

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(17)

TO: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodríguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: December 3, 2024

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the County Mayor (1) to examine the feasibility of implementing alternative modes of transportation, including passenger rail on existing or future railroad corridors, in lieu of bus rapid transit for the East-West Corridor of the Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Program; (2) to take all necessary actions in order to provide the Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) with all required information for the Governing Board of the TPO to consider revising the locally preferred alternative for the East-West Corridor; and (3) to prepare a report

Resolution No. R-1103-24

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Chairman Anthony Rodríguez.


Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/ks



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodríguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: December 3, 2024

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(17)

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 present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, or CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c)(2) ____ 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)(17)
12-3-24

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-1103-24

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE (1) TO EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTING ALTERNATIVE MODES OF TRANSPORTATION, INCLUDING PASSENGER RAIL ON EXISTING OR FUTURE RAILROAD CORRIDORS, IN LIEU OF BUS RAPID TRANSIT FOR THE EAST-WEST CORRIDOR OF THE STRATEGIC MIAMI AREA RAPID TRANSIT (SMART) PROGRAM; (2) TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (TPO) WITH ALL REQUIRED INFORMATION FOR THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE TPO TO CONSIDER REVISING THE LOCALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR THE EAST-WEST CORRIDOR; AND (3) TO PREPARE A REPORT

WHEREAS, the East-West Corridor is one of the six rapid transit corridors of the Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Program; and

WHEREAS, the East-West Corridor runs generally along SR 836/Dolphin Expressway from the Miami Intermodal Center (MIC) adjacent to the Miami International Airport (MIA) to the Tamiami Terminal; and

WHEREAS, on October 22, 2020, the Governing Board of the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) adopted Resolution #38-2020 which selected bus rapid transit (BRT) as the locally preferred alternative (LPA) for the East-West Corridor; and

WHEREAS, there are railroad tracks generally along the East-West Corridor that could potentially be utilized to operate passenger rail service in addition to any existing freight operations; and

WHEREAS, adding passenger rail service to existing railroad corridors could provide an innovative and potentially cost saving solution to increasing mass transit options in the County; and

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2023 the TPO Governing Board adopted a motion urging the County's Department of Transportation and Public Works to provide information for the Governing Board's reconsideration of the LPA for the East-West Corridor; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to reevaluate the feasibility of operating passenger rail as the mode for the East-West Corridor and wishes to take the necessary steps to provide the TPO with the relevant information for it to reconsider the LPA for the East-West Corridor,

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

Section 1. The foregoing recitals are approved and are incorporated herein.

Section 2. This Board directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to examine the feasibility of implementing alternative modes of transportation in lieu of BRT for the East-West Corridor of the SMART Program. Such alternative modes of transportation shall include, but not be limited to passenger rail on existing or future railroad corridors along the East-West Corridor.

Section 3. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee is further directed to take all necessary actions in order to provide the TPO with all required information for the Governing Board of the TPO to consider revising the LPA for the East-West Corridor to an alternative mode of transportation in lieu of BRT, including but not limited to passenger rail along existing or future railroad corridors.

Section 4. Further directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to prepare a written report regarding the directives in sections 2 and 3 above within 90 days of the effective date of this resolution. The completed report shall be placed on an agenda of the full Board without committee review pursuant to rule 5.06(j) of the Board's Rules of Procedure.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Chairman Anthony Rodríguez. It was offered by Commissioner **Kevin Marino Cabrera** , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Kionne L. McGhee** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Anthony Rodríguez, Chairman	aye		
Kionne L. McGhee, Vice Chairman	aye		
Marleine Bastien	aye	Juan Carlos Bermudez	aye
Kevin Marino Cabrera	aye	Sen. René García	absent
Oliver G. Gilbert, III	aye	Roberto J. Gonzalez	aye
Keon Hardemon	absent	Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye
Eileen Higgins	absent	Raquel A. Regalado	aye
Micky Steinberg	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 3rd day of December, 2024. 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

JUAN FERNANDEZ-BARQUIN, CLERK

By: Basia Pruna
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Annery Pulgar Alfonso", written over a horizontal line.

Annery Pulgar Alfonso