



MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM V.A.1

DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2012

TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: STAFF

SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST FLORIDA PASSENGER RAIL EVALUATION PRESENTATION -
KIM DELANEY, TCRPC

In January 2012, the Southeast Florida Transportation Council (SEFTC) voted to undertake an evaluation of the proposals of the Florida Department of Transportation and South Florida Regional Transportation Authority to provide commuter services on the Florida East Coast rail corridor. The goals of the evaluation were:

- To objectively identify the similarities & differences between the proposals
- To identify a collaborative protocol ~ involving all stakeholder agencies ~ to advance regional passenger rail development
- To educate decision makers to enable more informed decisions regarding passenger rail

Kim Delaney, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council's Strategic Development Coordinator, served as Project Manager for the evaluation and will present its findings. SEFTC was created, under §339.175, Fla. Stat., to serve as a formal forum for policy coordination and communication to carry out these regional initiatives agreed upon by the Metropolitan Planning Organizations serving Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach Counties. An interlocal agreement between the three parties was completed in 2005, and SEFTC held its first meeting in January 2006. The Southeast Florida Passenger Rail Evaluation link is located at <http://www.seftc.org/system/datas/59/original/SEFTC%20Passenger%20Rail%20Evaluation%20Memo%20SEFTC%2007-23-12%20FINALv2.pdf?1344458630>.

Recommendation

Information only



EVALUATION OVERVIEW

- ▶ Requested by SEFTC at its January 2012 meeting
- ▶ Multiple goals of the evaluation:
 - To objectively identify the similarities & differences between the proposals
 - To identify a collaborative protocol ~ involving all stakeholder agencies ~ to advance regional passenger rail development
 - To educate decision makers to enable more informed decisions regarding passenger rail

EVALUATION OVERVIEW

- ▶ SEFTC has indicated the region needs a single, common, jointly supported approach to be successful in advancing passenger rail development
- ▶ Evaluation identifies a range of structural changes among agency relationships & activities
- ▶ Intent is for the region to develop a passenger rail plan with greater collaboration, inter-agency participation, transparency, and efficiency.

REGIONAL PROGRESS THUS FAR

- ▶ SFECC Steering Committee meetings re-started February 2012; FDOT has committed to regular schedule
- ▶ Technical Workgroup meetings on various topics (e.g., Pompano crossover, Miami station location)
- ▶ SFECC presentations to RTTAC Modeling Subcommittee re: demographics

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Re-establish SFECC Steering Committee Meetings with Regular Schedule & Advisory Committee Protocol
 - ✓ *Steering Committee meetings re-started February 2012; FDOT commitment to continue*
 - Meetings should occur at least bi-monthly
 - Committee membership should be specified to clearly communicate agency roles
 - Agendas materials should be provided to committee prior to meetings for review & better informed discussion during meetings

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

2. Establish Regular Project Updates by SFECC to Various Agencies
 - Suggested groups & schedule:
 - SEFTC: Quarterly Updates
 - MPOs: Quarterly Updates
 - SFRTA: Quarterly Updates
 - RPCs: Semi-Annual Updates

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3. Coordinate SFECC Modeling with RTTAC Modeling Subcommittee

- ✓ *FDOT initiated inter-agency review of demographics & assumptions in Spring 2012*
- ❑ SFECC should collaborate regarding validity of data, assumptions & projections
- ❑ SFECC project team should present all background data to RTTAC Modeling Subcommittee at least twice per year:
 - demographic data
 - ridership projections
 - modeling assumptions & refinements

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4. Improve SFECC Coordination with MPO Staff

- ❑ SFECC project team should distribute all background data to MPO staff for review prior to utilization in SFECC modeling, including:
 - demographic data
 - transit assumptions
 - ridership projections
 - modeling assumptions

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5. Presentation of LPA as "Unified Voice" among FDOT & SFRTA

- ❑ SFECC project team should work with the SFRTA to develop "unified" LPA for MPO approval
- ❑ Materials & presentations should be presented by FDOT with SFRTA involvement

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5. Presentation of LPA as "Unified Voice" among FDOT & SFRTA

- ❑ FDOT & SFRTA should collaboratively develop first-phase alternative integrating best components of Fast Start proposal (with SFRTA operations & Tri-Rail equipment)
- ✓ *FDOT & SFRTA working together to test Fast Start proposal, identify strongest aspects & integrate into alternatives*

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6. Continued Coordination & Oversight by MPOs, Represented by SEFTC
 - SEFTC should act as regional oversight entity
 - Both FDOT & SFRTA should participate on SEFTC as non-voting members for rail issues
 - Quarterly SEFTC updates should include discussion of joint participation by FDOT & SFRTA (and other regional transportation stakeholder agencies) in the advancement of passenger rail development in the region

SUMMARY & NEXT STEPS

- ✓ *Report approved unanimously by SEFTC (July 23, 2012) and transmitted to FDOT & SFRTA*
- ✓ *Additional comments received from agencies integrated into evaluation report*
- Continued dialogue among agencies
- Progress update at October 2012 SEFTC meeting

