

PROPOSED

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE DESIGNATION OF "LOCALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE" TO CERTAIN PROPOSED ELEMENTS OF A COMMUTER RAIL PUBLIC TRANSIT PROJECT LOCATED ON THE FLORIDA EAST COAST RAILWAY CORRIDOR; CONFIRMING INDEPENDENT UTILITY AND LOGICAL TERMINI OF THE PROJECT; TRANSFERING \$15,500,000 OF THE FY2021-22 CAPITAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION FOR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUTER RAIL TO THE PROJECT FOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY COSTS; DIRECTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO PURSUE GRANT FUNDING; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, there is a critical need to develop adequate transit services for the mobility needs of residents, businesses, and visitors in Broward County and the broader Southeast Florida region;

WHEREAS, in 1995 a collaboration of freight operators and the Florida Department of Transportation ("FDOT") completed the "Rail Rationalization Study," recommending long-term planning for both the South Florida Rail Corridor and the Florida East Coast Railway ("FEC") Corridor, including double tracking the SFRC, concurrent public investment in the FEC Corridor, and consideration of implementing passenger rail service within the FEC Corridor;

22 WHEREAS, the South Florida East Coast Corridor Study, later referred to as the
23 Tri-Rail Coastal Link Study (initiated in 2004), explored the feasibility of an 85-mile Tri-
24 County commuter rail transit system to provide traffic relief, increased mobility, and
25 greater access to the State's Strategic Intermodal System facilities;

26 WHEREAS, the provision of commuter rail service in Broward County is consistent
27 with the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization's ("MPO's") 2045 Metropolitan
28 Transportation Plan, which identifies a commuter rail project on the FEC Corridor
29 ("Coastal Link") as an element of a "Transit Needs" list;

30 WHEREAS, on January 28, 2021, Broward County and the Florida Department of
31 Transportation ("FDOT") executed a Memorandum of Understanding, formalizing a
32 partnership for a Project Development and Environmental Study ("PD&E Study") and
33 activities aimed at advancing commuter rail service on the FEC rail corridor in Broward
34 County;

35 WHEREAS, as part of the PD&E Study, FDOT created a project website and
36 facilitated a number of meetings and workshops to ensure public access to information,
37 participation, and feedback, including Alternatives Public Workshops held in January of
38 2022, and over 100 meetings with stakeholders and potentially affected parties;

39 WHEREAS, on October 21, 2021, Miami-Dade County received approval from the
40 Federal Transit Administration ("FTA") to enter the project development phase for a
41 project along the FEC rail corridor, the completion of which would allow a commuter rail
42 project in Broward County to connect and become part of a strategic regional
43 transportation initiative extending from Broward to downtown Miami;

WHEREAS, on June 16, 2022, the Board of County Commissioners of Broward County, Florida ("Board"), held a public workshop to review commuter rail study results performed to date, including options for phasing a commuter rail project and the designation of a locally preferred alternative for such a project to allow expeditious application to state and federal grant funding sources, timely coordination with Miami-Dade County, and expedited start-up of operations; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that a timely commuter rail project would benefit Broward County residents and promote enhanced mobility, economic growth, affordable housing development, lower vehicle emissions, and higher overall quality of life, and thereby serve a public purpose, NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Section 1. Designation of Locally Preferred Alternative for Elements of Commuter Rail Project. The Board hereby approves the following elements as the locally preferred alternative ("LPA") for a Broward Commuter Rail-South project (the "Project"):

- Alignment: Florida East Coast Railway Corridor, beginning at the planned passenger train station in the City of Aventura, Florida, to a terminus located south of Davie Boulevard in the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida.
- Mode: Commuter Rail Transit.
- Technology: Push-pull locomotive.
- Recommended Station Locations:
 - at or near Hollywood, north of Hollywood Boulevard;
 - at or near Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport; and

- at or near SW 15th and 17th Streets near the Broward Health Medical Center.

Section 2. Utility and Logical Termini. The Board of County Commissioners finds that the Project has independent utility and logical termini. Service will extend approximately 11.5 miles between the south terminus proposed at the Aventura Station (connecting to Miami-Dade's proposed commuter rail project on the FEC corridor), and the north terminus near the Broward Medical Health Center (SW 15th/17th Street) station, which would serve the neighborhoods and commercial areas around the medical center campus and enable regional rail access to the Broward County Convention Center and Port Everglades.

Section 3. Authorized Appropriation and Disbursement. Of the FY2021-22 Capital Budget appropriation for Regional Transportation adopted by the Board of County Commissioners through Resolution No. 2021-601 on September 21, 2021, \$13,150,000 is transferred to the Project for engineering, design, and other project development and environmental study tasks consistent with state and federal funding requirements. This appropriation is in addition to \$2,350,000 authorized by the Board of County Commissioners on December 14, 2021, and the balance of that appropriation is also transferred to the Project for the same purposes.

Section 4. Grant Funding. The Board of County Commissioners directs County Administrator to pursue grant funding from federal and state government sources to support the Project, and to coordinate with the Broward MPO and other organizations as appropriate in seeking such grant funding.

Section 5. Severability.

If any portion of this Resolution is determined by any court to be invalid, the invalid portion will be stricken, and such striking will not affect the validity of the remainder of this Resolution. If any court determines that this Resolution, in whole or in part, cannot be legally applied to any individual, group, entity, property, or circumstance, such determination will not affect the applicability of this Resolution to any other individual, group, entity, property, or circumstance.

Section 6. Effective Date.

This Resolution is effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED this day of , 2022.

PROPOSED

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:

Andrew J. Meyers, County Attorney

By: /s/ Mckillop B. Erlandson 08/03/2022
 Mckillop B. Erlandson (date)
 Assistant County Attorney

By: /s/ Benjamin R. Salzillo 08/03/2022
 Benjamin R. Salzillo (date)
 Senior Assistant County Attorney