

TPO RESOLUTION #18-2021

RESOLUTION SELECTING THE LOCALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE (LPA) FOR THE NORTHEAST CORRIDOR OF THE STRATEGIC MIAMI AREA RAPID TRANSIT (SMART) PLAN

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, the Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach MPOs along with the Florida Department of Transportation, South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils have coordinated to advance passenger/commuter rail service along the Florida East Coast Corridor (FECC); and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the TPO Governing Board adopted Resolution #22-13, approving a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach MPOs, Southeast Florida Transportation Council, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), South Florida Regional Planning Council and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council creating a partnership regarding potential implementation phases of the Tri-Rail Coastal Link (TRCL) passenger/commuter rail service along the FECC; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the TPO Governing Board adopted Resolution #44-13, which approved the advancement of the TRCL service into the Project Development Phase and requested FDOT to return to the TPO for the selection of the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA); and

WHEREAS, in 2014, FDOT submitted a letter to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to enter the TRCL project into Project Development phase. However, it was later agreed to defer this project phase to avoid public confusion with the All Aboard Florida project that was being implemented along the FECC; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the TPO Governing Board adopted Resolution #06-16, which established transit as the “highest priority” in Miami-Dade County. Subsequently, the Governing Board unanimously adopted Resolution #26-16, which approved the Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Plan in order to implement mass transit projects throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, the SMART Plan includes six (6) rapid transit corridors along with a network of Bus Express Rapid Transit (BERT) services; and

WHEREAS, the Northeast Corridor is one of the six (6) SMART Plan rapid corridors and is the southernmost segment of the TRCL service along the FECC; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County is now advancing the project to implement passenger/commuter rail service operations along the Northeast Corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade County project study area is located along the Florida East Coast Railway (FEC) tracks between the MiamiCentral Station, in Downtown Miami, and the proposed Aventura Station to the north, with several intermediate stations along the corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade County recommended Locally Preferred Alternative is based on past studies completed through close coordination between the parties to the 2013 MOU,

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 selects passenger/commuter rail technology along the Florida East Coast Railway (FEC) tracks between the MiamiCentral Station and the future Aventura Station as the Locally Preferred Alternative for the Northeast Corridor of the Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Plan and adopts a funding approach to implement the Northeast Corridor that assumes the following:

Identified Capital Funding Sources:

- Approximate breakdown of capital cost funding from Federal, State and Local sources:
 - Federal Participation 50%
 - State Participation 25%, subject to future FDOT allocation in the Work Program
 - Local Participation 25%, a combination from Private Sector, People’s Transportation Plan SMART Plan allocation, and other local funds

Identified Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Funding Sources:

- O&M and State of Good Repair costs are assumed to be funded from local sources. In addition, there is a proposed “Access Fee” for commuter rail to operate on the FEC line.

The adoption of the foregoing resolution was moved by Board Member Eileen Higgins. The motion was seconded by Board Member Jean Monestime, 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	-Absent
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	-Aye
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 18th day of March 2021.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

By Zainab Salim
 Zainab Salim, Clerk
 Miami-Dade TPO





TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS
Office of the Director
Overtown Transit Village
701 N.W. 1st Court • 17th Floor
Miami, Florida 33136-3922

February 16, 2021

Aileen Bouclé AICP, Executive Director
Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization
150 West Flagler Street, Suite 1900
Miami, FL 33130

**SUBJECT: Request for Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)
Governing Board Resolution to approve passenger/commuter rail
technology as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the
Northeast Corridor of the Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit
(SMART) Plan**

Dear Ms. Bouclé,

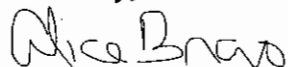
The Miami-Dade Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) will be requesting the Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Governing Board approve passenger/commuter rail technology, along the Florida East Coast Railway tracks (FEC) between the MiamiCentral Station and the proposed West Aventura Station, as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the Northeast Corridor of the Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Plan, at its upcoming February 25, 2021 meeting.

As you may be aware, Miami-Dade County is preparing to enter into the Project Development phase with the FTA Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program. The selection of the LPA is required to complete the NEPA process and the FTA Project Development phase. The capital cost for the project is estimated to be approximately \$345 million, which is inclusive of rail infrastructure improvements necessary to provide the commuter rail service, stations, Park-and-Ride facilities, rolling stock, and a maintenance facility. This cost does not include the cost to access the FEC tracks. Operations and Maintenance costs are estimated to be \$16 million per year, including the maintenance of way, signaling, communications, and dispatching.

In addition, Miami-Dade's Board of County Commissioners passed Resolution R-1088-20, which identified top station priority locations, and Resolution R-1154-20, directing the County's Mayor or County Mayor's Designee to finalize negotiations with Brightline Trains Florida for the implementation of commuter rail service, based on the County's desires to commence the operation of trains transporting passengers along the heavily used Northeast Corridor of the SMART Plan. This recommendation of LPA is made based on past studies completed through close coordination between Miami-Dade County, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA), Broward and Palm Beach Counties, and the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact our Project Manager, Dr. Jie Bian, Chief of Planning and System Development, at 786-469-5245, or via email at Jie.Bian@miamidade.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alice Bravo". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Alice N. Bravo, P.E.

Director of Transportation and Public Works