



**TO:** Honorable Mayor & Members of the  
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

**FROM:** Lee Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

**DATE:** December 18, 2012

**TITLE:** Sun Trolley “Neighborhood Link” New Bus Service  
Public Hearing

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**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the City Commission hold a public hearing and approve a new community bus route to be operated by the Downtown Fort Lauderdale Transportation Management Association (TMA) to replace the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Lauderdale’s (HACFL) Blue and Red routes beginning January 2, 2013 and authorize the appropriate City Contract Administrator to execute an amendment to the City-TMA agreement.

**Background**

The HACFL informed the City that it was ceasing operations of the two community bus routes that currently run through the Northwest section of the City on December 31, 2012 (see Exhibit 1).

In order to continue service to this area, City staff in collaboration with Broward County Transit (BCT), Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), South Florida Regional Transit Authority (SFRTA), the TMA and the HACFL developed four possible route scenarios for which the TMA would take over operations effective January 2, 2013, in addition to the existing five routes it currently operates today.

These scenarios were designed to accommodate as many people as possible by combining the existing HACFL’s Blue and Red routes into one route using one bus. This new combined route, known as the “Neighborhood Link” will not replace the existing TMA Tri-Rail NW Link route, but rather complement it (see Exhibit 2). The proposed service hours for the TMA’s Sun Trolley new “Neighborhood Link” will be approximately 9:00am to 3:00pm, Monday through Friday, which is less than the existing 7:00am to 5:00pm service time.

The “Neighborhood Link” service will use the new BCT 2012 Chevrolet Minibus currently being operated by the HACFL. The estimated hourly cost of the minibus is

approximately \$40.83/hr, which is less than of the Sun Trolley specialty vehicles (approx. \$47/hr), and includes fuel, insurance and administration. The total operating cost for the remaining nine months of fiscal year 2012-13 is approximately \$48,741, of which approximately \$17,906 would be funded by BCT Community Bus funds at \$15 per revenue hour, \$10,000 would be provided by the HACFL.

Approximately 17% of the route mileage is within the NW CRA jurisdiction, for which the NW CRA Advisory Board agreed to provide the matching percentage in funding (\$8,132) for the current fiscal year with the requirement that the NW CRA Logo be placed on the bus. That leaves a shortfall of approximately \$12,702.56 that the TMA will provide until City staff and the workgroup find an alternative source of funds. The breakdown of the 2012-13 fiscal year funding, which includes a 12-month cost comparison, are shown in Exhibit 2.

As part of the Interlocal Agreement between the City and BCT, public outreach, including a public hearing is required. On November 28, 2012, these route scenarios went before both the TMA Executive Board (for consideration) and the NW CRA Advisory Board (for review and funding request). There were also presentations made at the District III Pre-Agenda Meeting (December 3<sup>rd</sup>) and the Melrose Park HOA (December 7<sup>th</sup>). Additionally a public meeting was held at the African American Research Library and Cultural Center on December 12, 2012.

At the TMA Executive Board meeting, the members selected Scenario "A" and agreed to assume operations of the bus service effective January 2, 2013.

### **Resource Impact**

There is no current fiscal impact to the City associated with this action. Staff will bring forward an Amended Interlocal Agreement between the City and BCT and a proposed budget amendment on January 8, 2013 if the route is approved.

### **Attachment(s)**

Exhibit 1 – HACFL Map & Timetable (Eliminated Routes)

Exhibit 2 – Proposed TMA "Neighborhood Link" Map & Timetable

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