



MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM #III.H

DATE: DECEMBER 2, 2013
TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS
FROM: STAFF
SUBJECT: TRI-RAIL COASTAL LINK (TRCL) RESOLUTION

Background

The purpose of this agenda item is to request approval of a resolution of support to move the TRCL project into the Project Development phase, which is consistent with Federal Transit Administration (FTA) guidelines and the previously executed multi-party Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for TRCL Service. Specifically, the resolution supports a joint FDOT/SFRTA letter of request to the FTA (on behalf of the Southeast Florida region and the TRCL Partnership) for the TRCL project to enter into the Project Development phase. TRCL resolutions seeking concurrence to enter the Project Development phase are being presented to the Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach MPOs, and resolutions of support are being presented to the SFRTA's Governing Board, FDOT, SFRPC and TCRPC.

Discussions are ongoing with the Florida East Coast Industries (FECI), which is the parent company of All Aboard Florida (AAF), regarding access to its rail corridor.

During the Project Development phase, the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) will be refined and proposed for inclusion in each MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). A financial plan will also be developed in cooperation with the regional agencies, local governments and stakeholders.

Recommendation

Approval of Resolution #13-04 supporting a joint FDOT/SFRTA request to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for the Tri-Rail Coastal Link (TRCL) Service to enter the "Project Development" phase.



SFRPC RESOLUTION #13-04

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION'S REQUEST, ON BEHALF OF THE SOUTHEAST
FLORIDA REGION, TO THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION FOR
THE TRI-RAIL COASTAL LINK SERVICE TO ENTER INTO THE PROJECT
DEVELOPMENT PHASE**

WHEREAS, the South Florida Regional Planning Council's mission is to provide state and local policymakers with the information they need in order to build a better future for South Floridians. Specifically, SFRPC does: economic prosperity planning, environment protection & sustainability planning, transportation planning, emergency management preparedness and promotes cross-jurisdictional cooperation.

WHEREAS, future population growth is expected to outpace highway system expansion, which will dramatically worsen congestion levels and travel times within Southeast Florida; and

WHEREAS, there is a critical need to develop adequate transit services to provide enhanced mobility along a major corridor of regional significance; and

WHEREAS, the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) operates the Tri-Rail commuter rail service in Miami, Broward, and Palm Beach counties on the CSX rail corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Florida East Coast (FEC) railroad corridor right-of-way represents an important and strategic transportation corridor that currently provides vital freight rail service to and from Southeast Florida; and

WHEREAS, since 2005, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has examined various transit alternatives, alignments, and technologies along this 85-mile corridor from Jupiter to Miami in an effort to establish new rapid transit services; and

WHEREAS, the Florida East Coast Industries, Inc. (FECI) is expected to implement, in 2015, All Aboard Florida (AAF), a new inter-city rail passenger service between Miami and Orlando with intermediate stops in Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach; and

WHEREAS, an eight-party Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Tri-Rail Coastal Link Service was executed, which establishes the Tri-Rail Coastal Link Partnership including FDOT, SFRTA, Miami-Dade MPO, Broward MPO, Palm Beach MPO, Southeast Florida Transportation Council, and the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils; and

WHEREAS, the MOU delineates the roles and responsibilities of the various agencies with respect to project development and implementation; and

WHEREAS, negotiations with the FECI have begun in accordance with the MOU to provide access and inclusion of Tri-Rail Coastal Link Service within the FEC rail corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Tri-Rail Coastal Link Service MOU requires the project obtain concurrence from the Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach MPOs at major project milestones; and

WHEREAS, through these efforts an integrated, complementary system of transit services will be provided for existing and future travel markets along the densely developed FEC corridor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL:

SECTION 1. Supports a joint SFRTA/FDOT request to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), on behalf of the Southeast Florida region and the Tri-Rail Coastal Link Partnership, for the Tri-Rail Coastal Link project to enter into the Project Development phase.

SECTION 2. That FDOT completes the Project Development effort within two (2) years, consistent with federal guidelines under MAP-21.

SECTION 3. That FDOT returns to the Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach MPO Governing Boards for the selection of the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA), which will include details as to project financing, during the Project Development phase as per the Tri-Rail Coastal Link Service MOU.

Duly adopted by the South Florida Regional Planning Council this day of December, 2013

ATTEST

South Florida Regional Planning Council

**BY: _____
Paul Wallace, Chair**

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency by:

**BY: _____
Sam Goren, Legal Counsel**