



MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # 314-2009

LETTER TO COMMISSION

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

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: November 13, 2009

SUBJECT: Miami International Airport Flyer Express Bus Route

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The purpose of this Letter to Commission (LTC) is to inform you of the status of the Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) Route 150 Miami International Airport (MIA) Flyer Express Bus (Airport Flyer). The Airport Flyer is scheduled to begin on Sunday, December 13, 2009. MDT will provide a seven (7) day per week bus service. The Airport Flyer will operate from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. with headways every thirty (30) minutes. The new route will use the regular MDT 40 foot buses with interior luggage racks. The buses will be branded with a special logo for easy identification, and to help promote ridership.

The Airport Flyer will be located at the main bus stop at the airport, which is on the Ground Level of Concourse E, directly across from Customs. The fare will be \$2.35, which is the fare for all express buses. Passengers will also have the option to purchase a daily bus ticket for \$5.00 that will allow them to ride any bus all day in the same direction. Passengers will be able to purchase bus tickets from a vending machine in the main bus stop waiting area. The electronic vending machine will also include detailed information on the route.

The Airport Flyer will be bi-directional and will traverse along State Road (SR) 112 with bus stops at the Tri-Rail Airport Station and at the Earlington Heights Metrorail station, and then will continue east on Interstate 195/Julia Tuttle Causeway. The first bus stop in Miami Beach will be on 41st Street at Alton Road, and then the route will continue east on 41st Street to Indian Creek Drive and south along Collins Avenue to 16th Street. The Airport Flyer will stop at all of the existing bus stops along Collins Avenue and Indian Creek Drive between 41st Street and 16th Street. This includes the existing bus stops on Collins Avenue at 23rd Street. The next stops will be on Washington Avenue at Lincoln Road and on 17th Street at Convention Center Drive. Please see Attachment 1, Airport Flyer Bus Route.

The Airport Flyer will provide a connection to the South Beach Local on Washington Avenue at Lincoln Road and on 17th Street at Convention Center Drive. It will also provide connection to the new Route 115 Mid-North Beach Connection at the following three locations: 41st Street at Alton Road, 41st Street and Sheridan Avenue, and 17th Street and Convention Center Drive.

MDT began planning the Airport Flyer as a result of a high ridership demand for a route that connects MIA to Miami Beach. Multiple requests for such a route were made by the Miami Beach Transportation and Parking Committee (TPC), by administrative staff at the City of Miami Beach, and by several large employers in Miami Beach.

An express route from MIA to Miami Beach is also in high demand due to a large number of tourists and visitors going to Miami Beach. According to the 2005 Miami Beach Overnight Visitors Profile Survey conducted by Synovate Miami, in 2005 15 million passengers arrived at MIA, as well as a significant number of passengers at Broward County Airport (FLL). Of all passengers arriving at MIA or FLL, 11.3 million people stayed at least one night in Greater Miami, and over 5.3 million stayed

specifically in Miami Beach. Domestic visitors accounted for 63% of all overnight visitors to Miami Beach, while 37% were of international origin.

According to the survey, the main reason people visited Miami Beach was for vacation and/or pleasure travel. People also visited Miami Beach for business and convention travel, for taking a cruise, or for visiting friends and relatives. In 2008, there were a total of 460 special events in or around Miami Beach, including attractions in art, dance, film, theater, music, and sports.

MDT and City staff are coordinating a public outreach event to launch the new Airport Flyer. The event is scheduled to occur on Monday, December 14, 2009 at 10 a.m. at the MIA bus stop waiting area. The event will include a ribbon-cutting ceremony and the presentation of a new Airport Flyer bus with special branding. Details of the event will be provided in a future LTC.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Attachment

1. Airport Flyer Bus Route


JMG/JGG/FHB/FV/XF/CB

Route 150 Airport Flyer

