

Memorandum



Date: September 22, 2020

Agenda Item No. 2(B)(4)
October 20, 2020

To: Honorable Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carlos A. Gimenez", written over the name in the "From" field.

Subject: Memorandum of Understanding with Brightline – Northeast Corridor Commuter Rail Service

This memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) in response to Resolution R-558-20 adopted by the Board of County Commissioners (Board) on June 2, 2020 to negotiate an agreement for providing commuter rail service on the Northeast Corridor of the Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Plan between Brightline Trains LLC (Brightline) and Miami-Dade County and to provide an update to the Board within 90 days if negotiations are not successful.

Operating Agreement

Since June, Miami-Dade County and Brightline have been negotiating the terms for a commuter rail service that would be operated by Brightline on behalf of Miami-Dade County. The proposed operating plan is for commuter rail operating 7 days a week, from 5 a.m. to midnight, with a 30-minute headway during 7 hours of peak service and a 60-minute headway off-peak. The terms that are being negotiated include:

- the Capital Cost for Infrastructure (including trains);
- the Land Value Access Fee (fee for accessing the FEC Rail Right-of-Way);
- the annual cost of Operations and Maintenance for the proposed operating plan; and
- shared costs based on number of commuter trains (maintenance of track, signaling, communications, station maintenance and dispatching).

Miami-Dade County and Brightline have worked cooperatively on conducting two independent appraisals to support the Land Value Access Fee and are working to finalize ridership models that estimate the number of daily boardings. Both parties are working toward finalizing negotiations with the intent to present an agreement for the Board's consideration at the October 20, 2020 meeting.

Stations

Various station sites have been contemplated for the corridor. A resolution will be presented at the October 6, 2020 Board meeting to identify the top three station priorities as North Miami/North Miami Beach (vicinity of NE 151st Street), El Portal (vicinity of NW 79th Street) and the Design District (NE 39th Street), and to direct the issuance of a Request for Information (RFI) to determine interest in private development of the priority stations. The County is currently developing such a solicitation to be issued before the end of October for private developers interested in developing stations and Transit Oriented Developments along the corridor (including contributions of land and funding towards station capital costs and operating and maintenance expenses for transit stations and parking facilities) so that the County may select station sites that meet Brightline operating requirements and provide the best opportunity for the County to attract ridership.

Pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65, this memorandum will be placed on the next available Board Meeting. If additional information is required, please contact Alice N. Bravo, P.E., Director, DTPW, at (786) 469-5406.

- c: Abigail Price-Williams, County Attorney
Geri Bonzon-Keenan, Assistant County Attorney
Jennifer Moon, Deputy Mayor/Budget Director
Office of the Mayor Senior Staff
Aileen Bouclé, Executive Director, Transportation Planning Organization
Javier A. Betancourt, Executive Director, Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust
Melissa Adames, Director, Clerk of the Board
Eugene Love, Agenda Coordinator