



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING**

#17-1094

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

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

DATE: October 3, 2017

TITLE: Resolution to Adopt the Fort Lauderdale Transit Master Plan

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission adopt a resolution supporting the Fort Lauderdale Transit Master Plan.

Background

The City of Fort Lauderdale completed the development of a Transit Master Plan (Exhibit 1) that reviewed the existing community bus service and identified implementation strategies to improve the service. The City funded the development of the plan through a grant from the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) administered to the City through an agreement with the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA).

Staff worked with the Tindale Oliver consulting firm to develop a comprehensive plan of short and long-term recommendations aimed at enhancing service efficiencies of the Sun Trolley community bus system and identifying future service opportunities. Recommendations include service route realignments and potential expansions, bus stop infrastructure needs and guidelines, a short-term and long-term financial plan, a 10-year vehicle replacement plan and a 10-year staffing plan. Recommendations were developed based on input received through public engagement and through the review and analysis of existing conditions and operations. Following the adoption of the plan, the priorities for implementation will be reviewed and brought back to the City Commission for endorsement. Once those priorities are approved, staff will work with our neighbors on the establishment of any final route realignments including the required public hearing before City Commission.

A presentation of the Draft Transit Master Plan was provided to Commission at its April 4, 2017 meeting. Staff also held a follow-up workshop with the Downtown Fort Lauderdale Transportation Management Authority (TMA) on August 17, 2017 to review in detail the implementation strategies recommended and prioritization of

implementation of the master plan upon its adoption. At the TMA's Board Meeting held on August 23, 2017, they voted unanimously to endorse the Transit Master Plan with the following additional recommendations:

- Extend the Galt Link to the west on Commercial Boulevard as far as the Intracoastal Waterway;
- Continue operating the Galt Link on Galt Ocean Drive, rather than shifting it to SR A1A;
- Continue operating the northbound Galt Link on El Mar Drive rather than shifting to A1A and continue the route north to Washingtonia Avenue before transitioning back to SR A1A;
- Consider combining the Downtown, Las Olas, and Beach Links into one contiguous route, which could add desired service to Victoria Park, provide connections for employees to access jobs on the beach, and reduce unnecessary route overlap;
- Consider combining the NW Community and Neighborhood Links, which would reduce unnecessary route overlap and streamline operations for shorter headways;
- Consider evening hours for the Las Olas, Beach, Downtown, and Galt Links especially on Fridays and Saturdays.
- Extend the Airport Link to Huizenga Plaza, which would provide seamless access to Las Olas Boulevard;
- Estimate projected ridership and develop performance measures along with each route alignment;
- Engage consultant assistance from FDOT to derive recommendations for FY18 to align with the Transit Master Plan and the TMA FY18 projected budget shortfall;
- Revisit and revise the plan on an annual basis in order to maintain an ongoing 5-year strategy;
- Ensure the Transit Master Plan is consistent with the TMA's needs, understanding that it is a baseline document, and that route changes shall be reviewed closely with the communities they serve prior to routes being changed.

The full plan can be viewed at www.fortlauderdale.gov/transitmp

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action. Several of the route realignment recommendations are possible without additional operational funding. Any improvements requiring financial resources will be brought forth to the Commission for approval as appropriate.

Strategic Connection

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

- Goal 1: Be a pedestrian friendly, multi-modal City.
- Objective 1: Improve transportation options and reduce congestion by working with agency partners
- Initiative 1: Strategically route and expand the Sun Trolley as an overall complement to upcoming major transportation projects.
- Initiative 6: Partner with agencies and businesses to increase commuter car-pooling and to incentivize and encourage mass transit use.

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

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Transit Master Plan Executive Summary

Exhibit 2 – TMA Endorsement Letter

Exhibit 3 – Resolution

Prepared by: Karen Warfel, Transportation and Mobility

Department Director: Diana Alarcon, Transportation and Mobility