



MIAMI BEACH

200-2014

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: June 10, 2014

SUBJECT: **PROVISION OF TROLLEY SERVICE TO BELLE ISLE**

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 2014 JUN 11 AM 8:58
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The purpose of this Letter to Commission is to provide an update regarding the provision of trolley services to Belle Isle.

As you are aware, Miami-Dade County recently imposed weight limitations on all bridges along the Venetian Causeway due to structural deficiencies. As a result, the South Beach Local (SBL) and Route A service have been impacted. The County has truncated the SBL route and discontinued the SBL service to Belle Isle. Route A, which was also truncated, is being implemented with cutaway vehicles rather than buses and hours of operation have been reduced to peak periods only (7AM to 10AM and 2PM to 7PM).

At the April 30, 2014 City Commission meeting, a motion was made by Commissioner Grieco that the City provide any and all support to staff and the residents of Belle Isle and Venetian Islands relating to the current public transit issues and that Miami-Dade Transit provide the same hours of bus service as it was providing prior to imposing the weight restrictions on the bridges.

Since the April 30th Commission meeting, Administration staff has been working diligently with the County to obtain approval for the implementation of trolley service to Belle Isle. The first action taken was to determine that the trolley vehicles met the weight restriction on the easternmost Venetian Causeway Bridge in order to access Belle Isle. A permit application was submitted to Miami-Dade County Public Works and Waste Management Department, Bridge Engineering Division. The County determined that the trolley vehicles met the weight criteria and were approved to cross the bridge on a regular basis. As such, a permit has been issued by the County.

Subsequently, the City requested that the County Mayor's Office approve the proposed Belle Isle trolley service on an emergency basis as provided in the County Code of Ordinances. However, City staff was advised that the County's Legal Department opined that the most feasible method to accommodate this request was for the City's current trolley operator to administratively request a modification to the approved Passenger Motor Carrier Certificate of Transportation granted by the Board of County Commission (BCC) for the Alton-West trolley service.

Limousines of South Florida (LSF), the City's current operator of the Alton-West trolley service, filed the pertinent application on June 10, 2014. The County Mayor's Office is working with City staff in order to schedule the modified application for approval by the BCC at its July 15, 2014 meeting.

Upon approval of the application by BCC, the City may begin trolley service to Belle Isle. LSF has confirmed that trolley vehicles as well as cutaway vehicles are ready to begin service upon the BCC's approval.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.