

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A) (16)

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

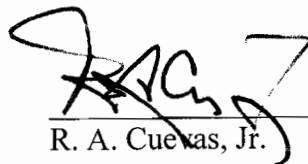
DATE: March 3, 2009

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging to rethink
the federal government's
approach to funding transit
and facilitating the expansion
of mass transit in the interest of
the environment and economic
efficiency

Resolution No. R-237-09

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Chairman Dennis C. Moss, and Co-Sponsor Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/up



MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

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

Please note any items checked.

- "4-Day Rule" ("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
- Bid waiver requiring County Manager's written recommendation
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing
- Housekeeping item (no policy decision required)
- No committee review

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-237-09

RESOLUTION URGING THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS TO RETHINK THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH TO FUNDING TRANSIT AND TAKE A NEW APPROACH THAT HAS THE GOAL OF FACILITATING THE EXPANSION OF MASS TRANSIT IN THE INTEREST OF THE ENVIRONMENT, IMPROVED ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY THROUGH REDUCED TRAFFIC CONGESTION, AND LOWER RELIANCE ON FOREIGN OIL

WHEREAS, part of the Obama Administration's economic stimulus package consists of major investments in "green infrastructure", including investment in a nationwide network that could deliver renewable energy across the U.S. on a truly national electric grid; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration and Congress should take a similarly visionary and forward-looking approach to mass transit; and

WHEREAS, since 1998, federal law has prohibited transit systems in urbanized areas from using federal formula transit funds for operating expenses; and

WHEREAS, this prohibition presents an almost insurmountable obstacle to any substantial expansion of urban transit systems, despite increases in ridership and renewed interest among the public in using mass transit; and

WHEREAS, a new, innovative and forward-looking approach to transit is needed at the federal level, similar to the approach the Obama Administration is taking with "green infrastructure" and a national renewable energy grid; and

WHEREAS, such a new approach to federal transit funding should encourage mass transit systems to expand, and encourage people to use mass transit, rather than cars and trucks; and

WHEREAS, a new national commitment to expanding transit would improve the environment, reduce traffic congestion, recover economic value currently lost as a result of traffic congestion, and reduce the U.S. dependency on fossil fuels and foreign oil; and

WHEREAS, Congress is planning to reauthorize the federal surface transportation spending act, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) in 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration and Congress should take advantage of the 2009 reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU to rethink the federal government's overall approach to transit funding and take a new approach that provides the federal funding commitment necessary to encourage transit systems to expand and to facilitate increased use of transit systems,

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

Section 1. Urges the Obama Administration and Congress to rethink the federal government's approach to transit funding and take a new approach that has the goal of facilitating the expansion of mass transit in the interest of the environment, improved economic efficiency through reduced traffic congestion and lower reliance on foreign oil.

Section 2. Urges Congress, as a key part of taking a new approach to transit funding, to lift the current prohibition on using federal formula transit funding for operations to facilitate the expansion of mass transit.

Section 3. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation and the Presiding Officer and Members of the boards of transit agencies that serve urbanized areas with populations of 200,000 or more.

Section 4. Directs the County's federal lobbying team to advocate for the legislation set forth in Sections 1 and 2 above, and authorizes and directs that the 2009 Federal Legislative Package be amended to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Chairman Dennis C. Moss, and the Co-Sponsor is Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan. It was offered by Commissioner **Jose "Pepe" Diaz** who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

	Dennis C. Moss, Chairman	aye	
	Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Vice-Chairman	aye	
Bruno A. Barreiro	aye	Audrey M. Edmonson	aye
Carlos A. Gimenez	aye	Sally A. Heyman	aye
Barbara J. Jordan	aye	Joe A. Martinez	absent
Dorrin D. Rolle	aye	Natacha Seijas	aye
Katy Sorenson	aye	Rebeca Sosa	absent
Sen. Javier D. Souto	absent		

The Chairman thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 3rd day of March, 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: **Kay Sullivan**
Deputy Clerk



Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JMM", is written over a horizontal line.

Jess M. McCarty