MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)

TO:	Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime and Members, Board of County Commissioners	**DATE:**	December 15, 2015
FROM:	Abigail Price-Williams County Attorney	**SUBJECT:**	Resolution urging the Florida Legislature and the Florida Department of Transportation to provide funding for the acquisition of the 35-mile Homestead Subdivision rail line for the development and implementation of the CSX East-West Rail project; waiving requirements of Resolution No. R-764-13 limiting number of state legislative priorities; amending Resolution No. R-911-15 to include this issue as an additional state legislative priority for the 2016 session

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Vice Chairman Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.

Abigail Price-Williams for
County Attorney

APW/smm

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MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: December 15, 2015

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)

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**

_____ **Statement of social equity required**

_____ **Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor'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)(3)
12-15-15

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE AND THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE 35-MILE HOMESTEAD SUBDIVISION RAIL LINE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CSX EAST-WEST RAIL PROJECT; WAIVING REQUIREMENTS OF RESOLUTION NO. R-764-13 LIMITING NUMBER OF STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES; AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. R-911-15 TO INCLUDE THIS ISSUE AS AN ADDITIONAL STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY FOR THE 2016 SESSION

WHEREAS, according to a report released by the American Public Transportation Association, Americans took 10.8 billion trips on public transportation in 2014, which is the highest annual public transit ridership number in 58 years; and

WHEREAS, the report revealed that in Miami-Dade County, ridership on heavy rail systems such as Metrorail increased by 2.1 percent from 2013 to 2014; and

WHEREAS, the President of the American Public Transportation Association noted that despite the recent decline in gas prices, public transit ridership has increased, and across the nation more people are demanding an increase in public transit services; and

WHEREAS, additionally, nearly 60 percent of the trips taken on public transportation are for work commutes; and

WHEREAS, South Florida, however, has consistently ranked as one of the most heavily congested regions in the country for automobile traffic, and in 2010 was ranked as the worst east coast metropolitan area for traffic; and

WHEREAS, in addition, according to a 2015 study by the American Highway Users Alliance, three of the nation's worst traffic bottlenecks are in Miami-Dade County on the Dolphin and Palmetto Expressways; and

WHEREAS, the Dolphin Expressway in particular, as the County's only complete east-west throughway, is relied upon heavily by commuters and as such is often extremely congested around and during rush hour; and

WHEREAS, adding more cars to the already gridlocked roads in Miami-Dade County is an unsustainable solution, both environmentally and economically, to the County's growing transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, an east-west commuter rail along the Dolphin Expressway would likely help alleviate the County's serious traffic congestion and improve transportation services in this area; and

WHEREAS, in December 2014, the Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization requested a feasibility study on the proposed implementation of a passenger rail service along 11 miles of existing freight track owned by CSX Corporation ("CSX") extending from Miami International Airport west along the Dolphin Expressway (SR 836) to NW 137th Avenue and beyond (the "CSX East-West Rail"); and

WHEREAS, the CSX East-West Rail would connect to the Miami Intermodal Center near the Miami International Airport, where it would offer additional connectivity to the airport, Metrorail, Tri-Rail, Amtrak, Metrobus routes, and other transportation services; and

WHEREAS, CSX, a private rail company, has indicated it would be willing to sell to the Florida Department of Transportation ("FDOT") the 11 miles of east-west track where the CSX East-West Rail would operate, but only if FDOT would also agree to purchase 24 miles of additional CSX-owned track extending south to Homestead, with the entire 35-mile stretch of track known as the "Homestead Subdivision"; and

WHEREAS, Tri-Rail, the county and state-funded commuter line that runs between Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties, also runs on former CSX track now owned by the state; and

WHEREAS, using existing freight tracks for passenger rail is a fiscally conservative way to expand mass transit and alleviate traffic congestion; and

WHEREAS, this Board believes that the CSX East-West Rail presents a promising and cost-effective solution to help alleviate traffic congestion and improve transportation services in Miami-Dade County, and urges the Florida Legislature and the Florida Department of Transportation to provide funding for the acquisition of the Homestead Subdivision rail line for the development and implementation of the CSX East-West Rail project,

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 and the Florida Department of Transportation to provide funding for the acquisition from CSX of the 35-mile Homestead Subdivision rail line for the development and implementation of the CSX East-West Rail project.

Section 2. Waives requirements of Resolution No. R-764-13 and amends Resolution No. R-911-15 to include this issue as an additional state legislative priority for the 2016 session.

Section 3. 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 State Legislative Delegation, the Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation, and the President and Executive Director of the Miami-Dade County League of Cities.

Section 4. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the appropriation described in Section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2016 state legislative package to include this issue as a priority.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Vice Chairman Esteban L. Bovo, Jr. 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:

Jean Monestime, Chairman
Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Vice Chairman

Bruno A. Barreiro	Daniella Levine Cava
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	Audrey M. Edmonson
Sally A. Heyman	Barbara J. Jordan
Dennis C. Moss	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	Xavier L. Suarez
Juan C. Zapata	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 15th day of December, 2015. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this Resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the 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. MJM

Michael J. Mastrucci