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CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(14)

**TO:** Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** December 16, 2014

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

**SUBJECT:** Resolution urging the Florida Legislature to provide funding for the acquisition and improvement of the proposed Ludlam Trail corridor pursuant to the Florida Water and Land Conservation Initiative, Florida Constitutional Amendment 1; preliminarily identifying this issue as a critical County priority for the 2015 session
Resolution No. R-1130-14

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa.

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/cp

# MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

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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**

_____ **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)(14)
12-16-14

RESOLUTION NO. R-1130-14

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE ACQUISITION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE PROPOSED LUDLAM TRAIL CORRIDOR PURSUANT TO THE FLORIDA WATER AND LAND CONSERVATION INITIATIVE, FLORIDA CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 1; PRELIMINARILY IDENTIFYING THIS ISSUE AS A CRITICAL COUNTY PRIORITY FOR THE 2015 SESSION

**WHEREAS**, on November 4, 2014, Florida voters overwhelmingly approved Florida Constitutional Amendment 1, the Florida Water and Land Conservation Initiative, which authorizes no less than 33 percent of net revenues collected from the existing excise tax on real estate documents to be used to acquire, restore, and manage conservation and recreation lands throughout Florida for a period of 20 years; and

**WHEREAS,** the revenues collected pursuant to this amendment may be used to finance the acquisition and improvement of land and outdoor recreation areas, including recreational trails, parks, and urban open space; and

**WHEREAS,** Miami-Dade County has developed a Countywide Parks and Open Space System Master Plan which contains a 50-year guide to future park and trail development, including an emphasis on offering transportation alternatives, reducing traffic congestion, and creating new recreation opportunities; and

**WHEREAS,** Miami-Dade County commissioned the *Miami-Dade County Trail Design Guidelines and Standards: Ludlam Trail Case Study* to investigate the design and implementation of the Ludlam Trail (the "trail"), a 6.2-mile linear track of land stretching

from Miami International Airport at its northern terminus to Downtown Kendall at its southernmost point; and

**WHEREAS,** the land comprising the 6.2-mile trail, including right-of-ways, is currently owned by Florida East Coast Industries, LLC ("FECI"); and

**WHEREAS,** the County has determined that the trail can connect more than 32,000 people to five greenways, five schools, four parks, and two transit hubs; and

**WHEREAS,** the County has determined that the trail can provide a safe passageway for cyclists and pedestrians, including 3,700 students, to travel to schools, work, and shopping locations; and

**WHEREAS,** the County also has determined that the trail may reduce 860,000 vehicle trips annually from Miami-Dade County streets; and

**WHEREAS,** the County has determined that the trail can provide approximately 60 acres of green space, connections to four existing parks, reduce carbon dioxide emissions by nearly 10,000 tons over 25 years, increase local property values, and create an economic impact of more than $540 million over a 25-year period; and

**WHEREAS,** the County has determined that the trail helps to achieve the goals stated within the Miami-Dade County Transportation Plan, the Miami-Dade County Bike and Pedestrian Plan, and the Miami-Dade County Parks and Open Space System Master Plan by providing increased transportation and recreation options for County residents; and

**WHEREAS,** the purpose of the Florida Water and Land Conservation Initiative amendment is to fund projects such as the Ludlam Trail; and

**WHEREAS,** the revenues collected pursuant to Amendment 1 may be earmarked to help offset the costs of acquiring and improving the land from FECI; and

**WHEREAS,** this Board has long supported projects geared towards enhancing the livelihood of Miami-Dade County citizens while improving the environmental footprint and economic impact of our County,

**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 provide funding for the acquisition and improvement of the proposed Ludlam Trail corridor pursuant to the Florida Water and Land Conservation Initiative, Florida Constitutional Amendment 1.

**Section 2**. Preliminarily identifies the issue set forth in Section 1 above as a critical County priority for the 2015 state legislative session.

**Section 3**. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, and the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation.

**Section 4**. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the issues raised in Section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2015 State Legislative Package to include this item and to preliminarily identify this item as a critical priority when the Board determines priorities for the 2015 session as provided in Resolution No. R-764-13.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa. It was offered by Commissioner **Xavier L. Suarez**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Rebeca Sosa, Chairwoman **aye**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bruno A. Barreiro | **aye** | Esteban L. Bovo, Jr. | **absent** |
| Daniella Levine Cava | **aye** | Jose "Pepe" Diaz | **absent** |
| Audrey M. Edmonson | **aye** | Sally A. Heyman | **aye** |
| Barbara J. Jordan | **aye** | Jean Monestime | **aye** |
| Dennis C. Moss | **aye** | Sen. Javier D. Souto | **absent** |
| Xavier L. Suarez | **aye** | Juan C. Zapata | **absent** |

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 16th day of December, 2014. 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: Christopher Agrippa
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

Javier Zapata