

# BAL HARBOUR


- V I L L A G E -

OFFICE OF THE VILLAGE MANAGER

LETTER TO COUNCIL

NO. 016-2019

To: Mayor Gabriel Groisman and Members of the Village Council

From: Jorge M. Gonzalez, Village Manager 

Date: February 1, 2019

Subject: **Ongoing Tri-Municipal Community Shuttle Route Study and Public Meeting**

The purpose of this Letter to Council (LTC) is to transmit to you information regarding the ongoing community shuttle route study and meeting which will be hosted by the Town of Surfside on February 27 at 6:00 pm at Surfside Town Hall.

The Bal Harbour Village Community Shuttle serves the commercial section of 96 Street, including Bal Harbour Shops and the residential and hotels along Collins Avenue. Each trip is extended in express mode to Sunny Isles Beach and Aventura Mall. The shuttle route runs from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Sunday through Thursday and from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm on Friday and Saturday.

As you may be aware, the Village, the Town of Surfside, and Bay Harbor Islands provide mobility to its residents and visitors connecting them to municipal offices, libraries, and popular shopping. However, there is a need for restructuring the current transit service for a more efficient and cost-effective system that provides better service to all three communities. An efficient transit system should provide mobility through reliable, safe, comfortable, and accessible service to its residents and visitors.

In furtherance of this possible restructuring, on January 4, 2018, the Village, Surfside and Bay Harbor Islands executed the Village Council approved Memorandum of Understanding to collectively participate in a shuttle route study to be conducted by Lehman Center for Transportation Research (LCTR) and Florida International University (FIU). The main objective of the study is to develop a more efficient and cost-effective shuttle bus operation between the communities that better meets the mobility needs of residents and visitors. In addition, suggestions for effectively monitoring the transit service by using technology and following transit service standards will be presented.

To achieve this, the FIU research team is currently collecting on-board shuttle user data, online survey information, and conducting one or more community outreach meetings.

After the data collection and public meeting activities, a final report will be presented for review.

On February 27, 2019 at 6:00 pm, The Town of Surfside will be hosting a community meeting for the three municipalities in order to obtain further public input. The address for the meeting is the Surfside Town Hall located at 9293 Harding Avenue, second floor training room.

Since parking at this facility is limited, the Bal Harbour Shuttle will provide transportation to and from the meeting using the Village routes beginning forty-five (45) minutes prior and one hour after the end of the meeting.

Additionally, an online survey will be posted shortly on the Village website. Residents will receive notification of the survey and meeting via the E-Blast and WENS notification methods.

The link to the survey is provide below for your review:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FP9JKSV>

If you have, any questions please feel free to contact John Oldenburg directly.

JMG/JAO