Miami-Dade County’s Transportation Systems

Ridership Characteristics and Reports

1.2 million of the 2.2 million workforce over 16 years old commute to work every day.

81.2% Drove alone
4.2% Used public transportation
14.6% Carpooleed and Other Means

Miami-Dade County’s Public Mass Transit Options:

- Metrobus - with the new Better Bus Network, the system will run primarily between 6 AM to 10 PM, Monday through Saturday, providing more frequent stops in higher traffic areas.
- Metromover - runs at no cost from 6AM–12AM, 365 with three loops covering Miami’s city center.
- Metrorail - runs 5 AM–12AM, 365 with two lines covering 25 miles and 23 stations.
- Trolley - 25 cities have free trolley systems that provide citizens with shorter, more specific commuting options.
- Carpooling and other means - walking, biking, motorcycles, rideshare and carshare companies, and taxis.

The Importance of Public Transportation:

"Public transportation services play an important role for people who are unable to drive, including those without access to personal vehicles, children, individuals with disabilities, older adults," lower income families and minorities.

Public Transportation Demographics

The lack of accessible and decent public transportation disproportionately affects Blacks or African Americans, who only make up 14.6% of the total population, 14.7% of Miami-Dade’s workforce, but 32% of public transportation users.

35% of essential workers in Miami-Dade County rely on public transportation

White alone (not Hispanic or Latino) 8%
Black or African American 32%
Hispanic or Latina origin 55%
Other 5%

Source: (2020) ACS, Percent of travel to work by car to work, American Community Survey, US Census Bureau.

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Why is public transportation ridership declining?

Public transportation ridership, or the number of trips made by users, saw its last increase between 2012-13. Between 2013 and 2021, Metrobus ridership declined by over 50% from 78 million to 36 million annual trips.

Miami-Dade County’s 2016–2021 Ridership Report:
- Metrobus
- Metromover
- Metrorail

Five reasons why ridership in Miami-Dade County is declining:
- Longer wait times
- Service reductions
  - In 2018, service cuts were made to 39 routes
- Increase in ghost buses, those that are en route but never arrive at their location
  - Between 2017–2018, the rate of ghost buses increased by 125%
- Poorly designed and unreliable routes and infrastructure
- Growth in cheaper and more isolated options
  - Including trolleys, ride-share and car-share programs, and single car ownership

Waiting Times: Over 60% of Miami-Dade public transportation users spend more than 30 minutes commuting.

Miami-Dade County’s Trolley Services:
- Surtax funded
- 25 independently ran systems across the county
- Untraceable and unmonitored
- Creates a more fractured transportation system
- Lessens accountability and resource allocation