



## Memorandum

**Memorandum No:** 22-143

**Date:** December 1, 2022

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Commissioner

**From:** Greg Chavarria, City Manager   
Greg Chavarria (Dec 2, 2022 14:47 EST)

**Re:** Broward Commuter Rail Update

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This memo serves as an update on the progress of the Broward Commuter Rail Project.

On August 25, 2022, the Broward County Commission adopted a locally preferred alternative (LPA) for Broward Commuter Rail South (BCR South) to extend the planned commuter rail service on the Flagler East Coast Railway (FECR) corridor from the planned passenger station in the City of Aventura north to the City of Fort Lauderdale, a distance of 11.5 miles.

BCR South includes three proposed stations: 1) in the City of Hollywood, 2) at the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, and 3) in the City of Fort Lauderdale near the Broward Health Medical Center. The station in Fort Lauderdale is proposed on the east side of the FECR between SW 17<sup>th</sup> Street and SW 15<sup>th</sup> Street. The BCR South passenger stations are planned to be commuter rail platforms similar to Tri-Rail and SunRail and are not full-service train stations like the Brightline intercity passenger rail station in downtown Fort Lauderdale.

On August 26, 2022, Broward County sent a letter to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) formally requesting entry into their Project Development (PD) process to make BCR South eligible for FTA funding. Although the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) team, in conjunction with Broward County, has performed significant work in planning and developing the project over the last two years, approval is required from the FTA to move forward with the project development process and begin the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) study. FTA approval is anticipated by the end of this calendar year allowing BCR South to enter Project Development.

If initiated timely, the NEPA Environmental Study process, to be led by FDOT, will proceed with completion anticipated in Summer 2023. Public outreach is expected to begin in early 2023. Simultaneously, a Project Financial plan will be developed by Broward County to outline the financial commitments required at the local, state and federal levels and position the project to compete for discretionary federal funding. Once NEPA is completed, the Broward County Commission will be responsible for

deciding whether the project should advance into the design phase and whether the local funding required, per the financial plan, will be committed. This action is likely to occur in Fall 2023.

In anticipation of the next steps, City staff has been meeting with the BCR South project team to assist in gathering the data required to advance the project. This information includes details on current and future developments, capital projects, parking analysis at the station area, and other data to demonstrate that the station area is and/or will be transit supportive. City staff will continue to meet with the BCR South project team to promote local compatibility and build support for the County's application to FTA for federal funding.

Outside of the BCR South efforts, City and County staff continue to evaluate passenger rail crossing alternatives at the New River. Staff is working to allocate funding to onboard a consultant, leverage an existing Interlocal Agreement with Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization, and enter into an Interlocal Agreement with Broward County. These actions should expedite the evaluation process and split the cost between the City and the County.

For further information on this effort, please contact Ben Rogers, Director of Transportation and Mobility, [brogers@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:brogers@fortlauderdale.gov).

Attachment:

Broward Commuter Rail South Map

c: Anthony G. Fajardo, Assistant City Manager  
Susan Grant, Assistant City Manager  
Alain E. Boileau, City Attorney  
David R. Soloman, City Clerk  
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor  
Department Directors  
CMO Managers

# PROJECT MAP

## LEGEND

- BCR South Alignment (Locally Preferred Alternative)
- FEC Railway (Potential BCR Future Extension)
- Major Activity Centers
- I-95
- Tri-Rail
- Tri-Rail Station
- County Line
- Northeast Corridor Project
- Potential Commuter Rail Station
- Brightline Station



Not to Scale

