



RESOLUTION 02-04

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CREATION OF A SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY AND DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY SUPPORTIVE OF REGIONAL TRANSIT IN SOUTH FLORIDA

WHEREAS, South Florida's population is expected to increase by more than 2.6 million, raising the region's population to 7.6 million, by 2030;

WHEREAS, South Florida's transportation network is increasingly congested with South Florida residents and visitors spending an increasing amount of traveling time stuck in traffic;

WHEREAS, this congestion is eroding the region's economic competitiveness and ability to attract new businesses and employment opportunities, negatively impacting air quality, decreasing the quality of life, and increasing the cost of living in the region;

WHEREAS, no one county can meaningfully address growing regional transportation impacts and transit needs within its borders working in isolation;

WHEREAS, the regional nature of transportation demand in South Florida requires that efforts be focused on regional solutions;

WHEREAS, a Regional Transportation Authority, through its partnerships with existing organizations, will reduce unnecessary duplication of effort and leverage its resources by utilizing the strengths and expertise of partner organizations in the region;

WHEREAS, the development of a regional transportation and land use strategy, focused on the creation of a regional transit system that will relieve congestion in East-West and North-South transportation corridors, will help ensure that investments in any one county yield benefits throughout the region, and that such shared benefits help tie the region together.

WHEREAS, transportation funds are increasingly difficult to secure and the lack of a unified regional voice is diminishing the ability of the region to secure the state and federal resources it needs in order to remain economically competitive and ensure a good quality of life;

WHEREAS, a Regional Transportation Authority with balanced representation from Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties will reduce political fragmentation and provide a forum where transit projects, both regional and local, can be identified, prioritized, and elevated jointly to the state and federal legislative delegations for funding assistance;

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WHEREAS, the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority will leverage resources and improve efficiency, and increase the region's competitive advantage and ability to secure the federal and state funds that are needed to create an efficient and convenient multi-modal transit system; and

WHEREAS, the Board of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council voted to support the creation of the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority at its June 21, 2002 meeting.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED THAT THE TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL SUPPORTS THE CREATION OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY INCLUDING:

1. Support for amending Florida Statutes Chapter 343 and renaming the existing Tri-County Commuter Rail Authority, the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority. The geographic region of the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority will be Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties although the tri-county Regional Transportation Authority Board will be able to expand its service area and board partnership with any county that is contiguous to its existing service area.
2. Support for a South Florida Regional Transportation Authority Board featuring balanced representation from Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties.
3. Support for the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority serving, in part, as a regional connection point through which a larger regional "virtual organization" comprised of the region's existing transportation and planning organizations would come together to plan and develop a multi-modal regional transit system. This regional transit system should benefit the region as a whole, alleviate road congestion along East-West and North-South transportation corridors, and give residents and visitors the ability to move throughout all three counties in a convenient and timely fashion.
4. Support for the development and implementation of necessary funding sources for the operation of such an Authority.
5. Support for developing, in partnership with the regional planning councils and metropolitan planning organizations, and with input from the region's transportation and planning organizations and other stakeholders, a regional transportation and land use strategy.

6. Communicating the Council's support of Regional Business Alliance's South Florida Regional Transportation Authority proposal to the Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach county commissions, metropolitan planning organizations, legislative delegations, leagues of cities, Florida Department of Transportation and all other appropriate entities.

Approved by the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council on the 21st day of June, 2002



Carol Roberts, Chair
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council

6-21-02

Date