



Memorandum

Memorandum No: 25-121

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*

DATE: July 16, 2025

SUBJECT: New River Crossing Tunnel Industry Day

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the City Commission that City staff will be hosting a New River Crossing Tunnel Industry Day (Industry Day) on July 28, 2025.

On April 15, 2025, the City Commission adopted Resolution No. 25-71 (Attachment 1) that reaffirmed Resolution No. 24-280 and the construction of a tunnel as the Locally Preferred Alternative for the commuter rail train crossing the New River and acknowledged City efforts to advance the tunnel concept. The Resolution directed the City Manager to continue collaboration efforts with Broward County, promote the tunnel project with industry experts, engage with Brightline and the Florida East Coast Railway, evaluate grant opportunities and develop proposed financial strategies. I am actively working with staff to advance these directives and plan to provide the City Commission with an update after the summer recess.

Industry Day supports the advancement of Resolution No. 25-71, Section 3, which directs the City Manager to promote the City's desire to advance the tunnel concept only; engage with and provide project information to qualified firms with tunneling experience; and survey the industry to identify if any developer(s) with tunneling experience would be willing to submit a formal proposal for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a tunnel.

Taft Infrastructure Advisors, the City's subconsultant to BDO USA, conducted initial industry outreach and City staff will be sending formal Industry Day invitations (Attachment 2) to qualified firms and industry experts. The Industry Day agenda includes morning presentations from the City, Broward County, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and potentially the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Build America Bureau. The afternoon agenda includes one-on-one breakout session opportunities with qualified firms to further discuss the project, understand their interest in the project, gain industry feedback on potential next steps and associated timelines.

Industry Day will be held at the Broward Center of Performing Arts – Mary N. Porter Riverview Ballroom on July 28, 2025, with registration starting at 9:00 a.m. Industry Day is not intended to be promoted as a public meeting, rather it is a technical meeting between staff, industry experts, and invited stakeholders. However, contingent on available space, non-invitees will be allowed to attend the morning presentations which are scheduled to start at 9:30 a.m. The afternoon breakout sessions will be restricted to the qualified firm(s) and representatives from the City, Broward County, FDOT, and USDOT (if applicable).

For more information, please contact Ben Rogers, Assistant City Manager, at 954-828-3781 or brogers@fortlauderdale.gov.

Attachments:

1. Resolution 25-71
2. Industry Day Flyer

c: D'Wayne M. Spence, Interim City Attorney
David R. Soloman, City Clerk
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor
City Manager's Office
Department Directors



CERTIFICATION

I certify this to be a true and correct copy of the record of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

WITNESSETH my hand and official seal of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, this the 21st day of April, 2025
[Signature] City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 25-71

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, REAFFIRMING RESOLUTION NO. 24-280 AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TUNNEL AS THE LOCALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR THE COMMUTER RAIL TRAIN CROSSING THE NEW RIVER IN THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, AND ACKNOWLEDGING CITY EFFORTS TO ADVANCE THE TUNNEL CONCEPT, AND THE RESCISSION OF ANY OTHER CONFLICTING RESOLUTION PROVISIONS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, on December 17, 2024, the City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, ("City"), adopted Resolution No. 24-280, which urged the Broward County Board of County Commissioners ("County" or "Broward County"), the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization ("MPO"), and the Florida Department of Transportation ("FDOT") to recommend construction of a tunnel as the Locally Preferred Alternative for the commuter rail train crossing the New River in the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, while continuing to work to reduce the project's construction costs and identify the necessary financing; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2025, the City received a letter from Broward County Mayor Beam Furr that identified his intent to submit a resolution to the Board of County Commissioners recommending a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) in April 2025 that would not specify the New River Crossing methodology to permit additional time to present a viable tunnel alternative as a crossing approach; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Furr's letter identified, *inter alia*, what a viable tunnel alternative should contain: written approval from both Brightline and Florida East Coast Railway (FECR), a formal proposal from a developer with economic terms with certain conditions, and a proposed financial plan that addresses how tunnel construction, operations and maintenance costs can be funded, given a fixed financial commitment from the County; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Furr's letter requested the City to provide a feasible and viable public-private partnership tunnel development proposal no later than October 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the City believes the tunnel concept remains the only solution to address the major impacts anticipated to be generated by the significant increase of passenger trains utilizing the Florida East Coast Railway, including the impacts on the marine industry and the detrimental impacts on pedestrian and vehicular traffic that traverse the FECR tracks within the City of Fort Lauderdale; and



WHEREAS, the City appreciates the opportunity to continue advancing the tunnel concept and the ongoing collaboration with Broward County to deliver the tunnel as the LPA; and

WHEREAS, the City plans to further explore, with the tunneling industry, to identify experienced and qualified firms with an interest in the project that could deliver a financing plan, prepare construction documents and construct a tunnel with high operational reliability, a passenger platform or station, and includes a 30-year operational period of performance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. The City Commission reaffirms Resolution No. 24-280 noting that the tunnel remains its recommendation as the Locally Preferred Alternative for the commuter rail train crossing at the New River in the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

SECTION 2. The City Commission directs the City Manager to continue collaborating with Broward County staff on the tunnel concept with periodic meetings and provide, to the extent possible, a viable tunnel alternative update to the City Commission and the Board of County Commissioners before October 1, 2025, which shall illustrate the City's progress and define the City's remaining timeline and next steps.

SECTION 3. The City Commission directs the City Manager to promote the City of Fort Lauderdale's desire to advance the tunnel concept only; engage with and provide project information to qualified firms with tunneling experience; and survey the industry to identify if any developer(s) with tunneling experience would be willing to submit a formal proposal for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a tunnel.

SECTION 4. The City Commission directs the City Manager to engage with Brightline and the Florida East Coast Railway, in coordination with the County, FDOT, and the MPO, as may be required, to secure written documentation from each entity on their respective positions regarding the proposed tunnel project.

SECTION 5. The City Commission directs the City Manager to explore grant opportunities and financial strategies and develop a financial plan that addresses how tunnel construction, operations and maintenance costs may be funded.



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SECTION 6. That the City Commission agrees to collaborate with the Board of County Commissioners on a viable tunnel alternative and report on progress.

SECTION 7. That any other resolutions, or parts thereof, in conflict with this Resolution are hereby rescinded to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 8. That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon adoption and final passage.

ADOPTED this 15th day of April, 2025.

Mayor
DEAN J. TRANTALIS

ATTEST:

City Clerk
DAVID R. SOLOMAN

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND CORRECTNESS:

Interim City Attorney
D'WAYNE M. SPENCE

Dean J. Trantalis Yea

John C. Herbst Nay

Steven Glassman Yea

Pamela Beasley-Pittman Yea

Ben Sorensen Yea



NEW RIVER CROSSING TUNNEL INDUSTRY DAY



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE



MONDAY, JULY 28, 2025

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Agency Presentations

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Breakout Sessions

LOCATION

Broward Center for the Performing Arts

Mary N. Porter Riverview Ballroom

201 SW 5th Avenue

To reserve a breakout session, RSVP by July 25
via email to brogers@fortlauderdale.gov