CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo **#15-1358**
REGULAR MEETING

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

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

DATE: November 17, 2015

TITLE: Public Hearing Relating to Modifications to the Galt Link Transit Route

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Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission approve the route modifications (Exhibits 1 and 2) to the Sun Trolley Galt Link community bus route.

Background

The Galt Link is one of the City's community bus routes that is operated by the Downtown Fort Lauderdale Transportation Management Association (TMA). In an effort to optimize the route and address low ridership, the TMA reviewed ways in which to improve the service.

Over the past several months, the TMA and City staff have worked with Broward County Transit and the Town of Lauderdale-by-the-Sea officials to gather neighbor input on potential route improvements along the Galt Link to make it more desirable and, in turn increase ridership. During that outreach, there were requests to have the Sun Trolley connect to Lauderdale-by-the-Sea. Additional feedback indicated service to the hospitals was not utilized.

As a result, the following changes are proposed for the Galt Link route:

- Extending the service north into Lauderdale-by-the-Sea to provide more connectivity with the Pelican Hopper community bus service operated by the Town of Lauderdale-by-the-Sea.
- Eliminating the existing portion of the route along US-1 north of Oakland Park Boulevard that services the Holy Cross and Imperial Point hospitals, due to low ridership. Area neighbors will still be able to use community bus service to reach Holy Cross Hospital by utilizing the Lauderdale-by-the-Sea's Pelican Hopper.

Additional input was received during the outreach requesting service south along US-1 to the commercial plazas and future developments. Those future modifications will be analyzed for feasibility will follow the same review and approval process.

The proposed route modifications have been designed to maintain the existing headways (length of time between buses headed in the same direction) of 60 minutes. The two buses on the route will continue to run in opposite directions providing passengers with efficient transportation options. The proposed route map and timetable are provided in Exhibits 1 and 2. If approved, the revisions to the route would be effective on December 1, 2015.

The proposed route modifications have been approved by both the Lauderdale-by-the-Sea Town Council on October 13, 2015 (resolution attached as Exhibit 5) and by the TMA Executive Board on October 28, 2015 (see Exhibit 6).

This proposed change is more than 25% of the overall route; therefore, pursuant to Section 2.6 of the City-County Interlocal Agreement (ILA) and Title 49 of the United States Code, the City must hold a public hearing prior to the change in service.

Resource Impact

The City's financial contribution to this route is not changing. The route had been partially funded through a grant that is no longer available. This route modification will allow the Galt Link to continue due to the partnership with the Town of Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, and their contribution of $25,000 annually for the portion within their town.

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 - Proposed Route Map
Exhibit 2 - Proposed Timetable
Exhibit 3 - Existing Map & Timetable
Exhibit 4 - List of Public Comments & Letters of Support
Exhibit 5 - Lauderdale-by-the-Sea Resolution
Exhibit 6 – Letter from TMA
Exhibit 7 - Public Hearing Notice

Prepared by: Kevin C. Walford, Transportation and Mobility

Department Director: Diana Alarcon, Transportation and Mobility