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

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(7)

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

DATE: January 20, 2016

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the Mayor to, in conjunction with the Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization, conduct a study to determine what steps must be taken to ensure that the Underline is eligible for State funding as part of the SunTrail program

Resolution No. R-58-16

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz.

Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

APW/smm

MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: January 20, 2016

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(7)

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)(7)
1-20-16

RESOLUTION NO. R-58-16

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE MAYOR OR MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MIAMI-DADE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION, CONDUCT A STUDY TO DETERMINE WHAT STEPS MUST BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT THE UNDERLINE IS ELIGIBLE FOR STATE FUNDING AS PART OF THE SUNTRAIL PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Underline is part of the 2008 Miami-Dade County Parks and Open Spaces System Master Plan, and serves as the spine of the County's regional framework for building a system of parks, public spaces, natural and cultural areas connected by greenways, waterways, trails and complete streets designated as linear parks in order to create a healthier, greener and a more economically vibrant place to live, work and play; and

WHEREAS, in the report Dangerous by Design (2011, 2014), Miami-Dade County was reported as ranking first in Florida and fourth in the country in pedestrian fatalities and serious injuries; and

WHEREAS, over 80 percent of Miamians don't bike because it is perceived to be dangerous; and

WHEREAS, our current infrastructure and support of bicyclists is insufficient in relationship to cities that have enhanced their biking infrastructure and therefore increased bicyclists; and

WHEREAS, projects like the Underline will help make a safer route for pedestrians and cyclists by improving street intersections and creating separated paths for pedestrians and cyclists; and

WHEREAS, there are only a few available contiguous corridors in the County that can provide a long, safe, off-road place to bike and walk, and this is one of them; it is the only urban trail directly connected to transit; and

WHEREAS, the Underline endeavors to transform various lands below the County's elevated Metrorail system into a contiguous, 10-mile linear park and urban trail; and

WHEREAS, the Underline could connect communities, improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety, provide an accessible space for exercise, attract development along the trail's path, and generate a positive economic impact; and

WHEREAS, the Underline seeks to make the County a safer and more enjoyable place for bicyclists, motorists, and pedestrians; and

WHEREAS, the Underline land is primarily Metrorail right-of-way, publicly owned, and is thus available for immediate development; and

WHEREAS, a master plan for the Underline has been developed, and the project is "shovel ready"; and

WHEREAS, construction is set to begin in 2016 on the project's first "demonstration" phase, a three-quarter-mile-long stretch around the Brickell Metrorail Station that will be laden with distinctive features, including picnic pockets, a dog park, an outdoor gym, and a playground shaded by a replenished canopy of oaks and other hardwood trees; and

WHEREAS, this Board finds that the Underline is a mobility and transportation solution; and

WHEREAS, on June 23, 2015, Governor Scott vetoed $2 million in funding for the Underline in the 2015-16 state budget; and

WHEREAS, during the recent 2015 Special Session A, the Florida Legislature enacted Chapter No. 2015-22B Laws of Florida (Senate Bill 2514A), which established the Florida Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail ("SunTrail") network and provided for the annually recurring allocation of $25 million to fund SunTrail projects; and

WHEREAS, on October 6, 2015, pursuant to Resolution No. R-911-15, this Board adopted as one of its state legislative priorities for the 2016 session, Resolution No. R-617-15, urging the Florida Department of Transportation to include the Underline, the Ludlam Trail, the Biscayne-Everglades Greenway and Black Creek Trail in the SunTrail network, as well as to provide funding for said trails; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that to receive state funding as part of the SunTrail program, a project must be designated by a metropolitan planning organization as a priority trail, included in the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) work plan, and included in the Florida Greenways & Trails Land Trails Priority Map; and

WHEREAS, it is this Board's desire that funding for the Underline is secured so the benefits of this project will be enjoyed by all,

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

Section 1. Directs the Mayor or Mayor's designee to collaborate with the Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization in conducting a study to determine what steps must be taken to ensure that the Underline is eligible for state funding as part of the SunTrail program. At a minimum, the study shall identify which anticipated criteria for SunTrail funding the Underline meets, and, for those criteria the Underline does not currently meet, provide recommendations as to how the Underline can meet such criteria, including but not limited to (1)

how the Underline can be designated a Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization priority; (2) how the Underline can be included in the FDOT work plan; (3) and how the Underline can be included in the Florida Greenways & Trails Land Trails Priority Map.

Section 2. Directs the Mayor or Mayor's designee to provide a written report detailing the findings, results and recommendations of the study to this Board within 30 days of the effective date of this resolution and place the completed report on an agenda of the Board pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65.

Section 3. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz. It was offered by Commissioner **José "Pepe" Diaz**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Sally A. Heyman** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

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

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 20th day of January, 2016. 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.

Matthew Papkin