

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO ACCELERATE NECESSARY ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS ON THE JULIA TUTTLE CAUSEWAY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MIAMI BEACH-BEACH EXPRESS NORTH AS PART OF THE BUS EXPRESS RAPID TRANSIT (BERT) NETWORK OF THE STRATEGIC MIAMI AREA RAPID TRANSIT (SMART) PLAN

WHEREAS, the Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), on February 18, 2016, adopted Resolution #06-16, which established transit as the “highest priority” for Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, under Resolution #26-16, the TPO Governing Board endorsed the Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Plan, which includes six (6) rapid transit corridors and a network of nine (9) bus express rapid transit (BERT) services; and

WHEREAS, the TPO Governing Board adopted Resolution #27-17, which designated specific funds for the implementation of the SMART Plan; and

WHEREAS, the TPO Governing Board adopted Resolution #14-18, which endorsed the identification and implementation of Demonstration projects that advance elements of the SMART Plan; and

WHEREAS, the TPO Transportation and Mobility Committee (TMC) identified eleven eligible projects, including the Miami Beach-Beach Express North (“Beach Express North”) for the SMART Plan Demonstration projects, and recommended favorably the endorsement of same; and

WHEREAS, implementation of the Beach Express North project will bridge current service gaps for commuters while providing greater mobility options and relieve congestion within the corridor; and

WHEREAS, success of the Beach Express North BERT project requires the use of the shoulders to ensure premium service and travel time reliability; and

WHEREAS, the inside shoulder does not meet the minimum width requirements and does not have structural integrity for bus operations, thereby requiring rehabilitation and lane restriping to render it operational for bus service; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Transportation has estimated that the rehabilitation and striping of the inside shoulder will take at least 1.5 to 2 years; and

WHEREAS, the MacArthur Causeway east bridge is scheduled for major structural repairs beginning as early as summer 2018 with a duration of approximately 1 year and with at least one lane of travel closed during construction; and

WHEREAS, closure of a lane of travel on MacArthur Causeway will have significant traffic impacts on the Julia Tuttle Causeway and will require several traffic mitigation strategies; and

WHEREAS, the outside shoulder of the Julia Tuttle Causeway is currently used for a bike lane, however, since re-opening of the Venetian Causeway in 2017, bike usage of the outside shoulder on the Julia Tuttle Causeway has declined to 188 bicyclists per week based on TPO data,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION IN ITS ROLE AS THE MPO FOR THE MIAMI URBANIZED AREA, that this Board urges the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to accelerate necessary roadway improvements on the Julia Tuttle Causeway to allow bus operations on the inside shoulder and allow use of the outside shoulder until those improvements are in place, thereby providing for the implementation of the Miami Beach-Beach Express North as part of the Bus Express Rapid Transit (BERT) network of the Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Plan within the next six (6) months.

The adoption of the foregoing resolution was sponsored by Board Member Dan Gelber and co-sponsored by Chairman Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., and Board Members: Sally A. Heyman, Audrey M. Edmonson, and Smith Joseph. The resolution was moved by Board Member Sally A. Heyman and was seconded by Board Member Rebeca Sosa, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Chairman Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.-Aye
Vice Chairman Francis Suarez-Absent

Board Member Juan Carlos Bermudez	-Aye	Board Member Vince Lago	-Aye
Board Member Jose "Pepe" Diaz	-Aye	Board Member Daniella Levine Cava	-Aye
Board Member Audrey M. Edmonson	-Aye	Board Member Roberto Martell	-Aye
Board Member Dan Gelber	-Aye	Board Member Joe A. Martinez	-Absent
Board Member Oliver G. Gilbert, III	-Aye	Board Member Jean Monestime	-Aye
Board Member Perla T. Hantman	-Absent	Board Member Dennis C. Moss	-Aye
Board Member Carlos Hernandez	-Aye	Board Member Jeff Porter	-Aye
Board Member Sally A. Heyman	-Aye	Board Member Rebeca Sosa	-Aye
Board Member Barbara J. Jordan	-Absent	Board Member Javier D. Souto	-Absent
Board Member Smith Joseph	-Aye	Board Member Xavier L. Suarez	-Aye

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and approved this day of 21st day of June, 2018.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

By

Zainab Salim

Zainab Salim, Clerk
 Miami-Dade TPO

