



CENTRAL PALM BEACH COUNTY TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR STUDY

Introduction

The South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) and the Palm Beach County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) have initiated the Central Palm Beach County Transportation Corridor Study. This study will develop a transit service implementation plan for the transportation corridor which extends from downtown West Palm Beach (including the Tri-Rail Station), between Okeechobee and Southern Boulevards, along US 441 and continuing on to the Mall at Wellington Green (Figure 1).

What is the Study?

Okeechobee Boulevard from downtown West Palm Beach to a point west of US 441 has been identified in the Palm Beach MPO's 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan as a proposed Rapid Bus Transit Corridor. In addition, Palm Tran listed this corridor as a Rapid Bus operation in the 2004-2008 Transit Development Plan.

This study will identify "fast bus" service improvement options and include a comparison of costs and estimate ridership potential on the basis of structural and service variables such as schedule frequency, technology systems, vehicles, fare collection, and station locations. Descriptions of three levels of "fast bus" service improvements will be developed to determine a specific implementation option.

Implementation feasibility will be based upon current and existing forecasted demographics (through the year 2030), land use, transit ridership, and traffic and infrastructure conditions of the Corridor. The recommended implementation approach will lead to the development of a service, capital, and operations plan with related costs and an identification of implementation steps.

An analysis of Light Rail Transit (LRT) will also be completed to determine the feasibility of LRT within the Central Palm Beach County Corridor.

Public Outreach

The SFRTA and MPO will host a series of public meetings and workshops at various project milestones to encourage active participation from citizens and agency representatives. Interviews with elected officials, municipal and county stakeholders will also be conducted. This outreach will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to identify issues, concerns and provide valuable feedback on the project. All input received throughout this process will help to shape the course and direction of the study as it proceeds.

A Project Advisory Committee has been established to review project deliverables and meet at various project milestones. This committee is comprised of staff from the MPO, SFRTA, Florida Department of Transportation, Palm Beach County Traffic Engineering and Palm Tran.

Schedule

The Central Palm Beach County Transportation Corridor Study began in August of 2006 and is anticipated to be complete by April 2007.

