

**ADDITIONAL MATERIAL
REGULAR MEETING**

APRIL 22, 2025

**SUBMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT**

PROPOSED

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE DESIGNATION OF “LOCALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE” TO CERTAIN PROPOSED ELEMENTS OF A COMMUTER RAIL PUBLIC TRANSIT PROJECT LOCATED ON THE FLORIDA EAST COAST RAILWAY CORRIDOR FROM THE NORTHERNMOST STATION OF THE BROWARD COMMUTER RAIL SOUTH PROJECT TO A NORTHERN TERMINUS FOR A COMMUTER RAIL PROJECT IN NORTHERN BROWARD COUNTY (“BCR-NORTH”); CONFIRMING INDEPENDENT UTILITY AND LOGICAL TERMINI OF THE PROJECT; TRANSFERRING \$20,000,000 OF TRANSPORTATION SURTAX FUNDING FROM THE FY2025-26 CAPITAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION FOR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUTER RAIL TO THE PROJECT FOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY COSTS; DIRECTING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO PURSUE STATE AND FEDERAL GRANT FUNDING FOR THE BCR-NORTH PROJECT; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

WHEREAS, in 1995 a collaboration of freight operators and the Florida Department of Transportation (“FDOT”) completed the “Rail Rationalization Study,”

22 recommending long-term planning for both the South Florida Rail Corridor (“SFRC”) and
23 the Florida East Coast Railway (“FEC”) Corridor, including double tracking the SFRC,
24 concurrent public investment in the FEC Corridor, and consideration of implementing
25 passenger rail service within the FEC Corridor;

26 WHEREAS, the South Florida East Coast Corridor Study, later referred to as the
27 Tri-Rail Coastal Link Study (initiated in 2004), explored the feasibility of an 85-mile
28 Tri-County commuter rail transit system through Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach
29 counties to provide traffic relief, increased mobility, and greater access to the State’s
30 Strategic Intermodal System facilities;

31 WHEREAS, the provision of commuter rail service in Broward County is consistent
32 with the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan from the Broward Metropolitan Planning
33 Organization (“MPO”), which identifies a commuter rail project on the FEC Corridor as an
34 element of a “Transit Needs” list;

35 WHEREAS, on January 28, 2021, Broward County and FDOT executed a
36 Memorandum of Understanding, formalizing a partnership aimed at advancing commuter
37 rail service on the FEC rail corridor in Broward County;

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

WHEREAS, on August 22, 2022, the Board of County Commissioners of Broward County, Florida ("Board"), voted unanimously to proceed with advancing implementation of an 11.5-mile commuter rail service on the FEC rail corridor between the Aventura Station in Miami-Dade County (connecting to Miami-Dade's proposed commuter rail project), and the north terminus near the Broward Health station (SW 15th/17th Street) (such portions located in Broward County referred to as "BCR-South") as the Locally Preferred Alternative ("LPA") for commuter rail in southern Broward County;

WHEREAS, the County, at the direction of the Board, in partnership with FDOT, completed the preliminary engineering and National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") study in September 2024, and was accepted into the FTA New Starts grant program in December 2024;

WHEREAS, in connection with the potential for establishing commuter rail from the northernmost station of BCR-South to northern Broward County ("BCR-North"), the County completed a round of public outreach efforts between December 2024 and February 2025, including over twenty (20) stakeholder and community meetings and two (2) general public meetings, through which the County received overwhelming support from all five (5) Broward County municipalities along the proposed BCR-North project, from communities along the corridor, and from other stakeholders, to extend the commuter rail to the northern part of Broward County; and

WHEREAS, to begin the Project Development and Environmental ("PD&E") study process for the potential BCR-North project, the Board must adopt an LPA to certain proposed elements of BCR-North, confirm independent utility and logical termini of the

proposed project, and provide funding for the required PD&E study for the project, NOW,
THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. Designation of LPA for Elements of BCR-North Project.

The implementation of commuter rail services along FEC Railway corridor from the
planned Broward Health station near SW 17th Street in Fort Lauderdale, as part of the
BCR-South project, to a northern terminus located near East Hillsboro Boulevard in
Deerfield Beach, includes a total of four (4) proposed stations.

Mode: Commuter Rail Transit

Technology: Push-pull locomotive

Recommended Station Locations:

Downtown Fort Lauderdale station at or near Broward Boulevard

Oakland Park station at or near NE 36th Street

Pompano Beach station at or near MLK-Hammondville Road/NE 6th Street

Deerfield Beach station at or near SW 2nd Street/Hillsboro Boulevard

Section 2. Utility and Logical Termini.

The Board finds that the BCR-North project has independent utility and logical
termini. Service will extend approximately 15.5 miles between the south terminus
proposed at the planned Broward Health station near SW 17th Street in Fort Lauderdale,
as part of the BCR-South project on the FEC corridor, and the north terminus near East
Hillsboro Boulevard in Deerfield Beach.

87 Section 3. Authorized Appropriation and Disbursement.

88 The Board authorizes the transfer of a maximum amount not to exceed Twenty
89 Million Dollars (\$20,000,000) from the Transportation Surtax Fund to be used for PD&E
90 studies that are required in connection with the FTA New Starts grant application and
91 project management-related activities. The Board further authorizes the County
92 Administrator to take any necessary administrative actions to procure (subject to final
93 Board approval of the contract or other agreement) vendor(s) to perform the PD&E
94 studies.

95 Section 4. Grant Funding.

96 The Board directs the County Administrator to pursue grant funding from federal
97 and state government sources to support the BCR-North project and to coordinate with
98 the Broward MPO and other organizations, as appropriate, in seeking such grant funding.

99 Section 5. Severability.

100 If any portion of this Resolution is determined by any court to be invalid, the invalid
101 portion will be stricken, and such striking will not affect the validity of the remainder of this
102 Resolution. If any court determines that this Resolution, in whole or in part, cannot be
103 legally applied to any individual, group, entity, property, or circumstance, such
104 determination will not affect the applicability of this Resolution to any other individual,
105 group, entity, property, or circumstance.

