



City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
July 9, 2024

ITEM TITLE:

Update on Saturday Downtown Express Pilot Program

BRIEF HISTORY:

On September 30, 2023, the City of Coral Gables launched a pilot program to implement Saturday afternoon and evening (2 p.m. to 10 p.m.) express trolley service from south of US 1 and Kerdyk Park to Miracle Mile and Giralda Plaza in Downtown Coral Gables. The pilot program was implemented to analyze ridership potential along southern Ponce De Leon Boulevard and connectivity between the University of Miami and Downtown Coral Gables. The pilot program was originally set to run for 3 months. We currently just completed our tenth month of the pilot program. Total ridership is currently at 1,893 passengers, which is an average of just under 50 passengers each Saturday. As of June 28th, the total cost of the pilot program is roughly \$40,000 (includes service hours, maintenance and fuel). This equates to a total cost of \$22 per boarding. Due to low ridership and the high cost per boarding, City staff is recommending suspending the Saturday Downtown Express Service with the last Saturday Downtown Express service taking place on August 10th. If approved, passengers will be notified over the next four weeks via signage on the trolleys, messaging on the ETA Spot/Trolley Tracker App, and via E-News. There are additional alternative transportation options currently servicing the corridor along US1 including the Metro-Rail and Miami-Dade Metro-Connect program which both offer connections to the Ponce De Leon and Grand Ave trolley routes at Douglas Station.