



Transportation Department

TRANSIT DIVISION / Administration

1 N. University Drive, Suite 3100A • Plantation, Florida 33301 • 954-357-8300 • FAX 954-357-8305

March 8, 2016

Mr. Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM
City Manager
City of Fort Lauderdale
100 North Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Re: Broward County Transit Buses Laying Over on Galt Ocean Drive

Dear Mr. Feldman:

This is in response to your letter to Broward County Administrator Bertha Henry dated January 29th, 2016, concerning Broward County Transit (BCT) Buses laying over on Galt Ocean Drive. Specifically, I would like to address the concerns that you raised and to clarify what appears to be a misunderstanding of the operational impacts of BCT buses along Galt Ocean Drive.

The Route 72 is currently the only BCT bus route that has a layover on Galt Ocean Drive. The Route 72 buses "layover" in a bus bay located out of regular traffic just off the southbound lane at 3901 Galt Ocean Drive. The Route 72 is the third highest ridership route on the BCT system providing over 7,500 rides on a daily basis. It operates from the Sawgrass Mills Mall in Sunrise along Oakland Park Boulevard all the way to Galt Ocean Drive in Fort Lauderdale. The Route 72 buses provide service every 15 minutes throughout the day and are scheduled to layover at the Galt bus bay for 5-10 minutes at the end of each eastbound bus trip. All transit buses layover at the end of each route in order to provide the Bus Operator with a break (rest room) and to allow for schedule recovery to ensure buses stay on schedule throughout the day. These layovers are standard in the transit industry and are critical to maintaining safe and reliable service.

Addressing the concern that the Route 72 layover buses impede traffic and make it difficult for the general flow of traffic and for emergency vehicles, all buses on Galt Ocean Drive layover out of the flow of traffic in the designated bus bay. The use of the bus bay ensures that traffic is unimpeded and emergency vehicles can operate on Galt Ocean Drive while buses are laying over.

Broward County Board of County Commissioners

Mark D. Bogen • Beam Furr • Dale V.C. Holness • Marty Kiar • Chip LaMarca • Stacy Ritter • Tim Ryan • Barbara Sharief • Lois Wexler

Broward.org

March 8, 2016
Ltr Re: BCT Bus on Galt
Page -2-

As for the concern that the bus blocks pedestrian crossings, there are no pedestrian crossings that exist near the bus bay. In addition, although there is a ramp and curb cutout in the bus bay, it was not constructed by BCT, does not meet ADA standards, and it is not in any way associated with a pedestrian crossing.

As a result, based on the off street location of the bus bay for the Route 72 layover and its lack of proximity to any driveways or pedestrian crossings, the current Route 72 layover does not pose any life-safety issues.

There was also a concern about the fumes from buses with running engines while laying over. All BCT Bus Operators are required to shut down their bus engines while laying over for more than a few minutes. In addition, our buses have clean burning engines that use ultra-low sulfur fuel that reduce emissions by 90% as mandated by federal regulations.

Additionally, you raised the issue of bus layovers damaging public property and provided photos of the damage. These photos were taken at loading zone areas on the northbound side of Galt Ocean Drive. Last year, two BCT bus routes temporarily used two of these northbound loading zones due to the construction on A1A which forced our buses to relocate. This move of layover locations to Galt Ocean Drive from A1A was only in effect from August 5th, 2015 to October 11th, 2015, a period of 67 days. The damage to curb and pavers, as well as the bent sign pole, is not consistent with wear and tear of 67 days of bus operations and is more likely the result of many years of loading zone activities. By contrast, the bus bay located off the southbound lane of Galt Ocean Drive has been in bus service for over a decade and there are no cracked or broken curbs or pavers, or any similar signs of damage.

I would like to suggest that we arrange for a site visit where we can jointly examine the issues you raise and we can work together to ensure that reasonable accommodations for public transit operations can be maintained in the area without adverse community, impacts. Public transit is critical to the long term livability of our community, especially along the beach areas where parking and traffic are growing issues. Please feel free to contact me directly at 954-357-8301 so we can schedule a site visit.

Sincerely,



Chris Walton
Director
Transportation Department

Attachments: 1. Route 72 Layover Location at 3901 Galt Ocean Drive
2. Loading Zone on Northbound Galt Ocean Drive

CC. Bertha Henry, County Administrator
Gretchen Cassini, Assistant County Administrator