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February 27, 2017

Ms. Aileen Boucle
Executive Director
Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization
111 NW 1st Street, Suite 920
Miami, FL 33128

Dear Ms. Boucle:

Enclosed please find the Miami Downtown Development Authority ("Miami DDA") Resolution 005/2017, expressing support for the Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization ("MPO") Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit ("SMART") Plan, which was presented and approved by the Miami DDA Board of Directors on February 17, 2017.

The Miami DDA Board of Directors recognizes and commends the Miami-Dade MPO Governing Board for their leadership and unity in prioritizing a mass transit plan for the citizens of Miami-Dade County. This is truly remarkable action where for the first time in decades the Miami-Dade MPO has amended the Long-Range Transportation Plan to fully fund all six transit corridors to initiate project development for a comprehensive transit system.

This collaborative action by the Miami-Dade MPO Governing Board exemplifies a comprehensive approach to transportation and has placed us on a path of success to address congestion and transportation needs. As a community, we stand unified with the Miami-Dade MPO and urge all our transportation partners to continue working collaboratively to identify and prioritize capital improvement funds for the development of the six rapid transit corridors and express bus networks.

Sincerely,



Alyce M. Robertson
Executive Director

Attachment: Miami DDA Resolution 005/2017

RESOLUTION NO. 005 /2017

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIAMI DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (“DDA”) OF THE CITY OF MIAMI SUPPORTING THE MIAMI-DADE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION’S (“MPO”) TRANSIT EXPANSION THROUGH THE STRATEGIC MIAMI AREA RAPID TRANSIT (“SMART”) PLAN AND URGING THE MPO AND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TO PURSUE CREATIVE FUNDING SOLUTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE SMART PLAN.

WHEREAS, the Miami Downtown Development Authority’s (“DDA”) 2025 Downtown Miami Master Plan states as one of its goals the necessity to “promote transit and regional connectivity” including recommendations to “rebalance roadways toward transit, pedestrians & cyclists” and to “promote neighborhood, metropolitan and regional level transit improvements”; and

WHEREAS, the 2000 United States Census found the South Florida region (excluding the Everglades) to be the third most densely populated metropolitan area in the nation; and

WHEREAS, benefits of public transportation include reduced travel time, reduced traffic congestion, enhanced safety, improved access for workers and commuters, and the promotion of economic growth; and

WHEREAS, public transportation provides significant environmental benefits and has been cited as the best way to lower a household's carbon footprint; and

WHEREAS, there is a critical need to expand existing transit service to enhance mobility and economic needs of Miami-Dade County (“County”); and

WHEREAS, the County’s electors approved the imposition of a one-half percent surtax with the purpose of improving, among other things, mass transit within the County through the People’s Transportation Plan (“PTP”); and

WHEREAS, the PTP includes rapid transit corridors to be developed throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization (“MPO”), through its Transit Solutions Committee, received and considered input from transportation partner agencies, elected officials, and the public at large in order to designate six (6) rapid transit corridors as high priorities; and

WHEREAS, on February 16, 2016, the MPO’s Governing Board unanimously approved a policy to set as the “highest priority” for the County the advancement of six (6) Rapid Transit Corridors and transit supportive projects throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2016, the MPO’s Governing Board reviewed and unanimously endorsed the Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (“SMART”) Plan; and

WHEREAS, the SMART Plan intends to advance six (6) of the rapid transit corridors, along with a network system of bus enhanced rapid transit service, and further approves the advancement of all six (6) corridors to the Project Development and Environment phase, which will finalize the technology and cost estimates for each corridor and enable each project to move to final design and construction; and

WHEREAS, the MPO has amended the Long Range Transportation Plan to fully fund all six (6) transit corridors and these projects will have a transformative impact on public transportation options in throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, the DDA urges the MPO and the County to prioritize and advance the SMART Plan as project corridors receive funding;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of directors of the Miami Downtown Development Authority of the City of Miami, Florida.

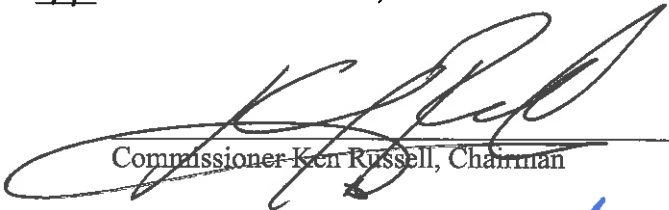
Section 1. The recitals and findings contained in the Preamble to this Resolution are adopted by reference and incorporated as if fully set forth in this Section.

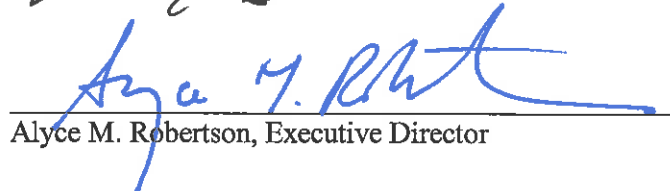
Section 2. The Board of Directors of the Miami Downtown Development Authority supports the Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization's transit expansion through the SMART plan.

Section 3. The Board of Directors of the Miami Downtown Development Authority urges the MPO and the County to pursue creative funding solutions.

Section 4. The Board of Directors of the Miami Downtown Development Authority urges the MPO and the County to prioritize and advance the SMART Plan as project corridors receive funding.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17 DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2017.


Commissioner Ken Russell, Chairman


Alyce M. Robertson, Executive Director

ATTEST:


Karry Maravilla
Secretary to the Board of Directors