MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(16)

TO:	Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss and Members, Board of County Commissioners	**DATE:**	November 3, 2009
FROM:	R. A. Cuevas, Jr. County Attorney	**SUBJECT:**	Resolution urging the Florida Legislature to pass legislation providing a dedicated funding source for Tri-Rail through a new $2 rental car surcharge or other new dedicated funding source

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Katy Sorenson.

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/jls

MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: November 3, 2009

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr. County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(16)

Please note any items checked.

_____ **"3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised**

_____ **6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing**

_____ **4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing**

_____ **Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget**

_____ **Budget required**

_____ **Statement of fiscal impact required**

_____ **Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing**

✓ **No committee review**

_____ **Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous _____) to approve**

_____ **Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required**

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(16)
11-3-09

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO PASS LEGISLATION PROVIDING A DEDICATED FUNDING SOURCE FOR TRI-RAIL THROUGH A NEW $2 RENTAL CAR SURCHARGE OR OTHER NEW DEDICATED FUNDING SOURCE

WHEREAS, the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority operates Tri-Rail in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Public Transportation Association, Tri-Rail consistently has been one of the nation's fastest growing commuter rail systems in recent years; and

WHEREAS, Tri-Rail recently has seen double-digit growth in ridership, increasing from 7,500 daily riders in 2005 to more than 14,000 daily riders at the present time; and

WHEREAS, during 2008, Tri-Rail carried more than four (4) million passengers reflecting a 23 percent increase over 2007 ridership, and marking the first time in Tri-Rail's 20 year history that it has surpassed the four (4) million passenger benchmark in a single calendar year; and

WHEREAS, Tri-Rail and other public transportation not only offers riders an economical way to travel, but also an easy way to protect the environment by reducing air pollution, conserving gasoline and reducing road congestion; and

WHEREAS, perhaps for these reasons, Tri-Rail ridership has continued to increase even as gasoline prices have declined since their peak in the summer of 2008; and

WHEREAS, despite solid increases in ridership, the Florida Legislature has not provided Tri-Rail with a new dedicated funding source to ensure its continued success despite attempts by a coalition of Tri-Rail supporters over the last several years; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature not approving a dedicated funding source for Tri-Rail combined with the current budget situation led Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties to scale back their annual contributions to the statutorily-required $4.2 million each for the current 2009-10 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the absence of a state-approved new dedicated funding source for Tri-Rail and reduced county contributions has required Tri-Rail to impose substantial fare hikes and reductions in service to continue operating at a time when public demand for Tri-Rail services has never been higher; and

WHEREAS, the absence of a viable new state-approved dedicated funding source for Tri-Rail also may threaten to jeopardize federal stimulus funds for a high-speed intercity rail system connecting Miami, Orlando and Tampa; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the Florida Legislature approve a new dedicated funding source for Tri-Rail during the 2010 state legislative session, not only to ensure Tri-Rail's continued viability but also to draw down critically-needed federal stimulus funds for high-speed rail; and

WHEREAS, a new $2 rental car surcharge is estimated to generate approximately $50 million annually that could be used to help fund Tri-Rail,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board:

Section 1. Urges the Florida Legislature to pass legislation providing a dedicated funding source for Tri-Rail through a new $2 rental car surcharge or other new dedicated funding source.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade County State Legislative Delegation, the Mayor and Members of the Broward County Board of County Commissioners, the Chair and Members of the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners and the Chair and Governing Board of the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority.

Section 3. Directs the County's state lobbying team to advocate for the legislation set forth in Section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2010 State Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Katy Sorenson. It was offered by Commissioner , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Dennis C. Moss, Chairman
Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Vice-Chairman

Bruno A. Barreiro	Audrey M. Edmonson
Carlos A. Gimenez	Sally A. Heyman
Barbara J. Jordan	Joe A. Martinez
Dorrin D. Rolle	Natacha Seijas
Katy Sorenson	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 3rd day of November, 2009. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By:_____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

Jess M. McCarty