

ADDENDUM A

Palm Beach International Airport Ground Access and Transportation Networks

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An extensive traffic study (Study) was completed as part of the Ricondo and Associates 2001 Strategic Master Plan Update. Little has changed since the completion of that Study, therefore, this section provides a brief summary of the highlights, and does not contain further analysis. Most notably, the importance of the intermodal transit system to growth of Palm Beach International Airport (PBI) is emphasized. As PBI grows due to increased aviation demand, on airport ground transportation and transit modes must be capable of supporting this growth, in order to compliment the transportation system developed by the Palm Beach County (PBC).

1.0 Intermodal Passenger Transportation Services

PBC offers three forms of intermodal passenger transportation services for PBI: Palm Beach County Transit System (Palm Tran) Bus Service, Tri-Rail Passenger Service, and For Hire Transportation Services. PBI and Tri-Rail bring passengers into PBC while For Hire Transportation Services work in conjunction with Palm Tran to move people around PBC.

Palm Tran Bus Service

Palm Tran operates thirty-seven routes throughout PBC, of which two routes, 40 and 44, serve PBI. Palm Tran Route 40, West Palm Beach to Belle Glade Limited Stop Service, is an east- west route that operates seven days a week. It serves the following ten locations:

- Governmental Center
- West Palm Beach Tri-Rail
- Western Plaza
- Wellington Medical Center
- Palms West
- Judicial Center
- Palm Beach International Airport
- Mall At Wellington Green
- Wellington Library
- Belle Glade HRS / Courthouse

Palm Tran Route 44, West Palm Beach Cross-town via Belvedere Road, is an east-west route that operates seven days a week. It serves the following thirteen locations:

- Lake Point Center
- Drexel Plaza
- PBC Library
- Centre Park
- West Palm Beach Tri-Rail
- Judicial Center

- Super Wal-Mart
- Palm Beach Kennel Club
- Palm Beach International Airport
- Howard Park
- Governmental Center
- Kravis Center
- PBC Convention Center

Due to increased demand since the previous Study, Palm Tran has modified its bus routes to provide better service to its clients. Palm Tran has maximized the number of pick-up and drop off points, increased the number of overlapping routes to maximize customer destination alternatives, and provided daily service where demand dictates.

Tri-Rail

The Tri-Rail station nearest PBI is located north of Okeechobee Boulevard on 203 South Tamarind Avenue. Palm Tran bus routes 2, 31, 40, 43, 44, 45, 55, and 50 (Downtown Shuttle) serve this station; of which routes 40 and 44 serve PBI. In addition, at the Tri-Rail station passengers can make connections with Greyhound, Amtrak and cab service. As a result, Amtrak and Greyhound passenger's can shuttle to PBI via Palm Tran or cab service.

For Hire Transportation Services

For Hire Transportation Services refers to Limousines, cabs and other courtesy shuttle bus services. Staging spaces and curbside drop off and pick up areas are provided for these vehicles at PBI's terminal. For Hire Transportation services, especially cab service, is typically the most convenient method of getting to and from PBI from any destination in PBC.

2.0 PBI Intermodal HUB

The objective of an "intermodal hub" is to integrate the available transportation services to provide airport users with efficient ground transfers and services characterized by the highest degree of comfort, convenience, and security possible. Therefore, PBI's "intermodal transportation hub" would provide a base of operations for Tri-Rail, Palm Tran, other bus services, and for hire transportation services. The proposed location for the intermodal hub is east of PBI. It is bounded by Australian Avenue to the West, Belvedere Road to the North, and Interstate 95 to the East. The proposed hub will accommodate the following modes of transportation:

- Rail (Tri-Rail, Amtrak)
- PBI Shuttle buses
- Taxicabs/ Limousines
- Pedestrians
- Private Vehicles
- Palm Tran Buses
- Bicycles/Motorcycles
- People Mover Connection (Long-Term)

Connectivity between PBI and Proposed Intermodal Hub

The 2001 Study proposed that this connection be made using a “people mover” system. People movers are a type of automated fixed guide-way transportation system. They are generally small systems of short lengths (two to three miles maximum) with a small number of stations and vehicles. The 2001 Study proposed a shuttle type system, which typically consists of a single vehicle or train operating back and forth over a single-lane of guide way between stations. This system would not only connect to the intermodal hub but would also connect to the Ground Transportation Center (GTC), a new car rental facility north of Belvedere Road (further discussed below). Baggage screening and conveyance could also be added to the people mover system to provide added convenience to PBI users.

Two alternatives for the people mover system were discussed in the Study:

- People Mover Option 1: This alternative proposes a people mover system on an elevated structure connecting PBI and the Intermodal Transportation Hub with an intermediate stop at the GTC. The people mover traverses Belvedere Road twice. The alignment of this route is located in the northern portion of PBI’s inbound terminal roadway, parallel to and south of Belvedere Road. At Congress Avenue, it traverses north to the GTC, circulating it and then heading south toward PBI’s future parking garage and terminal building.
- People Mover Option 2: The proposed people mover system for this alternative is elevated as well. It connects the GTC and the Intermodal Hub with an intermediate stop at PBI’s terminal building. The alignment of this route is located between the inbound and outbound terminal roadway. This route traverses through the Park and Ride facilities, continuing to PBI’s terminal building, then the parking garage, before terminating at the GTC.

The 2001 Study recommended People Mover Option 1 as the preferred alternative based on a matrix screening process. This process took into consideration several criteria including minimization of roadway and utility pole relocations and minimizing environmental impacts.

3.0 Other Ground Access and Transportation Networks

Downtown Multimodal Center

The 2001 Study presented a conceptual layout of a Multimodal Center (MC) at the downtown Palm Beach Tri-Rail station. The report states that initial connection between PBI and the downtown MC will be made via a tram/trolley system. As demand on the system increases, it could eventually evolve into a fixed guide-way system. The 2001 Study discussed two conceptual corridor options but cautioned that further detailed planning and programming efforts would need to be undertaken by the DOA, other County agencies, state, and federal transportation agencies before a preferred alternative could be determined. To date the MC development has not been constructed.

Analysis of Future Rental Car Facilities

Seven car rental companies operate at PBI, both on and off airport property. Each operator has its own ready/return, maintenance, and storage facility. As the locations of these facilities are scattered around the airport, several surface access and roadway circulation conflicts occur. Most notably, as customers enter the airport, there are too many different directions drivers must choose from. Additionally, off airport rental car traffic adds to congestion with airport traffic, and creates a higher potential for accidents.

Six alternatives for future car rental facility locations were analyzed to address the need for additional space for on-airport rental car operations. The analysis took into account, several factors, including the economies of scale that rental car companies might gain from being collocated. Some of the benefits gained from being collocated include efficiencies with drop-off and pick-up of vehicles, fueling, washing, and cleaning. Ultimately, a facility located in the northwest quadrant of the intersection of Belvedere Road and Congress Avenue was determined to be the best alternative.