



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
CONFERENCE MEETING

#16-0592

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

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

DATE: May 3, 2016

TITLE: Infrastructure Surtax Discussion

Florida law authorizes local governments to impose various types of local option surtaxes. The Commission has discussed two of these discretionary surtaxes, the Charter County and Regional Transportation System Surtax and the Local Government Infrastructure Surtax multiple times at Commission Conference meetings since January of 2016.

The Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has taken the lead in educating and facilitating discussions between the County and municipalities regarding the surtax options. The MPO formed a Surtax Subcommittee consisting of the municipalities that equate to over 51% of the County's population. There have been parallel surtax efforts. Generally, the County's initiative has been to pursue the Transportation Surtax while the municipalities have chosen to pursue the Infrastructure Surtax. Key information and updates related to each effort are summarized below. The majority of the information for this Conference item was provided by MPO Staff.

Infrastructure Surtax

- At its January 11, 2016 meeting, the Budget Advisory Board (BAB) unanimously approved a motion recommending that the City Commission proceed with seeking the Local Government Infrastructure Surtax at a rate of one cent with the caveat that the surtax should sunset after 30 years and that the surtax funds, bonded or un-bonded, not be used to supplant or reduce the City's Ad Valorem Taxes.
- On April 5, 2016, the City Commission adopted a resolution establishing the rate of a Local Government Infrastructure Surtax and calling for a referendum on the surtax as authorized in Section 212.055(2) of Florida Statutes, "municipalities representing a majority of the county's population may initiate the surtax through the adoption of uniform resolutions calling for a countywide referendum on the issue."

- As of Thursday, April 28, the governing bodies representing 64.79% of the County's population have adopted uniform resolutions for the placement of an infrastructure surtax on the November 8, 2016 ballot. Several more municipalities are scheduled to consider the uniform resolution at their upcoming commission meetings. A map of the municipalities that have passed the resolution was provided by the MPO and is included as Exhibit 1.
- On May 5, 2016 at 9:30 a.m., there will be a special meeting of the MPO Board to discuss the state of the parallel efforts and determine which path is the most beneficial for the Broward region.

Transportation Surtax

- At the April 14, 2016 MPO Board Meeting, the Board voted 19-6 to approve a 30-year 70%/30% transportation surtax pending receipt of an inter-local agreement which is beneficial to all parties. The Board also recommended that a working group, consisting of the Executive Committee with the addition of one or two County Commissioners, meet to negotiate an inter-local agreement prior to the Surtax Special MPO Board Meeting on May 5, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.
- On April 15, 2016 a list of participants was sent to the County Administrator which included the Chairman, the Executive Director, the General Counsel, staff consultant and MPO planner to serve as staff support. The Chairman also requested that County Commissioner Ryan serve on the negotiation committee. That request was also included with the list, and offered to provide the necessary sunshine advertisements.
- At the April 26, 2016 Broward County Commission Meeting, a draft inter-local agreement for the transportation surtax was presented to the County Commission. Commissioners Wexler, Sharief, and Furr expressed concerns that municipal/MPO Members were not aware of or included in the development or review of the inter-local agreement, and asked that City/MPO Members be consulted as soon as possible for input on the proposed ILA. The ILA passed 7-2, with Commissioners Bogan and LaMarca voting against. This inter-local agreement will be provided to the MPO Members in the agenda backup for the Surtax Special MPO Board Meeting on May 5, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. and is included as Exhibit 2.

Additional information regarding the surtax options and roadways, prepared by MPO Staff, is attached as Exhibits 3 and 4 for reference.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this informational item.

Strategic Connections

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

- Goal 12: Be a leading government organization, managing our resources wisely and sustainably.
- Objective 1: Ensure sound fiscal management

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

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Map of Municipalities that have passed Uniform Resolution

Exhibit 2 – Draft Interlocal Agreement for Transportation Surtax

Exhibit 3 – Mileage by Municipality

Exhibit 4 – Surtax Fact Sheet

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