

STRATEGIC MIAMI AREA RAPID TRANSIT “SMART” PLAN FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



The SMART Plan

On April 21, 2016, the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Governing Board officially adopted and endorsed the proposed Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Plan.

The SMART Plan intends to advance six of the Peoples Transportation Plan (PTP’s) rapid transit corridors, along with a network system of Bus Express Rapid Transit (BERT) service, in order to implement mass transit projects in Miami-Dade County. To ensure the SMART Plan moves forward, the Miami-Dade TPO Governing Board directed the Miami-Dade TPO Executive Director to work with the TPO Fiscal Priorities Committee (FPC) to determine the costs and potential sources of funding for Project Development and Environment (PD&E) studies for the projects, and to also take all necessary steps to implement the SMART Plan.

RAPID TRANSIT CORRIDORS			
CORRIDORS LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER	FROM	TO	LEAD AGENCY
Beach Corridor	Midtown Miami	Miami Beach Convention Center	DTPW*
East-West Corridor	Miami Intermodal Center	Florida International University	DTPW
Kendall Corridor	Dadeland area Metrorail Stations	SW 167 th Avenue	FDOT** District 6
North Corridor	Martin L. King, Jr. Metrorail Station	NW 215 th Street	FDOT District 6
Northeast Corridor	Downtown Miami	City of Aventura	FDOT District 6 & 4
South Dade Transitway	Dadeland South Metrorail Station	Florida City	DTPW
BUS EXPRESS RAPID TRANSIT (BERT) COMPLIMENTARY NETWORK			
BERTS LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER	DESCRIPTION		
Beach Express	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North - Miami Beach Convention Center to Golden Glades via I-95 Central - Miami Beach Convention Center to Civic Center via Julia Tuttle Causeway South - Miami Beach Convention Center to Downtown Miami via MacArthur Causeway 		
Flagler Corridor	Downtown Miami to West Dade via Flagler Street		
Florida Turnpike Express	Doral area to South Miami-Dade via the Florida’s Turnpike		
Northwest Miami-Dade Express	Palmetto Metrorail Station to Miami Gardens Drive Park-n-Ride via Palmetto Expressway and I-75		
South Miami-Dade Express	Dadeland North Metrorail Station to southern Miami-Dade County via SR-878, SR-874, and Florida’s Turnpike		
Southwest Miami-Dade Express	Dadeland North Metrorail Station to Miami Executive Airport via SR-878 and SR-874		
*DTPW – Miami-Dade Department of Transportation & Public Works			
**FDOT – Florida Department of Transportation			

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Collaboration is now occurring between the Miami-Dade TPO, the Miami-Dade Department of Transportation & Public Works (DTPW), the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Six, and the Citizens Independent Transportation Trust (CITT) to implement the SMART Plan. Additional information on the SMART Plan is available on the TPO’s website at <http://miamidadetpo.org/smartplan.asp>

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Question: What are some changes residents of Miami can hope to see when the SMART Plan is fully implemented?

Answer: The goal of the SMART Plan is to improve mobility choices within Miami-Dade County by implementing six priority rapid transit corridors as well as eight complementary express bus routes. Once all transit projects are fully implemented, residents of Miami-Dade County will see the following changes:

- ✓ Improved travel times during peak travel periods
- ✓ Improved transit service and reliability for current transit users
- ✓ Less reliance on automobiles and more transit ridership (mode-shift)
- ✓ Improved access to major employment centers, major commercial areas, and tourist attractions as well as recreational areas
- ✓ Improved air quality and reduced energy consumption due to less cars on the roadways
- ✓ Improved productivity due to less time wasted in traffic congestion
- ✓ Savings on transportation costs (gasoline, car maintenance, car insurance, tolls, etc.)
- ✓ Overall health benefits with more people that will walk and/or bike to and from transit stations/hubs
- ✓ Renewed interest from domestic and global markets in investing/establishing new businesses here in Miami-Dade County due to improved mobility and access which could result in more job opportunities for residents of Miami-Dade County (Economic growth)
- ✓ Most major cities around the world have well-developed transit systems, which makes it easier for travelers to find their way around and make the most of their visit
- ✓ Implementation of the SMART Plan will bring a sophisticated transit system to Miami-Dade County, which will likely further add to our County’s allure as a major travel destination

Question: Will areas outside of where the SMART Plan is being implemented see any effects from the new transit strategy?

Answer: Neighboring regions will benefit from implementation of the SMART Plan. A considerable portion of Miami-Dade County’s Workforce commutes from neighboring areas to the north such as Broward and Palm Beach Counties. Employees from neighboring regions traveling to employment centers within Miami-Dade County will benefit from travel time savings, transportation cost savings and increased productivity when they choose one of the SMART Transit Corridors as their mode of choice to reach their destination. Miami-Dade County is a major global hub and tourist destination. Tourists visiting our county will also see benefits attributed to the implementation of the SMART Plan, and will be more likely to choose Miami-Dade County as their preferred vacation destination.

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The SMART Plan will be developed as an integrated and seamless transit network that includes six premium transit corridors and six express bus corridors with transit stations and terminals. The stations/terminals will have feeder bus services and park-and-ride facilities that will capture transit riders well beyond the physical limits of the proposed transit lines/routes. The intent is for individuals located outside the SMART Plan corridors to be able to take a bus or shuttle, or to drive or be dropped off at the nearest station/terminal and then utilize the SMART Plan corridors and the exiting transit network for the remainder of their trip.

Question: What are the main areas of transit that residents will see a positive impact from the SMART Plan?

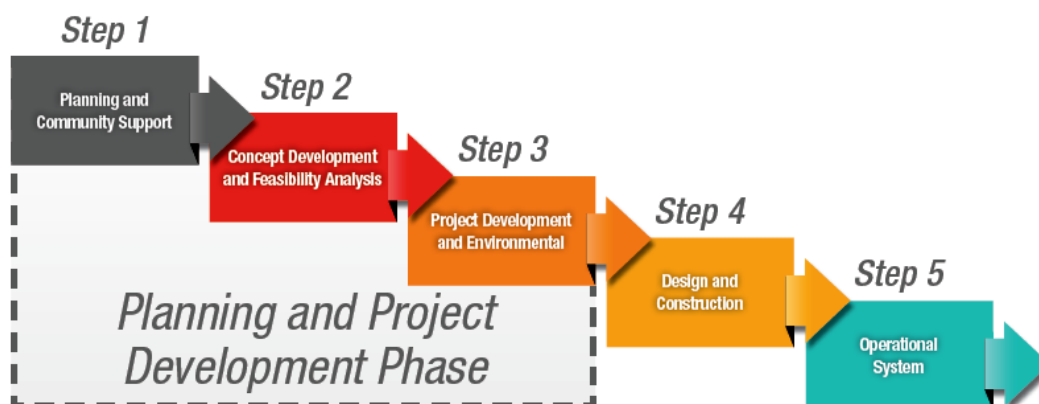
Answer: Positive impacts from the SMART Plan are anticipated in the following main areas of the transit system:

- ✓ New opportunities for Transit Oriented Developments (TOD’s) along SMART Plan corridors (more housing, retail and office developments that are near transit stations)
- ✓ An expanded and interconnected network of premium transit services that connect to more key destinations
- ✓ Improved reliability and on-time performance as the existing transit network is optimized to better feed the SMART Plan transit corridors
- ✓ More job opportunities in the transportation industry as new transit corridors are planned, designed, constructed and implemented
- ✓ Real-time arrival and departure information signage at transit stations
- ✓ New transit stations/terminals and park-and-ride facilities to support new SMART Plan corridors

Question: Is there a time frame for how long it will take before the entirety of SMART Plan is in action?

Answer: A primary function for the Miami-Dade TPO is to produce and update (every 5 years) a Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) with a minimum time horizon of 20 years. Projects listed in the LRTP are assigned to one of the following Priority Bands: Priority I (2015-2020), Priority II (2021-2025), Priority 3 (2026 – 2030) or Priority 4 (2031 – 2040).

Major transit projects must all go through various phases of development. The graphic below illustrates the phases of a major transportation project.



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The TPO Governing Board recently promoted the Planning & Project Development Phase of all six of the SMART Plan Rapid Transit Corridors to Priority I.

The Planning & Project Development Phase for all six SMART Plan Rapid Transit Corridors is anticipated to be complete in 2 years, by late 2018. Once this initial phase is complete for all six of the SMART Plan Rapid Transit Corridors a more detailed timeframe for construction and implementation will be made available to the public.

The six proposed Bus Express Rapid Transit (BERT) routes which are also part of the SMART Plan may be implemented within the next five years and will provide improved mobility in the interim while the six SMART Plan Rapid Transit Corridors are further refined and developed.

Question: Is there anything the general public can do to support the SMART Plan?

Answer: Public support for further development/implementation of the SMART Plan is critical. The public needs to make their voice heard and get involved in the federal/state/local transportation planning process as much as possible in order to make the SMART Plan a reality.

Consensus is key to the success of the SMART Plan. The community must come together to and support the plan as it is further developed/implemented. The public should check the TPO’s SMART Plan webpage regularly for updates: <http://miamidadetpo.org/smartplan.asp> and remain informed.

Social Media is another great way for the public to remain informed and provide feedback on development of the SMART Plan:

Agency	Twitter	Facebook
Miami-Dade TPO	@miamidadetpo	@miamidadetpo
DTPW	@IRideMDT	@GoMiamiDade
FDOT D6	@MyFDOT_Miami	@FLDOT
CITT	@GoCITT	@TransportationTrust

When posting on Twitter please use **#MiamiSMARTPlan**