



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

**#22-0063**

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

**FROM:** Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

**DATE:** January 5, 2022

**TITLE:** Resolution Urging the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to  
Consider the Tunnel as the Future of Commuter Rail Service in the City of  
Fort Lauderdale - **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4)**

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**Recommendation**

Staff recommends the Commission approve a Resolution urging the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to consider the Tunnel as the future of Commuter Rail Service in the City of Fort Lauderdale.

**Background**

The City is aware that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is working on a preliminary design and engineering study of commuter rail service and is in the process of selecting a local preferred alternative for a New River crossing. Three of the four options under consideration would build a bridge up to three miles long through the center of Fort Lauderdale's downtown and as high as 80 feet above ground level at maximum clearance, bisecting the City's downtown and creating undue blight that is contrary to the vision that the City Commission has created for the area as a vibrant, cosmopolitan, walkable urban center where people can live, work and play.

In addition, the City Commission does not believe that the FDOT has sufficiently considered the fourth option of building a tunnel that would allow the commuter rail service to cross under the New River.

Finally, the City Commission has already engaged in previous discussions about commuter rail service options in efforts to reduce congestion on our roadways and improve mass transit. Staff has been directed to draft a Resolution (Exhibit 1) urging the FDOT to eliminate the bridge options from consideration and pursue the construction of a tunnel as the local preferred alternative while continuing to work to reduce the project's construction costs.

### **Strategic Connections**

This item is a *2021 Top Commission Priority*, advancing the Resiliency initiative.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure Focus Area
- Goal 2: Build a multi-modal and pedestrian friendly community
- Objective: Transportation and Traffic

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

This item supports the *Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040* Comprehensive Plan specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure Focus Area
- The Transportation and Mobility Element
- Transit amenities should be of high quality to support multimodal transportation and promote the reduction of the single-occupant vehicle.

### **Attachment**

Exhibit 1 – Resolution

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Prepared by: Daphnee Sainvil, Program Manager II, GAED

Charter Officer: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager