



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#14-0945

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

FROM: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: August 19, 2014

TITLE: RESOLUTION Supporting the Broward Metropolitan Planning
Organization's Efforts to Secure a Federal TIGER Grant for Safety
Improvements Along the FEC Corridor for Quiet Zone Designation
Eligibility

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Commission adopt a resolution supporting the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) efforts to secure a federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant for safety improvements along the Florida East Coast (FEC) Corridor for quiet zone designation eligibility, and recognizing that the City may incur additional maintenance and operating costs associated with these safety improvements, if funds are awarded.

BACKGROUND

The Broward MPO and Palm Beach MPO jointly applied for a \$20 million federal TIGER grant to upgrade safety infrastructure on at-grade public crossings along the FEC Corridor. The proposed safety improvements will allow the City to apply for Quiet Zone designation along all FEC crossings within Fort Lauderdale's jurisdiction.

A Quiet Zone is a section of a rail line where additional safety measures have been put in place, waiving the requirement that locomotives must blow their horns when approaching grade crossings. The Quiet Zone does not prevent the use of horns to address imminent safety concerns (i.e., cars or pedestrian stranded on the tracks). A Quiet Zone corridor reduces noise pollution resulting from passing trains.

Improvements resulting from the TIGER grant will ensure all FEC crossings in Broward and Palm Beach County are upgraded to be eligible for Quiet Zone designation, including all twenty-one (21) FEC at-grade crossings in Fort Lauderdale.

If the grant is awarded, then the Broward and Palm Beach MPOs will work with the municipalities along the FEC corridor, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), the Federal Railroad Administration, the FEC, and All Aboard Florida to design

engineering improvements, construct safety improvements, and apply for Quiet Zone designation.

Upon completion of safety improvements resulting from TIGER Grant funding, the City may incur additional maintenance and operating costs.

If awarded the grant, the City will work with the Broward MPO staff to determine the most appropriate safety crossing treatment to meet quiet zone eligibility. Depending on the treatment, this may reduce the annual costs to the City.

Resource Impact

Grant related improvements will increase maintenance responsibilities at city operated crossings. It is estimated that annual signal maintenance costs will increase up to \$60,000 per year.

Strategic Connections

This item is a Commission Annual Action Plan priority, included within the Management Agenda, advancing the All Aboard Florida project.

It is also a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018* initiative, included within the Infrastructure Cylinder of Excellence, specifically advancing:

- Objective 1: Improve transportation options and reduce congestion by working with agency partners.
- Initiative 2: Monitor All Aboard Florida implementation, and advocate for the City's best interest.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan*: We are Connected.

Attachments:

EX 1: Proposed Resolution

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