

BRICKELL LIFE

BRICKELL LIFE IS MY RAMBLINGS ABOUT MY COMMUNITY, WHAT I SEE AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD, WHAT'S GOING ON IN SOUTH FLORIDA AND WHAT'S UP WITH THE WORLD.

April 28, 2009

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2009

Brickell Trolley Proposal



Great news out of the [Downtown Development Authority \(DDA\)](#) as the City of Miami is considering the addition of a rubber-wheel trolley, just like in Coral Gables, to run along Brickell Avenue and Biscayne Boulevard. While still very early in the proposal stages, this is definitely a step in the right direction for the district. The proposed route would run from the Omni to the Rickenbacker Causeway and local government is currently soliciting feedback from the public and area

businesses to determine the project's feasibility and final route. In fact, click [here](#) to access their 10 question survey that takes less than 5 minutes to complete. Please fill it out and let them know how you feel.

Since the Coral Gables Trolleys began service in 2003, ridership has increased on a daily basis and the program now serves as the model for other local municipalities to follow. Original projections estimated that approximately 1,000 passengers would use the Coral Gables Trolley service daily, but those benchmarks were quickly surpassed as multiple thousands of passengers ride the system each day. Since its inception, the environmentally-friendly trolleys, which use hybrid engines, have transported millions of passengers throughout Coral Gables for free.

Simply put, a free trolley system through the Brickell, downtown and the Omni neighborhood is an opportunity and not a liability for the city. It will assist with traffic flow in the commercial areas and provide both residents and tourists the means to easily move between the neighborhoods without using a car. Unlike Metromover, a trolley will be able to permeate side streets and different sections of the city that are currently unreachable by the rail system like Brickell Key, Brickell Bay Drive, Flagler Street, and the new downtown condos, among others. It will literally open up accessible public transportation to tens of thousands of people who otherwise have been unwilling to walk block after block in our tropical sun to find a convenient rail station and then walk additional mileage to get to their original destination.

If, and that is a strong "if," this trolley idea ever comes to fruition, it will be essential to ensure that it is safe and has convenient hours of operation. If you want people in to live, work and play in downtown and Brickell, then build a trolley system designed exactly to meet those needs. Get people out directly to restaurants and shopping both late at night and early in the day. Ensure that it runs on weekends so residents also benefit and not just businesses during the work week. And unlike Metromover, please make certain that it does not become a free homeless ferry and shelter. Nobody wants to ride public transportation next to a guy wearing a North Face parka in the middle of July, who has obviously been wearing it for 3-weeks straight without showering and smells like a barrel of fermented sardines.

According the DDA's website, there will be more than 445,000 people living in this part of the city by 2011. And while the economy and the real estate crisis have slowed growth, people will continue to move to Brickell/downtown and they will eventually fill those vacancies and then some. The time is now to put forth a strategic vision for the district and build a transportation system that will benefit residents, businesses and tourists equally.