



News Clip

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Metrorail North setback to be discussed

Miami-Dade Transit will be facing a hostile audience later this month when agency leaders host a public meeting on March 27 to discuss the troubled \$1.6 billion plan to expand Metrorail through the heart of the black community to the Broward County line.

"The community is demanding some answers," said County Commissioner Barbara Jordan. Jordan and commissioners Dorrin Rolle and Audrey Edmonson called for the meeting in the wake of last month's federal downgrading of the North Corridor to a level where it no longer qualifies for \$700 million in matching funds.

Transit officials and county managers are expected to lay out their plans to restore the rating in the next funding cycle, and work toward winning the matching construction money.

An informal open house will start at 6 p.m. followed by a formal presentation at 7 p.m. at the William and Joan Lehman Theater, located on Lake Road at the west end of the Miami-Dade College North Campus, 11380 NW 27th Ave.

Transit will also be hosting a public meeting on March 25 to unveil the latest plans for another \$526 million Metrorail expansion, the 2.4-mile spur from Earlington Heights into the Miami Intermodal Center next to the airport.

The MIC-EH extension, which includes a new station and bus terminal at the intermodal center, is being built without federal funds. Construction contracts could start later this year or in early 2009. Transit is hoping to open the line for service by late 2011.