

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-1

A RESOLUTION OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES ENDORSING AND SUPPORTING THE EXPANSION OF THE NEW STARTS TRANSIT PROGRAM (NSTP) TO FACILITATE FUNDING FOR THE STRATEGIC MIAMI AREA RAPID TRANSIT (SMART) PLAN

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County is suffering from severe traffic congestion involving an increasing amount of its roadways and for an increasing amount of time; and

WHEREAS, this congestion has a detrimental effect on the quality of life for residents of Miami-Dade County, the prosperity of our local business community, and the economic climate of the area as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County League of Cities advocates sound policy proposals that will benefit the whole Miami-Dade County community; and

WHEREAS, alleviating the severe congestion negatively impacting our community, will provide better quality of life for residents, provide better access to local businesses, and benefit the local cities; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County (the County) and the Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) have proposed the Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Plan; and

WHEREAS, the SMART Plan intends to advance six (6) of the rapid transit corridors, which primarily features six (6) rapid transit corridors that include both bus rapid transit and fixed-guideway transit projects, that once completed, will connect all parts of the County to a holistic public transit system; and

WHEREAS, completion of all six (6) corridors will require substantial funding and coordination from Federal, State, and Local governments; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, the Florida Legislature established the New Starts Transit Program (“NSTP”) to assist local governments in developing and constructing fixed-guideway and bus rapid transit projects to accommodate and manage urban growth and development, and

WHEREAS, qualifying projects of NSTP include rail transit and bus rapid transit systems, and

WHEREAS, all of the major projects identified by the SMART Plan would potentially be eligible for funding under this program; and

WHEREAS, under the current funding formula, the state's participation of transit capital projects may not exceed 50% of the nonfederal share of a project, and for individual fixed-guideway projects not approved for federal funding, the maximum state share in 12.5% of total costs of final design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction; and

WHEREAS, providing additional funding for the NSTP and increasing the maximum state share for projects not approved for federal funding from 12.5% to 25% would allow the County to use local transportation revenues to leverage additional State of Florida funds; and

WHEREAS, by allowing additional State of Florida funds to be leveraged, it will add security to the funding model for the SMART Plan in the event that individual projects are not approved for federal funding and increase the cost feasibility of the plan as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the SMART plan is essential to improving a rapidly growing metropolitan area like Miami-Dade County, but NSTP funds are vital to its success, thus Miami-Dade County League of Cities advocates increasing the maximum state share for projects not approved for federal funding from 12.5% to 25%.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Miami-Dade County League of Cities endorses and supports the expansion of the NSTP to facilitate funding for the SMART plan

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 2nd day of March, 2017.

ATTEST:



GEORGE VALLEJO
SECRETARY



FRANCIS X. SUAREZ
PRESIDENT