



# MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM #VI.D

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DATE: SEPTEMBER 23, 2019

TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: STAFF

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON REGIONAL TRANSIT AND TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD) INITIATIVES

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## **Upcoming: Regional Convenings on Transit**

Council staff is assisting in the planning of two upcoming regional transportation summits in partnership with public, private and not-for-profit sector partners.

Council staff is working with the American Planning Association, Gold Coast Section, in partnership with the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (Transportation Trust), on a transit conference planned for November 2019. The Transportation Trust is a 15-member body created to oversee the Miami-Dade County People's Transportation Plan funded with the half-penny sales surtax.

Council staff is also working with the Urban Land Institute – Southeast Florida / Caribbean District, the region's Chambers of Commerce, and members of the Southeast Florida Transportation Council (SEFTC) on a regional transit summit, still in the very early stages of planning, expected to be held in April 2020. SEFTC is a formal partnership of the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency (TPA).

Agendas for both summits are currently being drafted and will be shared with the Council as soon as they are available.

## **Focus: Moving the Council Agenda Forward**

At the July 22<sup>nd</sup> Council Meeting, the Council moved and authorized the Executive Director to investigate and report back to the Council on the convening of a meeting for the purpose of studying transit and TOD solutions, to include Monroe, Miami-Dade and Broward Counties.

The Council requested that the Executive Director break down the request for a regional summit into a more precise agenda.



Councilmembers provided the following focus points that reflect areas of concern and importance to the Council during discussion (including but not limited to):

- Connections between Tri-Rail Coastal Link and South Florida Rail Corridor: east/west, as well as north/south transit solutions to form a regional grid;
- Mobility Hubs Program in Broward County as a unique opportunity for collaboration between regional partners;
- Site selection for TODs and future station areas, e.g. Cypress Creek;
- Land use and zoning changes necessary to support TOD at significant densities to gain Federal Transit Administration approval for projects;
- Solutions to high-density challenges including parking and community concern about mass and form;
- Regional coordination with the transit plan being implemented by the new Broward Surtax;
- Coordination with FDOT, transit organizations and engagement of regional transit and transportation initiatives;
- North Corridor (Miami-Dade) / University Corridor (Broward) implementation of a transit line across the County line as a model for regional collaboration;
- Funding of regional projects and plans, including Tax Increment Financing and value capture options;
- Regional resilience necessary due to climate change / extreme weather events;
- Use of mass transit during emergency evacuations;
- Mobility Plan for Northeast Miami-Dade County to connect to regional transit, and relevant coordination with Florida International University on potential upcoming grant-funded study;
- Council engagement as a significant regional partner in the conversation on regional transit solutions; and
- Reinvigorating momentum of previous Council regional convening on Tri-Rail Coastal Link at Broward County Convention Center in December of 2016.

Council staff will use the direction of the Council to assist in the crafting of upcoming summit agendas.

### **Snapshot: Transit and TOD Planning in the Region**

To provide context for the Council direction on transit and transit-oriented development, a snapshot of current planning activities is provided below.

## **STATE**

### **Florida Department of Transportation**

- Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) - the state's long-range transportation vision and policy plan defines goals, objectives, and strategies for Florida's transportation system. The FTP is the overarching transportation plan for all of Florida and affects every resident, business, and visitor. <http://floridatransportationplan.com/>
- Strategic Intermodal System - The Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) is Florida's high priority network of transportation facilities important to the state's economy and mobility. The Governor and Legislature established the SIS in 2003 to focus the state's limited transportation resources on the facilities most significant for interregional, interstate, and international travel. The SIS is the state's highest priority for transportation capacity investments and a primary focus for implementing the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP). <https://www.fdot.gov/planning/sis/default.shtm>

## REGIONAL

### South Florida Regional Transportation Authority

- Current service: South Florida Rail Corridor  
TOD Outreach Program implemented by the Regional Planning Councils to provide policy leadership and technical assistance along the existing South Florida Rail Corridor
- Short-term future service:  
Downtown Miami Link  
Waiting on implementation of Positive Train Control on FEC Corridor
- Long-term future service:  
Tri-Rail Coastal Link on the FEC Corridor  
FTA Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development Planning: The Pilot Program for TOD Planning helps support FTA's mission of improving public transportation for America's communities by providing funding to local communities to integrate land use and transportation planning with a new fixed guideway or core capacity transit capital investment. Comprehensive planning funded through the program must examine ways to improve economic development and ridership, foster multimodal connectivity and accessibility, improve transit access for pedestrian and bicycle traffic, engage the private sector, identify infrastructure needs, and enable mixed-use development near transit stations
- SFRTA Transit Development Plan – Major update completed in 2018

### Southeast Florida Transportation Council

- A formal partnership of the Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach transportation planning organizations to coordinate regional transportation planning for all travel modes
- Regional Transportation Plan (2045) The RTP identifies the most significant transportation investments needed to meet growing travel demands throughout the Southeast Florida region (Broward, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach Counties). The horizon year of 2045 is chosen to provide time for agencies to assemble funds and complete the technical work required to design and construct the selected improvements. <https://www.seftc.org/2045rtp>

### Virgin Trains USA / Brightline

- i) Southeast Florida Stations: new stations  
Brightline is currently evolving into 'Virgin Trains USA', which serves Miami, Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach. The company has announced that three new stations will begin construction by year end 2019 (Aventura, Port Miami & Boca)
- ii) Future service: Orlando
- iii) TOD: Developments around stations

## COUNTY AND LOCAL

### Miami-Dade County

- i) Transportation Planning: Miami Dade TPO
  - SMART Plan - The Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit Plan (SMART) was developed by Miami-Dade County and the TPO and adopted by the TPO Governing Board on April 21, 2016. The SMART Plan is a comprehensive plan which advances six rapid transit corridors to the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study phase to determine the costs and potential sources of funding for the project. <http://www.miamidadetpo.org/smartplan.asp>
  - 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan - The intent and purpose of the upcoming 2045 LRTP is to encourage, shape, promote and sustain transportation choices, economic competitiveness, the safe and efficient management, operations and development of a cost feasible intermodal transportation system that will serve the mobility needs of people and freight within the Miami-Dade urbanized area, while reducing transportation-related fuel consumption and air pollution  
<https://miamidade2045lrtp.com/>
  - SMART Plan: Land Use Planning & Visioning - The Miami-Dade TPO is now examining this interrelationship to complement the SMART Plan, which is intended to help achieve community goals through the integration of transportation land use planning and development of strategies. The ultimate purpose of Land Use Planning & Visioning Planning is to develop a Land Use Scenario Plan for each of the six SMART Plan corridors. This exercise will provide the technical basis for the development of transit supportive land uses for the six corridors
- ii) Transit: Department of Transportation and Public Works
  - Transit operations and maintenance  
<https://www.miamidade.gov/publicworks/>
- iii) Land Use: Regulatory & Economic Resources
  - Miami-Dade County Comprehensive Plan & Zoning  
All land development within the municipalities and in areas of unincorporated Miami-Dade County must comply with Chapter 28, Subdivision Code of Miami-Dade County and Chapter 177, Florida Statutes along with other State and local regulations. Applicants submit new land development to the Plat Committee to be reviewed for compliance with the Subdivision Code of Miami-Dade County and all other State and County legislation. Miami-Dade County Planning provides services related to sound growth management, historic preservation, urban planning, sustainability planning, and transportation development through the Comprehensive Development Master Plan (CDMP) and related activities.  
<http://www8.miamidade.gov/global/economy/home.page>
- iv) Supplemental local funding:
  - People's Transportation Plan and Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust; ½ penny sales tax. The Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (Transportation Trust) is a 15-member body created to oversee the People's Transportation Plan funded with the half-penny sales surtax.  
<https://www.miamidade.gov/citt/>

## **Broward County**

- i) Transportation Planning: Broward MPO
  - Metropolitan Transportation Plan - Commitment 2045 - allocates available funding to maintain and improve Broward's transportation system now and in the future. Working with the community, it serves as the basis for identifying priorities and transportation projects that will be implemented in the coming years and through 2045.  
<http://www.browardmpo.org/index.php/commitment-2045-metropolitan-transportation-plan>
  - Mobility Hubs – addressing land use  
The 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) created and defined the ‘mobility hub’ concept based on a variety of land use and transit criteria. In mobility hubs, a greater focus is placed on pedestrian and bicycle connections, secure and comfortable places to wait for transit, and safe and easy transfers between routes. These investments in public spaces provide the framework for private investment in places where people live, work and play.  
<http://www.browardmpo.org/index.php/current-projects-studies/mobility-hubs>
- ii) Transit: Broward County Transit
  - Transit Development Plan - The 2019-28 TDP for BCT serves as the strategic guide for public transportation in Broward County over the next 10 years. Development of this TDP included a number of activities including: documentation and analysis of the demographic conditions in BCT’s service area; an evaluation of existing transit services in Broward County; market research and extensive public involvement efforts; an analysis of immediate and longer term transit service and capital project needs; and a funding analysis and plan that initiates strategic approaches to maintaining and expanding transit services in Broward County within the next ten years and forward.  
<http://www.broward.org/BCT/Pages/TransitDevelopmentPlan.aspx>
- iii) Land Use: Broward County Planning Council
  - The role of the Council is to promote coordinated, comprehensive, long-range planning throughout Broward County through the cooperation and participation of all local governments, public officials and private citizens.
- iv) Supplemental local funding
  - Broward Surtax – the current focus of surtax-funded municipal projects is to prioritize and deliver the 709 projects submitted by municipalities included in the Plan passed by voters. In addition, roadway improvements such as fiber optics, adaptive signal technology evaluation and drainage projects, plus numerous studies, Broward County Transit service enhancements, and data and technology research are in full swing.
  - The County is currently working on a collaborative 5-year Plan due July 1, 2020 to the Independent Transportation Surtax Oversight Board and the Broward County Board of County Commissioners for approval. The Plan will include public engagement opportunities around large projects.

## **Monroe County**

- i) Florida Keys Transportation Coordinating Committee
  - The recently established committee will study and research traffic issues, including the implementation of local circulators, and create formal recommendations to the governing bodies of the five cities and the Board of County Commissioners.

## **Private Sector - Local**

### Local Circulators

- Freebies - Freebee provides free electric shuttles as local circulators. Each Freebee car simultaneously hosts its own marketing campaign for a variety of clients, which include both national brands and local businesses. <https://ridefreebee.com/>

### Update: Tri-Rail Coastal Link (TRCL), Getting TOD Ready

Council staff has completed tasks related to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Grant with co-applicants, the SFRTA and the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC). The Council partnered with the Florida Housing Coalition, FAU Center for Urban and Environmental Solutions, and ALTA Planning + Design to complete its deliverables. The objective of the grant was to plan for TOD along the Coastal Link Corridor (FEC tracks). The following reports on the Tri-Rail Coastal Link have been posted to the SFRPC website <http://sfrpc.org/southeast-florida-tod-study/>.

- Business Plan for A South Florida Transit-Oriented Development Fund
- Affordable Housing Needs & Strategy
- Walking + Biking Station Access Study
- Evaluation of Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

The Station Area plans for the cities of Miami, North Miami Beach, Hollywood, Wilton Manors, Oakland Park, Delray Beach, and Palm Beach Gardens were prepared by the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils pursuant to this grant. The Station Area plans will be available to the public via the SFRTA website once they have been made ADA compliant.

### **For Information Only.**