

Mahoney, Crist, Klein and Commissioners Kickoff Palm Tran's Green Initiative

Mahoney Secures Critical Transportation Funding

(March 31, 2008)

(West Palm Beach, FL) - Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) was joined by Governor Charlie Crist, Congressman Ron Klein (FL-22) and the Palm Beach County Commissioners to announce that Palm Beach County's Public Transit System, Palm Tran, converted its bus fleet to use bio-diesel fuel and nitrogen-filled tires in an effort to cut costs and improve the environment. Mahoney also announced funding for additional systems for Palm Tran that will improve efficiency and customer service.

Commissioner Kanjian, Governor Crist, Commissioner Karen Marcus, Rep. Klein, Commissioner Aaronson, Rep. Mahoney

"I commend the County Commission and Palm Tran management for demonstrating that you don't have to give up efficiency to deploy green technologies," said Congressman Mahoney. "I am proud to have secured federal funding to aid in their efforts and I look forward to future improvements in customer service and fleet efficiency as Palm Tran brings on key vehicle tracking and passenger count systems. For too long, Florida has been a donor state to the Federal Treasury. With local and county services being cut due to plummeting tax revenues as a result of a recession, it is critical that Florida gets its fair share of their federal tax dollars."

Palm Tran's fleet of 138 transit buses are now fueled by biodiesel, making Palm Tran the first transit agency to do so in the state of Florida. Biodiesel is a cleaner burning fuel and it substantially reduces emissions of pollutants, such as air toxins and hydrocarbons. It also provides reductions in greenhouse gases that cause global warming. Palm Tran uses up to a 20% mix of biodiesel with regular diesel.

In addition to the biodiesel conversion, Palm Tran has implemented the following earth-friendly initiatives:

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Nitrogen-filled tires: by requiring less refills and maintenance, average miles per gallon is increased;

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Air purification in buses: using black light technology, cleaner air will circulate within the vehicles;

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Reclaimed water bus washes: using recycled water decreases water usage;

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Cleaner engines: the 21 new buses' cleaner diesel engines will greatly reduce each bus' emission levels;

In addition to the "Going Green" initiative, Representative Mahoney discussed the \$735,000 he secured for Palm Tran in the FY2008 Omnibus Appropriations bill for Palm Tran's Automated Vehicle Location (AVL) and Automated Passenger Counter (APC) systems.

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The AVL system will analyze the entire mobile fleet and will alert them of road delays, enabling re-routing where necessary.

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The APC system guarantees that when action is taken to address on-the-road issues, the busiest stops can be prioritized.

For more information on Palm Tran, please visit: <http://www.pbcgov.com/palmtran/>

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