



MONICA CEPERO, County Administrator

115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 409 • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 • 954-357-7354 • FAX 954-357-7360

August 30, 2022

Greg Stuart, Executive Director,
Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization
100 W. Cypress Creek Rd., #650
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309

Re: Broward Commuter Rail-South Project (BCR-South)

Dear Greg,

I am writing to follow up on the Broward Commuter Rail-South Project (BCR-South), for which Broward County's Board of County Commissioners recently approved resolutions formally designating a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) and associated funding. These resolutions (attached), and the unanimous decision by our Board of Commissioners to approve them, reflect the County's keen interest in moving this project forward.

We are looking forward to next steps, including efforts to seek grant funding from federal and state government sources, and continue our coordination with the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and other important organizations and stakeholders. I understand that the MPO has already confirmed a place on the agenda of its September 8, 2022 Board meeting, which will allow us to join our partners from FDOT to make a presentation on the BCR-South project. Thank you for opening up this space—we look forward to providing more information to the MPO leadership at that time, and to a near-term endorsement of the LPA passed by our Commission.

I would also like to take this opportunity to formally request an amendment to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, so that the BCR-South project is officially included within the fiscally-constrained portion of the plan. Our team stands ready to work together with yours, to support the process and satisfy all related requirements for this amendment. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or to Mr. Kevin Kelleher if you have any questions or advice in this regard.

I realize that you and other MPO team members have already engaged with our team, providing valuable help and guidance. On behalf of all of us, I would like to thank you for your commitment to planning and advancing public transit and for collaborating with us on this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Cepero", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Monica Cepero
County Administrator

Attachments

cc.: Board of County Commissioners
Gerry O'Reilly, FDOT District 4 Secretary
Kevin Kelleher, Assistant County Administrator
Tim Garling, Deputy General Manager, BCT

Broward County Board of County Commissioners

Mark D. Bogen • Lamar P. Fisher • Beam Furr • Steve Geller • Jared E. Moskowitz • Nan H. Rich • Tim Ryan • Michael Udine
www.broward.org

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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; TRANSFERRING \$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;

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

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

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

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

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

67 o at or near SW 15th and 17th Streets near the Broward Health Medical
68 Center.

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

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

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

89

90 Section 5. Severability.

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

97 Section 6. Effective Date.

98 This Resolution is effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED this 25 day of Aug, 2022. (#53A)

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

Resolution No. 2022-377

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Broward County Florida, that the Clerk of this Board is hereby authorized and directed to make the following budget amendments within the Surtax Special Revenue Fund Fund 11610 for fiscal year 2022, pursuant to Section 129.06(2), Florida Statutes.

APPROPRIATIONS (0000674640)

MT-General Administration (50401010)

Broward Commuter Rail PR (107463)

Prof Svcs-Proj Mgt Services (512160)

(\$2,350,000)

BRWD Commuter Rail-South PR (107715)

Prof Svcs-Proj Mgt Services (512160)

\$15,500,000

ND-Rev Coll-Treasury-Cash Mgm (95101000)

Regional Transportation Parent (106896)

Payments To Oga (580020)

(\$13,150,000)

Total APPROPRIATIONS

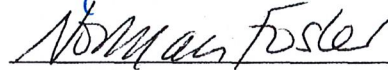
\$0



Approved County Administrator

Date

8/25/22



Approved Office of Management and Budget

Date

8/4/22

ADOPTED THIS 25 day of August, A.D. 20 22

Agenda # 22-1247B

C#55B

