



**City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
MAY 12, 2009**

ITEM TITLE:

Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a Joint Participation Agreement between the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the City of Coral Gables for financial assistance in the amount of \$92,500.00 for service development in the expansion of the Coral Gables Trolley Route on Ponce de Leon Boulevard from S. W. 8th Street to West Flagler Street.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE CITY MANAGER:

Approve

BRIEF HISTORY:

A trolley route expansion feasibility study was completed in 2006 which examined possible expansions of the Coral Gables Trolley to areas along Ponce de Leon Boulevard north of S.W. 8th Street, south of Le Jeune Road to the University of Miami campus, the Riviera Business District and S.W. 57th Avenue, and an expansion that would connect the MacFarlane Homestead District and the City of Miami Coconut Grove Circulator.

Upon review of said feasibility study and in consideration of capital and operational costs, potential ridership, travel time runs, coordination with third parties and other factors, it is recommended that only the northerly route extension terminating at West Flagler Street be considered for implementation at this time.

The Traffic Advisory Board, having been apprised of the benefits and disadvantages of the proposed routes under study, concurred with the recommendation to extend the Ponce de Leon Boulevard route to West Flagler Street at its meeting of May 16, 2006. The Public Works Department has received many inquiries from the neighborhood north of S. W. 8th Street as to the status of the proposed route extension to West Flagler Street. Based on these inquiries there is strong support for the proposed route extension.

The estimated annual operating cost to operate the City's Trolley Service along the proposed route extension is \$185,000.00. This estimate includes the maintenance of the trolleys, additional trolley drivers, and general overhead costs. This expansion will not take effect until such time as the new trolleys are purchased which will take over a year.


A Joint Participation Agreement in the amount of \$92,500.00 has been prepared by the FDOT to extend financial assistance to the City on a 50/50 matching basis for start-up of the aforesaid trolley route extension on Ponce de Leon Boulevard north of S.W. 8 Street. The appropriate matching funds for said route expansion will be provided by the current operating budget and will not represent an additional expenditure from the City.

ADVISORY BOARD/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION(S):


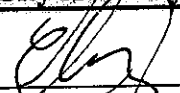

Date	Board/Committee	Comments (if any)
May 16, 2006	Coral Gables Traffic Advisory Board	Recommended the extension of the route

FINANCIAL INFORMATION: (If Applicable)

No.	Amount	Source of Funds
1.	\$ 92,500.00	Florida Department of Transportation
2.	\$ 92,500.00	Miami-Dade County Half-Penny Sales Surtax (already in place)
Total:	\$ 185,000.00	

APPROVED BY: 

APPROVED BY:

Department Director	City Attorney (If Applicable)	City Manager
		

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Draft Resolution
2. Letter from the Florida Department of Transportation
3. Joint Participation Agreement w/Exhibits A, B, C, and D