

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(15)

TO: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: November 7, 2023

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida
Legislature to appropriate
funding to facilitate the
continued development of The
Underline

Resolution No. R-1021-23

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/jp



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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County Attorney

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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
- ☐ 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)(15)
11-7-23

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-1021-23

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO
APPROPRIATE FUNDING TO FACILITATE THE
CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNDERLINE

WHEREAS, The Underline endeavors to transform 10 miles of County-owned land below the Metrorail starting from the Miami River to Dadeland South Metrorail station and serves as the spine of the County's regional framework for developing a trail network; and

WHEREAS, as the one of the largest multi-modal transportation connectors in the County, The Underline connects eight Metrorail transit stations and provides enhanced access to all County residents to public transit; and

WHEREAS, the first phase of construction of The Underline was completed in 2021, and resulted in a walkable, bikeable, transit-related development which enhanced connectivity and provided safe, attractive pedestrian access linking neighborhoods and destinations with transit, bicycle, and pedestrian trails from SW 7 Street, just south of the Miami River Greenway connection, to SW 13 Street; and

WHEREAS, the second phase of construction of The Underline is a 2.14-mile segment that connects SW 13th Street to SW 19th Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the second phase of The Underline will feature the project's first of many bioswales, green infrastructure, and below-ground drainage that will help with stormwater flooding and runoff; and

WHEREAS, the second phase of The Underline will include multiple amenities and notable features such as the Hammock Playground, the Vizcaya Station Plaza, the Rain Garden

resting areas, oolitic limestone boulders, hydration stations, a bike repair station at Vizcaya Metrorail station, public art, free WiFi service at the Vizcaya and Simpson Park Playground areas, and over 100,000 native plants and trees to attract butterflies, bees, and birds; and

WHEREAS, the second phase of The Underline is currently under construction and the segment is scheduled to open later in 2023; and

WHEREAS, the third phase of The Underline is a 7.36-mile segment that connects SW 19th Ave to its terminus at the Dadeland South Metrorail station Park and Ride Facility; and

WHEREAS, the third phase of construction of The Underline broke ground on September 27, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the third phase of The Underline will feature numerous bioswales, microforests, green infrastructure, and below-ground drainage that will help with stormwater flooding and runoff; and

WHEREAS, the third phase of The Underline will also include numerous amenities and notable features such as resting areas, oolitic limestone boulders, hydration stations, bike repair stations, public art, free WiFi service at certain areas, and over 400,000 native plants and trees to attract butterflies, bees and birds; and

WHEREAS, when fully funded and developed, The Underline will result in economic development abutting the 10-mile span of The Underline, which serves on average 400,000 residents within a 10-minute walk at any given point of The Underline, benefitting the County, the Cities of Miami, Coral Gables, and South Miami, and their residents by increasing economic activity, adjacent property values, and tax receipts; and

WHEREAS, the continued development of The Underline requires additional funding in order to successfully complete all phases of the project,

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 appropriate funding to facilitate the continued development of The Underline.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker, and the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the action described in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2024 State Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado. It was offered by Commissioner **Danielle Cohen Higgins** , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Raquel A. Regalado** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

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

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 7th day of November, 2023. 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 "CJF", written over a horizontal line.

Christian Fernandez-Andes