

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-1

RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHEAST FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL (SEFTC) ENCOURAGING THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT) TO EXPEDITE THE PROCESS OF ADVANCING FREIGHT ALONG US-27 INCLUDING UNDERTAKING A GENERAL MULTI MODAL PLANNING STUDY TO INFORM A PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT (PD&E) STUDY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RAIL ALONG THE US 27 CORRIDOR FROM MIAMI-DADE TO PALM BEACH COUNTY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, SEFTC was created in 2006 through an Interlocal Agreement among the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency (TPA) to strengthen regional transportation planning coordination and to prepare a Regional Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, US 27 is part of the FDOT Strategic Intermodal System (SIS), and is also designated by SEFTC as a regionally significant corridor; and

WHEREAS, US 27 serves as a critical link for the movement of freight in Southeast Florida; and

WHEREAS, FDOT in 2012 conducted a Planning and Conceptual Engineering (PACE) study to analyze multimodal options to connect PortMiami by rail with inland logistics centers around Lake Okechobee in western Palm Beach County; and

WHEREAS, this study considered the feasibility of removing freight traffic from congested coastal corridors and facilitate the restoration of passenger rail service along the Florida East Coast (FEC) Railway Corridor; and

WHEREAS, rail along US 27 has been included as an unfunded need in the SIS 2045 Multimodal Unfunded Needs Plan; and

WHEREAS, passenger rail service along the FEC corridor has been restored with Brightline providing 32 daily trains connecting Orlando to Miami; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) has been awarded a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant to provide passenger rail service on the FEC corridor connecting Aventura to Miami; and

WHEREAS, Broward County Transit (BCT) and FDOT District Four are currently finalizing an Environmental Assessment for the Broward Commuter Rail (BCR) South to apply for an FTA grant, which will provide passenger rail service along the FEC corridor from south of the New River in Fort Lauderdale to Aventura; and

WHEREAS, BCT and FDOT District Four have plans to extend passenger rail service from south of the New River in Fort Lauderdale to the Broward/Palm Beach County line; and

WHEREAS, Palm Beach TPA has plans to extend passenger rail service from the Broward/Palm Beach County line to north of West Palm Beach; and

WHEREAS, SEFTC will include the US 27 Rail project in its 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP); and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade TPO, Broward MPO and Palm Beach TPA will include portions of the US 27 rail project within their planning boundaries in their respective 2050 Long Range Transportation Plans; and

WHEREAS, the Southeast Florida region desires to prioritize a regional rail corridor outside of the urban area along US 27, that would serve as an alternative route for the urban freight currently utilizing the FEC corridor and providing the needed capacity for passenger rail,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SOUTHEAST FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL, that this Board:

Section 1. Encouraging the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to expedite the process of advancing freight along US-27 including undertaking a general multi modal planning study to inform a Project Development & Environment (PD&E) study for the implementation of rail along the US 27 corridor from Miami-Dade to Palm Beach County; providing for severability; and providing an effective date.

Section 2. The above "WHEREAS" clauses are true and correct and are incorporated herein by reference.

Section 3. All Resolutions or parts of Resolutions in conflict herewith, be and the same are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 4. If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Resolution is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, then said holding shall in no way affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Resolution.

Section 5. This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Chairman Beam Furr and moved as amended by Vice Chair Chelsea Reed. The motion was seconded by Board Member Esteban Bovo, Jr., and upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously. The Chairman thereupon declared the resolution duly adopted this 18th day of October, 2024.

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

By 

Beam Furr, SEFTC Chairman