

South Florida East Coast Corridor Coalition

Presentation to the
South East Florida Transportation Council
Monday, July 13, 2009

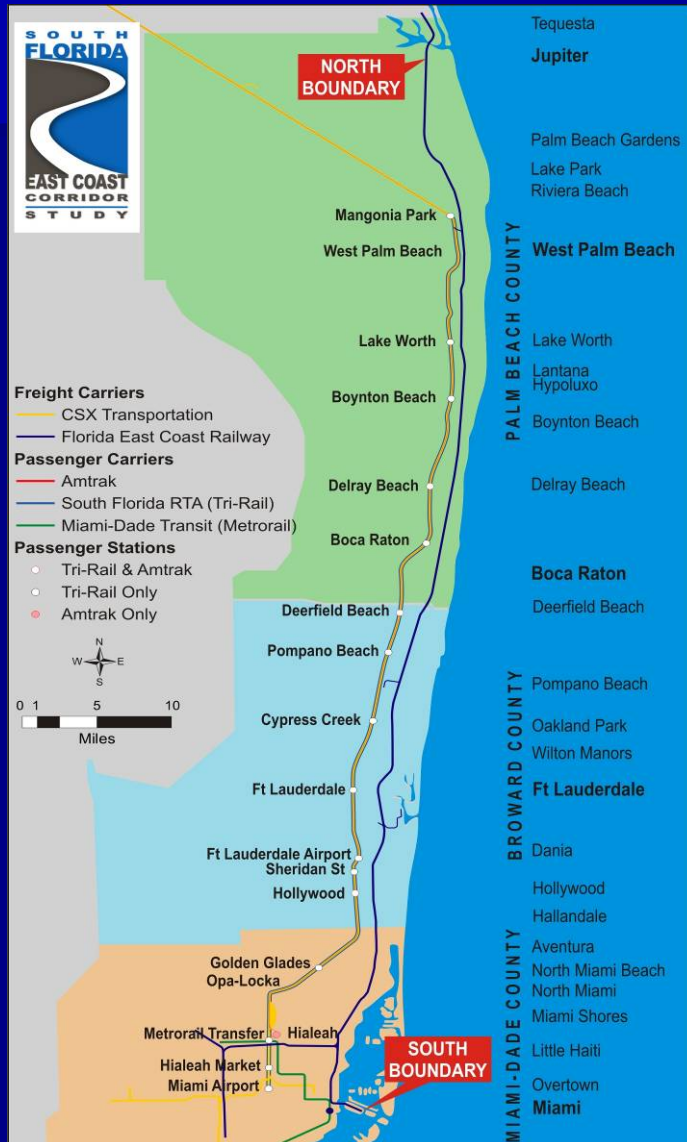
Corridor Coalition - Leadership

- In Spring 2008, Miami-Dade County Commissioner **Sally Heyman**, a strong initial supporter of transit in the FEC Corridor, suggested forming a tri-county coalition to accelerate its delivery.
- She called on Broward County Mayor **Stacy Ritter** and Palm Beach County Commission Chair **Jeff Koons** who agreed to serve as co-chairs.



Policy decisions reached and actions taken by the Coalition are independent of FDOT.

Corridor Coalition - Composition



■ 60 members

- 20 from each of three counties
- Primarily business and civic leaders
- No more than five elected officials per county

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Structure & Timeline

- Full Coalition met January 28 and March 11, 2009.
- At second meeting, created **four subcommittees**
 - Business Community & Local Government
 - Funding Strategies
 - State & Federal Liaison
 - Technical Liaison with FDOT
- First round of subcommittee meetings June 17 and 24, 2009
- Subcommittee chairs roundtable – July 9, 2009

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Structure & Timeline cont.

- Second round of subcommittee meetings - July and August
- Second subcommittee chairs roundtable – early September
- 3rd full Coalition meeting – late September
 - Invite Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, representatives from three-county MPOs, SEFTC and SFRTA
- Additional subcommittee and roundtable meetings
 - October and November
- 4th full Coalition meeting - late January

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Business Community & Local Government

- Chair – Debbie Orshefsky
- Resource person – Jim Murley, FAU Center for Urban and Environmental Solutions
- Purpose
 - Outreach
 - Main focus is local support
 - Foster hospitable environment along corridor with citizens and municipalities

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Business Community & Local Government cont.

- First session – June 17, 2009
- Discussion items
 - Change mindset that transit is not important
 - Gain support through grassroots campaign
 - Address public misunderstandings between Tri-Rail and FEC; show two as complementary services
 - Identify other resources and volunteers by working with state representatives and community-based organizations
 - Foster creation of a governance structure such as through SFRTA, SEFTC or others

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Funding Strategies

- Chair – John Stunson
- Resource person – Nick Serianni, Jeffrey A. Parker & Associates
- Purpose
 - Examine political jurisdictions with similar operations and maintenance (O&M) for transit
 - Funding concepts effective in all parts of corridor

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Funding Strategies cont.

- First session – June 17, 2009
- Discussion items
 - Annual O&M at full build out/full-range of services approximately \$200 to \$300 million
 - O&M must be locally funded
 - Must raise 25 percent of \$6 billion capital costs locally
 - Revenue stream initially used to fund capital could subsequently be diverted to fund O&M
 - Gas tax is not the solution
 - Examine tax generation (sales tax, real estate tax, a taxing district) for both Tri-Rail and the FEC Corridor
 - Ensure that funds generated locally stay within south Florida region

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State & Federal Liaison

- Chair – Michael Burnstine
- Resource people
 - Jess McCarty – Miami-Dade County Attorney for Government Affairs and Transportation
 - Debra Owens – Miami Dade Transit Government Affairs Special Assistant
 - Pamela Landi – Broward County Governmental Relations Manager
 - Todd Bonlarron – Palm Beach County Legislative Affairs Director

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State & Federal Liaison cont.

- Purpose
 - Raise awareness among members of Congress and the executive branch
 - Develop creative means of financing the project or segments outside of traditional approaches
- First session – June 24, 2009
- Discussion Items
 - Create **initiative at federal level** that causes states to **shift funding** from highways to **transit**
 - Evaluate **new federal directions** and apply what is learned to the Coalition's work

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State & Federal Liaison cont.

- Discussion Items cont.
 - Facilitate having federal initiative led by U.S. Reps. Mario Diaz-Balart, Ron Klein, John Mica and Debbie Wasserman Schultz
 - Research four bills initiated by U.S. Rep. Jim Oberstar that will overhaul transportation funding
 - Contact state legislators who opposed SunRail [and Tri-Rail funding] to determine what is needed to gain support
 - Meet with FDOT District Secretaries Gus Pego and James Wolfe
 - Review the three county MPO Long-Range Transportation Plans

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Technical Liaison with FDOT

- Chair – Boca Raton Deputy Mayor Susan Haynie
- Resource person
 - Scott Seeburger, FDOT District Four Project Manager
 - Carlos Cejas, Gannett Fleming Project Director
- Purpose
 - Examine technology selection, potential station area locations and right of way acquisition
 - Act as a resource group and help FDOT broaden its outlook on the study

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Technical Liaison with FDOT cont.

- First session – June 24, 2009
- Discussion Items
 - Examine **feasibility** of shifting **regional freight** service to **U.S. 27 Corridor**
 - Advise and **update municipalities** on the Corridor about the study
 - Review **pinch points**
 - Research possible locations for a **maintenance facility** in Pompano Beach
 - **SAFETEA-LU** is being **extended 18 months** so Congress can do a **major overhaul** of its approach to transportation funding

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Subcommittee Chairs Roundtable

July 9, 2009

- Convened by Debbie Orshefsky
- Commissioner Heyman participated
- Called for an **educational workshop** for members to better **understand FDOT and MPO funding** and review tri-county **L RTPs** and Florida Transportation Plan
- Review **sharing tracks with FEC**
- Identify **existing coalitions and resources**
- State legislation needs to **create level playing field** among various regional entities

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Thank you!

Questions?