



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

#18-0897

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

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

DATE: November 6, 2018

TITLE: Public Hearing to Approve Suspensions and Schedule Changes on Various
Community Bus Service/Sun Trolley Routes due to Budgetary Shortfall

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission reduce Community Bus Service/Sun Trolley routes operated by the Downtown Fort Lauderdale Transportation Management Association, Inc. (TMA) Community Bus Service by suspending the Airport Link and approving schedule changes to the Downtown Link, Beach Link, and Las Olas Link routes.

Background

Pursuant to Section 2.1.3 of the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between the City and TMA and Title 49 of the United States Code (U.S.C.) 5307(c)(1)(I), the City must hold a public hearing prior to any change in service affecting 25% or more of route miles.

For fiscal year 2019, based on current levels of service, the TMA is expected to have expenses of \$2,476,000 and revenue totaling \$2,081,000, with a budgetary shortfall of approximately \$395,000, making continued operation impossible. Fiscal year 2019 will be the third consecutive year experiencing a budgetary shortfall, with the TMA using cash reserves in the amount of \$182,553 in fiscal year 2017 and an estimated \$235,000 during fiscal year 2018. The shortfall is partially due to the loss of funding revenue including grants from Broward County and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), as well as increased operational cost associated with leased vehicles which replaced retired City-owned fleet vehicles during fiscal year 2017. The proposed schedule changes will reduce operational expenses during fiscal year 2019 by an estimated \$441,000 to \$2,035,000 but will further lower grant funding and farebox revenue by at least \$46,000 due to the reduction in service hours.

The following service changes are recommended:

- Suspension of the Airport Link;
- Changing the schedule on the Beach Link from 9:30 AM to 6:30 PM to 10:30 AM to 5:00 PM;
- Changing the Downtown Link schedule from 7:30 AM – 6:00 PM to 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM;
- Changing the Las Olas Link schedule from Friday – Monday 9:30 AM – 6:30 PM to Friday, Saturday and Sunday only 10:30 AM – 5:00 PM

TMA approved the proposed bus route suspensions and schedule changes at its board meeting on September 26, 2018.

Resource Impact

There is no additional resource impact. The current funding provided to the TMA is not enough to operate the Sun Trolley at the current service levels. The City provides \$444,152 through City Gas Tax and City Parking funds, pass-through funding from Broward County Transit, and a variety of pass-through grant funds. The existing appropriated funding will continue to be provided to TMA for the operation of the City's Sun Trolley Community Bus Service.

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.

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

Attachments

Exhibit 1 - TMA Sun Trolley Route Maps & Timetables

Exhibit 2 - Public Hearing Ad for Service Changes

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