

# New River Crossing Update

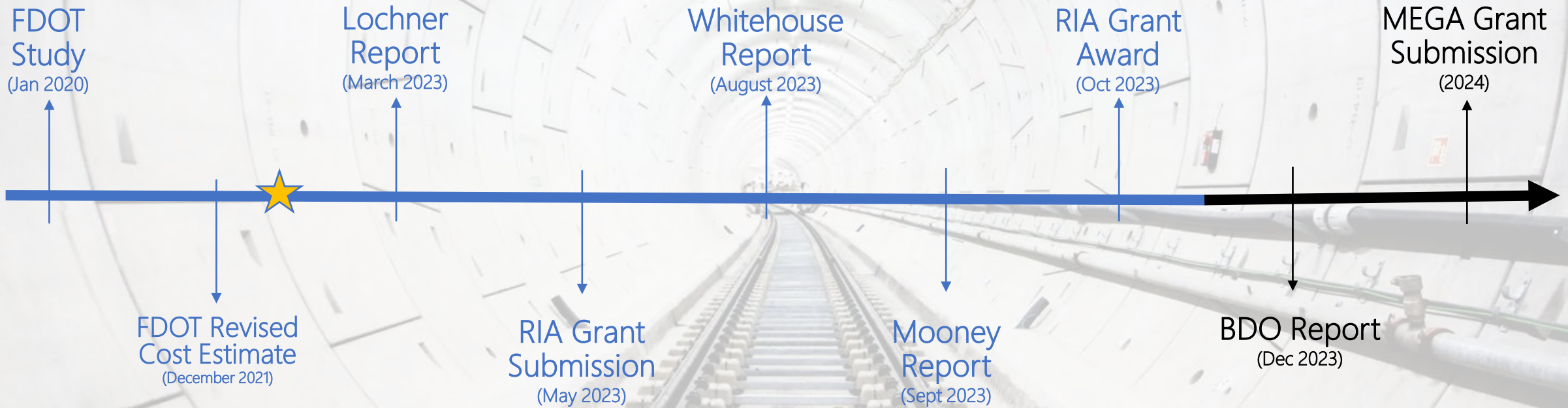
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Commission Conference Meeting

November 7, 2022



# Timeline



January 18, 2022: City of Fort Lauderdale Resolution #22-20 urging the Florida Department of Transportation to recommend the construction of a tunnel as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA).





# Tunnel Summary

	FDOT PD&E	FDOT #2	LOCHNER	WHITEHOUSE	MOONEY
Report Date	January 2020	December 2021	March 2023	August 2023	September 2023
Lead Consultant	Corradino	HDR	Lochner	Whitehouse Group	Mooney Consulting
Tunnel Construction Cost*	\$3.3 Billion	\$1.64 Billion - \$2.46 Billion	\$2.6 Billion	\$3.0 Billion	--
Average Annual Operating & Maintenance Cost	\$8.2 Million	--	--	\$17.5 Million	--
Notes:	Study also included three bridge alternatives with a construction cost range of \$134M - \$477M.	Expected accuracy range of -10% to +35% was applied.	Alternative tunneling concepts should be explored for cost saving opportunities.	Tunnel cost estimate includes a 40% contingency. Updated bridge alternative construction cost estimates to range from \$303M - \$585M.	Disputes FDOT & Whitehouse Group construction and O&M cost estimates. Believes both are inflated figures.

\*Reports were compiled at different points in time which included assumptions based on market inflation.



# Next Steps

- Regional Infrastructure Accelerator Grant
  - \$974,000 awarded to City of Fort Lauderdale in October 2023 (pending agreement)
  - Grant scope includes Economic Development, Property Impacts, Traffic & Congestion, Equity, Environmental Review
- Additional Consulting Services
  - BDO to assist with project definition, identifying funding, and action plan. Findings to be submitted in December 2023
  - Working to onboard a tunnel expert to serve as an Owners Representative
  - Working to onboard a consultant to provide grant writing services
- MEGA Grant Application

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE**  
**REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE ACCELERATOR GRANT**  
**NEW RIVER CROSSING**

**OVERVIEW**  
**PROJECT:**  
The project includes exploratory planning and technical assistance to construct a 2.1-mile train tunnel in the City of Fort Lauderdale.

**RATIONALE:**  
The number of trains are increasing with new passenger services intended to improve the transportation network. Regional travel from Miami to Orlando via Brightline and the proposed Commuter Rail initiatives estimate 110 trains per day once fully implemented.

**BENEFITS:**  
The tunnel addresses multiple transportation challenges including improved maritime traffic, reduces vehicular traffic congestion, improves safety through grade separation, and mitigates physical barriers in the downtown core.

**GRANT DELIVERABLES:**  
The grant funding will be utilized to analyze Economic Development, Environmental Review, Equity & Public Benefit, Property Impacts, and Traffic & Congestion associated with the tunnel concept.

The U.S. Department of Transportation recently awarded the City of Fort Lauderdale funding in the amount of \$974,000 that will be used for technical assistance to mitigate the impacts associated with an increased volume of trains passing through Fort Lauderdale. The City believes a tunnel is the only option to resolve the challenges.

**TRAIN SERVICE**

- Mitigating Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) concerns regarding rail incidents through federally funded railway grants.
- Broward Commuter Rail (BCR) service is 27 miles of the proposed 85-mile network.
- BCR is expected to add 60 trains in addition to the 36 Brightline and 14 freight trains per day.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- Two million residents and one million jobs along the rail corridor.
- Marine Industry generates \$23.3B statewide impact and has over 120,000 jobs within Broward County.
- Adding 18,000 units with 48 active or planned projects.

**PROPERTY IMPACTS**

- Downtown population has doubled in the past 10 years.
- Anticipated 13,000 people per square mile by 2040.
- Direct impact to numerous downtown residential neighborhoods.
- Evaluate required property and right of way needs to implement.

**TRAFFIC & CONGESTION**

- 3 million daily auto trips along the corridor.
- Downtown Fort Lauderdale:
  - 19 at-grade crossings with high accident rates.
  - Handful of downtown roadways experience 160,000 vehicles per day.
  - At-grade crossings generate significant traffic delays in heart of downtown.

**EQUITY**

- 15.91 square miles (44%) of the City of Fort Lauderdale is considered as disadvantaged through the Climate and Economic Justice screening tool (CEJST).
- In 2021, 13.8% of residents had an income below the poverty level.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

- Protect the environment, marine life, and downtown livability.
- Evaluate project impacts on the quality of the human and natural environment.