



Florida Department of Transportation

RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

RACHEL D. CONE
INTERIM SECRETARY

March 16, 2017

The Honorable Francis Suarez
Commissioner, District 4, City of Miami
City Hall, 3500 Pan American Drive
Miami, Florida 33133

Dear Commissioner Suarez:

The Florida Department of Transportation recognizes and appreciates the concerted efforts of the City of Miami, Miami-Dade County, the Metropolitan Planning Organization and other local officials to prioritize and implement the SMART Plan for the benefit of the region's residents, businesses and visitors.

In our recent meeting we discussed Section 341.051(5)(a), Florida Statutes, which limits the Departments participation in certain phases of an individual fixed-guideway project not approved for federal funding to no more than 12.5% of the cost of each phase. The Department does not anticipate that the limitation in section 341.051(5)(a) will apply to any of the SMART Plan corridor projects. Projects connecting to an existing fixed guideway transit system such as the Miami Metrorail, Metromover, or Tri-Rail may be considered to be extensions of the existing transit systems and not "individual" fixed guideway projects subject to the 12.5% cap.

In addition, projects with a completed federal level PD&E study and NEPA analysis may technically be considered to be "approved for federal funding", whether or not the project is successful in competing for Federal Transit Administration New Starts or Small Starts program funds. In such case, the limitation in Section 341.051(5)(a), Florida Statutes, would be inapplicable on its face. We look forward to working with the local community and each of the project partners to help advance these important transportation projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Wolfe", is written over a blue horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Jim Wolfe
District 6 Secretary

cc: Rachel Cone, Interim Secretary
Alice Bravo
Aileen Boucle