

**PROPOSED**

## RESOLUTION NO.

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2 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD  
3 COUNTY, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE DESIGNATION OF “LOCALLY PREFERRED  
4 ALTERNATIVE” TO CERTAIN PROPOSED ELEMENTS OF A COMMUTER RAIL  
5 PUBLIC TRANSIT PROJECT LOCATED ON THE FLORIDA EAST COAST RAILWAY  
6 CORRIDOR; CONFIRMING INDEPENDENT UTILITY AND LOGICAL TERMINI OF THE  
7 PROJECT; TRANSFERRING \$15,500,000 OF THE FY2021-22 CAPITAL BUDGET  
8 APPROPRIATION FOR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUTER RAIL TO  
9 THE PROJECT FOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY  
10 COSTS; DIRECTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO PURSUE GRANT FUNDING;  
11 AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

12  
13 WHEREAS, there is a critical need to develop adequate transit services for the  
14 mobility needs of residents, businesses, and visitors in Broward County and the broader  
15 Southeast Florida region;

16 WHEREAS, in 1995 a collaboration of freight operators and the Florida  
17 Department of Transportation (“FDOT”) completed the “Rail Rationalization Study,”  
18 recommending long-term planning for both the South Florida Rail Corridor and the Florida  
19 East Coast Railway (“FEC”) Corridor, including double tracking the SFRC, concurrent  
20 public investment in the FEC Corridor, and consideration of implementing passenger rail  
21 service within the FEC Corridor;

22 WHEREAS, the South Florida East Coast Corridor Study, later referred to as the  
23 Tri-Rail Coastal Link Study (initiated in 2004), explored the feasibility of an 85-mile Tri-  
24 County commuter rail transit system to provide traffic relief, increased mobility, and  
25 greater access to the State’s Strategic Intermodal System facilities;

26 WHEREAS, the provision of commuter rail service in Broward County is consistent  
27 with the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization’s (“MPO’s”) 2045 Metropolitan  
28 Transportation Plan, which identifies a commuter rail project on the FEC Corridor  
29 (“Coastal Link”) as an element of a “Transit Needs” list;

30 WHEREAS, on January 28, 2021, Broward County and the Florida Department of  
31 Transportation (“FDOT”) executed a Memorandum of Understanding, formalizing a  
32 partnership for a Project Development and Environmental Study (“PD&E Study”) and  
33 activities aimed at advancing commuter rail service on the FEC rail corridor in Broward  
34 County;

35 WHEREAS, as part of the PD&E Study, FDOT created a project website and  
36 facilitated a number of meetings and workshops to ensure public access to information,  
37 participation, and feedback, including Alternatives Public Workshops held in January of  
38 2022, and over 100 meetings with stakeholders and potentially affected parties;

39 WHEREAS, on October 21, 2021, Miami-Dade County received approval from the  
40 Federal Transit Administration (“FTA”) to enter the project development phase for a  
41 project along the FEC rail corridor, the completion of which would allow a commuter rail  
42 project in Broward County to connect and become part of a strategic regional  
43 transportation initiative extending from Broward to downtown Miami;

44 WHEREAS, on June 16, 2022, the Board of County Commissioners of Broward  
45 County, Florida (“Board”), held a public workshop to review commuter rail study results  
46 performed to date, including options for phasing a commuter rail project and the  
47 designation of a locally preferred alternative for such a project to allow expeditious  
48 application to state and federal grant funding sources, timely coordination with Miami-  
49 Dade County, and expedited start-up of operations; and

50 WHEREAS, the Board finds that a timely commuter rail project would benefit  
51 Broward County residents and promote enhanced mobility, economic growth, affordable  
52 housing development, lower vehicle emissions, and higher overall quality of life, and  
53 thereby serve a public purpose, NOW, THEREFORE,

54 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
55 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

56 Section 1. Designation of Locally Preferred Alternative for Elements of  
57 Commuter Rail Project. The Board hereby approves the following elements as the locally  
58 preferred alternative (“LPA”) for a Broward Commuter Rail-South project (the “Project”):

- 59 • Alignment: Florida East Coast Railway Corridor, beginning at the planned  
60 passenger train station in the City of Aventura, Florida, to a terminus located south  
61 of Davie Boulevard in the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida.
- 62 • Mode: Commuter Rail Transit.
- 63 • Technology: Push-pull locomotive.
- 64 • Recommended Station Locations:
  - 65 ○ at or near Hollywood, north of Hollywood Boulevard;
  - 66 ○ at or near Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport; and

67           ○ at or near SW 15th and 17th Streets near the Broward Health Medical  
68           Center.

69           Section 2. Utility and Logical Termini. The Board of County Commissioners  
70 finds that the Project has independent utility and logical termini. Service will extend  
71 approximately 11.5 miles between the south terminus proposed at the Aventura Station  
72 (connecting to Miami-Dade's proposed commuter rail project on the FEC corridor), and  
73 the north terminus near the Broward Medical Health Center (SW 15th/17th Street) station,  
74 which would serve the neighborhoods and commercial areas around the medical center  
75 campus and enable regional rail access to the Broward County Convention Center and  
76 Port Everglades.

77           Section 3. Authorized Appropriation and Disbursement. Of the FY2021-22  
78 Capital Budget appropriation for Regional Transportation adopted by the Board of County  
79 Commissioners through Resolution No. 2021-601 on September 21, 2021, \$13,150,000  
80 is transferred to the Project for engineering, design, and other project development and  
81 environmental study tasks consistent with state and federal funding requirements. This  
82 appropriation is in addition to \$2,350,000 authorized by the Board of County  
83 Commissioners on December 14, 2021, and the balance of that appropriation is also  
84 transferred to the Project for the same purposes.

85           Section 4. Grant Funding. The Board of County Commissioners directs County  
86 Administrator to pursue grant funding from federal and state government sources to  
87 support the Project, and to coordinate with the Broward MPO and other organizations as  
88 appropriate in seeking such grant funding.

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