

TPO RESOLUTION #32-2021

RESOLUTION FURTHER URGING FLORIDA'S TURNPIKE ENTERPRISE TO REINVEST TOLL REVENUES FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE STRATEGIC MIAMI AREA RAPID TRANSIT (SMART) PLAN BUS EXPRESS RAPID TRANSIT (BERT) CORRIDORS ON THE TURNPIKE SYSTEM EXPRESS LANES TO HELP RELIEVE CONGESTION

WHEREAS, the Interlocal Agreement creating and establishing the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Miami Urbanized Area requires that the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), in its role as the MPO, provide a structure to evaluate the adequacy of the transportation planning and programming process; and

WHEREAS, under Resolution #06-16, the TPO Governing Board established a policy to set as highest priority the advancement of rapid transit corridor projects in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, under Resolution #26-16, the TPO Governing Board endorsed the Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Plan, which includes six (6) rapid transit corridors and a network of bus express rapid transit (BERT) corridors throughout Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, the Turnpike is the westernmost North-South limited access facility that is an integral part of the South Florida transportation network serving as one of the only options for commuters traveling during peak hours; and

WHEREAS, commuters traveling on this facility often experience heavy congestion during peak hours that are beyond acceptable service levels; and

WHEREAS, these levels of congestion require solutions that are consistent with the goals and priorities of the Miami-Dade TPO, including the advancement of critical mobility options prioritized in the SMART Plan; and

WHEREAS, under Resolution #23-17, the TPO Governing Board amended the SMART Plan to extend the limits of the BERT network corridor identified as the Florida's Turnpike Enterprise Express (North) and urged the Florida's Turnpike Enterprise to support funding for the operation and maintenance of this BERT corridor; and

WHEREAS, under Resolution #49-17, the TPO Governing Board urged the State of Florida to revise Florida Statutes §338.166 and to update policies to provide for the use of toll revenues collected by Turnpike System for Express Bus Service operations on the Turnpike System Express Lanes to help relieve congestion; and

WHEREAS, additionally under Resolution #26-19, the TPO Governing Board further amended the SMART Plan to extend the limits of the BERT network corridor, identified as Express (North), to connect to the North Corridor and urged the Florida's Turnpike Enterprise to assume full funding for the operation and maintenance of this BERT corridor; and

WHEREAS, the BERT network would reduce congestion and increase capacity on Florida's Turnpike Enterprise as well as neighboring roadways in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, the reinvestment of toll revenues to reduce congestion on the South Florida transportation network, including the Turnpike, would provide a funding solution to implement BERT networks; and

WHEREAS, a partnership with Florida’s Turnpike Enterprise is vital to help service the BERT network of the SMART Plan, which is critical to create a countywide seamless transportation network,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION IN ITS ROLE AS THE MPO FOR THE MIAMI URBANIZED AREA, that this Board hereby further urges the Florida’s Turnpike Enterprise to reinvest toll revenues for the operation and maintenance of the Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Plan bus express rapid transit (BERT) Corridors on the Turnpike System Express Lanes to help relieve congestion.

The adoption of the foregoing resolution was Co-Sponsored by TPO Board Members Daniella Cohen Higgins and Vince Lago and moved by Board Member Eileen Higgins. The motion was seconded by Board Member Rodney Harris, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert III -Aye
Vice Chairman Juan Carlos Bermudez -Aye

Board Member Philippe Bien-Aime	-Absent	Board Member Steven D. Losner	-Aye
Board Member Danielle Cohen Higgins	-Aye	Board Member Roberto Martell	-Aye
Board Member Oscar De La Rosa	-Absent	Board Member Joe A. Martinez	-Absent
Board Member Jose “Pepe” Diaz	-Aye	Board Member Kionne L. McGhee	-Nay
Board Member Rene Garcia	-Absent	Board Member Jean Monestime	-Aye
Board Member Perla T. Hantman	-Absent	Board Member Raquel A. Regalado	-Aye
Board Member Keon Hardemon	-Aye	Board Member Rebeca Sosa	-Absent
Board Member Rodney Harris	-Aye	Board Member Javier D. Souto	-Aye
Board Member Sally A. Heyman	-Aye	Board Member Micky Steinberg	-Aye
Board Member Eileen Higgins	-Aye	Board Member Francis Suarez	-Absent
Board Member Vince Lago	-Absent		

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and approved this 22nd day of July 2021.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

By Zainab Salim
Zainab Salim, Clerk
Miami-Dade TPO

