

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)


TO: Honorable Chairman Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.
and Members, Board of County Commissioners


DATE: May 2, 2017

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution opposing the White House's proposed Fiscal Year 2018 Budget cuts and eligibility limitations to the Federal Transit Administration's Capital Investment Grant Program for New Starts projects; and urging President Donald Trump, the United States Congress, and the United States Department of Transportation to preserve the Capital Investment Grant Program for New Starts projects for Fiscal Year 2018 and subsequent Fiscal Years at historical average yearly appropriations, and to preserve grant eligibility beyond just those jurisdictions with existing full funding agreements

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava.



Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney 

APW/smm



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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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)
5-2-17

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE WHITE HOUSE'S PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2018 BUDGET CUTS AND ELIGIBILITY LIMITATIONS TO THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION'S CAPITAL INVESTMENT GRANT PROGRAM FOR NEW STARTS PROJECTS; AND URGING PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP, THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PRESERVE THE CAPITAL INVESTMENT GRANT PROGRAM FOR NEW STARTS PROJECTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018 AND SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEARS AT HISTORICAL AVERAGE YEARLY APPROPRIATIONS, AND TO PRESERVE GRANT ELIGIBILITY BEYOND JUST THOSE JURISDICTIONS WITH EXISTING FULL FUNDING AGREEMENTS

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration's Capital Investment Grant ("CIG") program provides funding for fixed guideway investments such as new and expanded rapid rail, commuter rail, light rail, streetcars, bus rapid transit, and ferries, as well as corridor-based bus rapid transit investments that emulate the features of rail; and

WHEREAS, New Starts projects are a category of CIG eligible projects; and

WHEREAS, New Starts projects are defined as new fixed guideway projects or extensions to existing fixed guideway systems with a total estimated capital cost of \$300 million or more, or that are seeking \$100 million or more in CIG program funds; and

WHEREAS, the cost of design and construction of new fixed-guideways or extensions to fixed guideways (projects that operate on a separate right-of-way exclusively for public transportation, or that include a rail or a catenary system) are eligible for New Starts funding; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2017, the White House released the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Blueprint (“Budget”); and

WHEREAS, the proposed Budget would cut the United States Department of Transportation’s budget by \$2.4 billion, or 13 percent, to \$16.2 billion; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Budget would also limit future New Starts funding to projects with already existing full funding grant agreements; and

WHEREAS, no new mass transit projects would be eligible for New Starts funding; and

WHEREAS, funding the development of transit infrastructure is critical to improving the chronic traffic congestion in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, the proposed budget cuts, if adopted could jeopardize the Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (“SMART”) Plan, an initiative to advance six rapid transit corridors in order to implement critical mass transit projects in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to express the importance of investing in mass transit projects in Miami-Dade County and throughout the country and urges that New Starts funding projects be persevered and not limited to local governments with existing full funding agreements as proposed,

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

Section 1. Approves the foregoing recitals, which are incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2. Opposes the White House’s proposed Fiscal Year 2018 Budget cuts and eligibility limitations to the Federal Transit Administration’s Capital Investment Grant Program for New Starts projects.

Section 3. Urges President Donald Trump, the United States Congress, and the United States Department of Transportation to preserve the Capital Investment Grant Program for New Starts projects for Fiscal Year 2018 and subsequent Fiscal Years at historical average yearly appropriations, and to preserve grant eligibility beyond just those jurisdictions with existing full funding agreements.

Section 4. Directs the Clerk of this Board to send a certified copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Florida Congressional Delegation, the United States Secretary of Transportation, and the Executive Director of the Federal Transit Administration.

Section 5. Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the actions set forth in Sections 2 and 3 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2017 Federal Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava. 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:

Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Chairman	
Audrey M. Edmonson, Vice Chairwoman	
Bruno A. Barreiro	Daniella Levine Cava
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	Sally A. Heyman
Barbara J. Jordan	Joe A. Martinez
Jean Monestime	Dennis C. Moss
Rebeca Sosa	Sen. Javier D. Souto
Xavier L. Suarez	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 2nd day of May, 2017. 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.



Annery Pulgar Alfonso