



The Abrams Agenda



Palm Beach County Commissioner

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Transportation Improvements Planes, Trains and Bikes!

Since 2010, I have served on the Board of Directors of the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) and my involvement in local and regional transportation issues remains steadfast. I continue to use Tri-Rail to commute to my offices in West Palm Beach and Delray Beach, in addition to other locations, for both business and pleasure. As a regular rider, I have an opportunity to talk with other passengers and also observe first-hand issues and/or problems that I am able to bring to the attention of SFRTA managers.

I am thrilled to announce that Tri-Rail is planning a free shuttle to Palm Beach International Airport (PBI) from the West Palm Beach station, scheduled to start on September 1st. Every train that stops at the station will be met by a Tri-Rail shuttle that will provide non-stop transportation to PBI. The entire trip should take approximately 10 minutes.

Additionally, Tri-Rail recently introduced its first bike car, a specially equipped Bombardier trailer car. With more passengers turning to bikes for either the start or final leg of their commute, or both, plus additional leisure riders using the combination train/bike to explore the region, bike racks have become a more necessary amenity for travelers.



The new bike car contains 14 racks that will provide more room to maneuver bicycles on and off the train, which had been challenging in the past due to the high number of riders with bikes. The train car is marked with a large bicycle symbol on the outside. The additional car also provides more seating. Currently, nine coach cars are being retrofitted with bike racks so that there will be a bike car available on every train.

Moreover, bicycle lockers are available at all stations with the exception of Pompano Beach and Miami due to construction.

Pets Get Relief and Recreation at the Airport

Your pets are going to be very happy on their next trip to Palm Beach International Airport (PBI)! Recently, two well-manicured pet relief areas were added on the east and west ends of the airport terminal outside the baggage claim. The areas are fenced and feature nice woodchip and grassy areas for traveling pets to run, romp and find relief before or after flights.

In addition, the airport provides complimentary waste bags so owners can pick up after their pets.

The project is part of PBI's efforts in positioning themselves as a comfortable, convenient and stress-free alternative to airports to the south.





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BCC Briefs for August 18, 2015 Board of County Commission Meeting

County Administrator – congratulated and thanked retiring County Administrator Robert Weisman for his 23 years of service as administrator and 35 years overall with Palm Beach County. In recognition, the mayor announced that Process Drive will be renamed Weisman Way, and the main governmental complex at 301 N. Olive Avenue in downtown West Palm Beach will be renamed the Palm Beach County Robert Weisman Governmental Center.

Baseball stadium – approved agreements with the city of West Palm Beach and HW Spring Training Complex, LLC to develop a two-team Major League Baseball spring training complex for the Washington Nationals and Houston Astros near Haverhill Road and 45th Street. The term is 31 years with use fees totaling \$68.8 million over the term of the agreement. The board also nominated retiring County Administrator Bob Weisman to throw out the ceremonial first pitch.

Vehicles for hire – discussed a series of amendments to the county's vehicle-for-hire ordinance. Staff was directed to draft language requiring drivers to pass a Level I background check by an accredited agency – fingerprint-based Level II background checks would not be required -- and to carry insurance as required by the state. Companies could perform their own background checks or have the county do them, and the county would be able to audit the results with drivers' names omitted.

Parked vehicles – approved on preliminary reading and to advertise for public hearing on September 22 an amendment to the ordinance that prohibits the parking or display of motor vehicles for sale, hire or rent in certain areas, unless authorized. The proposed amendment would prohibit those activities on public rights of way, easements and private property open to the public, unless authorized.

Roadside vendors -- approved on preliminary reading and to advertise for public hearing on September 22 an amendment to the Palm Beach County Roadside Vendors Ordinance changing the expiration date of permits issued for roadside vendors from December 31 to January 31.

Floating structures – adopted an ordinance prohibiting the anchoring or mooring of floating structures in waters within the jurisdiction of the county or on county-owned property, unless anchored or moored at a marina, dock or on private property. The ban does not apply to waters under the jurisdiction of a municipality.

Palm Tran – approved the filing of the FY-2015 Section 5307 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant application in the amount of \$10.439 million for capital projects and planning associated with the delivery of Palm Tran public transportation services. The board also approved a memorandum of agreement modifying Palm Tran's labor management agreement with Local 1577 of the Amalgamated Transit Union. The agreement covers wage adjustments for FY-2016.

Public accommodation – approved on preliminary reading and to advertise for public hearing on September 22 an amendment to the Palm Beach County Ordinance for Housing and Places of Public Accommodation expanding the definition of a place of public accommodation.

Land acquisition – approved the appraisal and acquisition of a vacant parcel of land at Frontier Avenue and Arrowhead Drive in Palm Beach Ranchettes east of State Road 7 for future drainage and improvements of Lyons Road.

Community Revitalization – approved 24 funding agreements to implement neighborhood improvement projects and initiatives through the Office of Community Revitalization's America's Next Top Neighborhood grant program.

Lake Worth Park of Commerce – authorized the mayor to execute grant documentation requested by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) to fund infrastructure improvements at the Lake Worth Park of Commerce. If appropriated, EDA would fund \$1.389 million of the project's \$5.426 million total cost. The city will pay the balance as its local match. To receive the funds, EDA requires the county to be a co-applicant, but no county local match is required.