

## **SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES 35.7% TRI-RAIL RIDERSHIP BOOST IN JULY**

### **Weekday Ridership up 36.2%**

Tri-Rail ridership continues to soar as summer gas prices continue to rise. Overall, ridership for July 2006 was up 35.7 percent from July 2005. Last month, Tri-Rail carried 250,745 passengers, averaging 10,297 commuters during the weekday, for a 36.2 percent increase, as well as 4,074 during weekends for a 33.1 percent increase.

"The statistics for July show that June's high ridership figures were not an anomaly," said Executive Director Joseph Giulietti, South Florida Regional Transportation Authority. Two special events, national "Dump the Pump" Day on June 8 and the Miami Heat victory parade on June 23, produced record-breaking numbers and a 36 percent weekday increase in passengers from June 2005.

"The ridership gains in July underscore the importance of public transportation as the economical commuting alternative to single-occupancy vehicles," said Giulietti. Research by the American Public Transportation Association has proven that just getting to work is the second highest expense in the average American family's budget, only exceeded by the cost of housing.

Roundtrip fares on Tri-Rail start at just \$2, with Monthly tickets available from as low as \$40. Members of the SFRTA/Tri-Rail's Employer Discount Program can purchase Monthly tickets for just \$60 and enjoy discounts on 12-Trip tickets, as well. For additional information, call 1-800-TRI-RAIL (874-7245).