succulent turkey legs, mulled cider and other treats fit for royalty. Kids of all ages can challenge themselves with olde-world-style games of skill and human-powered thrill rides or get strategic in the Kid's Kingdom and Gaming Glen. For tickets and additional information, please visit [www.ren-fest.com](http://www.ren-fest.com) or call 954-776-1642.

### Calle Ocho Music Festival, Sunday, March 15

The one and only Calle Ocho Music Festival is back for its 37th year and the annual street party promises a spectacular roster of international entertainment, culture and cuisine. The event is part of Carnival Miami, a week-long celebration of all things Latin. Calle Ocho takes place on Sunday, March 15, from 10 a.m to 7 p.m., along SW 8th Street. For more information, visit [www.carnavalmiami.com](http://www.carnavalmiami.com) or call 305-644-8888.

[Back to top](#)

## VIDEOS SHOW YOU THE EASE OF USING THE EASY CARD

There is no doubt that the EASY Card has made traveling much easier for Tri-Rail passengers.





The card's durability can sustain wear and tear better than a paper ticket and it can be loaded with all of Tri-Rail's passes (including cash value, which can be set to load automatically for better convenience). Currently issued cards have a 20-year expiration date, leaving no worries about when they are due to expire and all registered cards feature balance protection if lost or damaged. On trains, at stations and online, ample information about the benefits of the EASY Card has been made available since its introduction in 2011.



Though most passengers are familiar with all of its uses, the EASY Card's numerous features can be overwhelming to new users, or to non-daily riders. With this in mind, five "Purchasing Your Fare" videos were created to help people understand the basic 'How To' functions of the EASY Card. Some questions addressed include:

- How do you transfer to and from Broward County Transit, Miami-Dade Transit and Palm Tran while obtaining a transfer discount?
- How do you choose the right fare and correctly validate your purchase?
- Should you use an EASY Card or just buy a paper ticket?

Learn more by accessing the videos at [www.tri-rail.com](http://www.tri-rail.com) and on the 'Fares' menu select 'VIDEOS: Purchasing Your Fare.'

[Back to top](#)



### Executive Director

Jack L. Stephens

**Administrative Office**  
954-942-RAIL (7245)

**Website**  
[www.sfrta.fl.gov](http://www.sfrta.fl.gov)

### Governing Board

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## Fort Lauderdale innovative Program Aims to Protect Community Against Local Flood Hazard

January 20, 2015 9:30 AM



**Fort Lauderdale, FL** - Building upon its leadership in the area of sustainability, the City of Fort Lauderdale has become the first municipality in Florida to approve the use of Adaptation Action Areas to fight rising seas and coastal flooding. The new policy enables Fort Lauderdale to identify portions of the City that are vulnerable to flooding and prioritize those areas for adaptation measures and infrastructure improvements. Fort Lauderdale volunteered to serve as the project's pilot community as part of an ongoing effort to protect quality of life by increasing the City's resilience to the damaging effects of climate change. The City's successful implementation of this game-changing initiative will now serve as a model for other communities throughout Florida and around the country.

Fort Lauderdale's seven miles of shoreline and 165 miles of inland waterways, coupled with its flat topography and dense development make it susceptible to erosion, coastal flooding, storm surge, and high tides. A recent neighbor survey and communitywide visioning initiative revealed that residents are experiencing more frequent flooding in their neighborhoods, and have a greater sense of urgency to address the growing hazard. The neighbor directive prompted the City to revolutionize its operations by adopting a strategic approach that proactively considers changing climate conditions when planning for the future.

“This is a tremendous milestone for our community. We are bringing our citywide Vision to life by creating the tools we need to reduce our risk to the damaging effects of climate change. I am proud that Fort Lauderdale was able to successfully serve as a pilot community for the Adaptation Action Areas program, and I look forward to working with our regional partners to implement similar programs to address this significant environmental challenge,” said Fort Lauderdale Mayor John P. “Jack” Seiler. “Continuing to utilize a collaborative and comprehensive approach will enable us to work together today to meet the changing climate conditions of tomorrow and, by doing so, strengthen our resilience and protect our long-term livability, sustainability and prosperity.”

Developed in conjunction with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Broward County and the South Florida Regional Planning Council, the Adaptation Action Area initiative will serve as a program that can be replicated in other communities looking to defend against coastal hazards and related impacts of sea level rise. Approved by the City Commission and the state, the Adaptation Action Area policies were formally adopted into Fort Lauderdale’s Comprehensive Plan in January 2015.

In addition to safeguarding public infrastructure, the Adaptation Action Areas are also intended to protect neighbors, resources, services, private property, and the environment from the threat of natural hazards, particularly in the coastal high-hazard areas. The policies outlined in the Comprehensive Plan address the identification of vulnerable infrastructure, development of adaptation strategies, criteria for area designation, funding options, and alignment with existing local and regional plans.

Through Adaptation Action Areas, the reconstruction of A1A, the establishment of a Sustainability Division, the active participation in the South Florida Regional Climate Change Compact, global partnerships, and numerous ongoing initiatives, the City of Fort Lauderdale is leading cooperative efforts to pursue comprehensive action that protects the region’s economy and quality of life. Going forward, Fort Lauderdale will continue to actively pursue effective solutions to mitigate the effects of climate change.

For more information about Fort Lauderdale’s proactive sustainable initiatives and partnerships to create a stronger and more resilient community, visit the City website at [www.fortlauderdale.gov](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov).