




MIAMI BEACH

City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager 

DATE: October 16, 2013

SUBJECT: **REFERRAL TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – DISCUSSION REGARDING THE MODIFICATION OF SOUTH BEACH LOCAL CIRCULATOR SERVICE TO BELLE ISLE AND IMPROVEMENT OF ON-TIME PERFORMANCE ON THE BI-DIRECTIONAL ROUTE**

BACKGROUND

Since 2005, pursuant to an Interlocal Agreement between Miami-Dade County and the City of Miami Beach, Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) has operated Route 123, commonly referred to as the South Beach Local (SBL), a bi-directional circulator service in South Beach. Pursuant to City Commission Resolution No. 2010-27345, the South Beach Local route was extended to also serve Collins Park and Belle Isle. The Belle Isle bus stop is located in the vicinity of the Standard Hotel and Spa on the north side of Island Avenue North.

As a result of several recent complaints from users of the South Beach Local service regarding extended headways and poor on-time performance, the issue was discussed at a recent meeting of the City's Transportation and Parking Committee (TPC). At the meeting, residents stated that the Belle Isle stop is highly underused. Frequent service to Belle Isle creating the need for the South Beach Local to travel out of its bi-directional loop may be adversely impacting the schedule and headways on the core route. At the meeting, the TPC requested that City staff investigate these concerns and work with MDT to develop a service plan that would more efficiently and effectively meet the needs of the Belle Isle community and improve overall service performance and ridership on the South Beach Local.

ANALYSIS

City staff is working with MDT staff to investigate the complaints with the South Beach Local service and possible factors contributing to the deficiency in the level of transit service, in particular, frequent service to Belle Isle. The City and MDT are jointly developing a modified service plan that would more effectively meet the needs of the Belle Isle community and improve the on-time performance of the South Beach Local.

CONCLUSION

The Administration recommends that the Mayor and the City Commission refer the matter to the Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee for discussion and input.


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