



## MEMORANDUM

Sue Ellen Loyzelle  
Vice Mayor

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Town Council

**From:** Sue Ellen Loyzelle, Vice Mayor

**Date:** April 19, 2017

**Re:** Supporting Miami-Dade League of Cities Resolution No. 2017-1

### REQUEST

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CUTLER BAY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE MIAMI-DADE LEAGUE OF CITIES RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE EXPANSION OF THE NEW STARTS TRANSIT PROGRAM (NSTP) TO FACILITATE FUNDING FOR THE STRATEGIC MIAMI AREA RAPID TRANSIT (SMART) PLAN; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

### BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

The Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Plan (*Attachment A*”), endorsed by the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), intends to advance six (6) of the People’s Transportation Plan’s rapid transit corridors along with a network system of Bus Express Rapid Transit service to implement mass transit projects in Miami-Dade County.

The TPO established a policy in 2016 to set as highest priority the advancement of rapid transit corridor projects in Miami-Dade County and endorsed the SMART Plan (*Attachment “B”*). The New Starts Transit Program (NSTP) will assist local governments in developing projects to accommodate and manage urban growth and development. All of the major projects identified by the SMART Plan would be eligible for funding under the NSTP. The designation of the SMART Plan as a Program of Interrelated Projects will benefit and increase the likelihood of federal funding.

Under the current funding formula, the state’s participation of transit capital projects may not exceed 50% of the nonfederal share of a project, and the Florida Department of Transportation has been approved to fund no more than 12.5% of the cost of each phase (*Attachment “C”*). Providing additional funding for the NSTP and increasing the maximum state share for projects not approved for federal funding from 12.5% to 25% would allow the Miami-Dade County to use local transportation revenues to leverage additional State of Florida funds.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Town Council approve the attached Resolution supporting the Miami-Dade League of Cities Resolution No. 2017-1 expressing support of the expansion of the New Starts Transit Program (NSTP) to facilitate funding for the Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Plan.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment “A” – Transportation Planning Organization SMART Plan
- Attachment “B” – Transportation Planning Organization Resolutions
- Attachment “C” – Florida Department of Transportation Funding Letter-March 16, 2017

