

RESOLUTION NO. 51-2006 OF THE CITY OF LAKE WORTH, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND ITS AFFILIATED REGIONAL AND COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AGENCIES TO AGGRESSIVELY PURSUE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL PASSENGER SERVICE IN THE FLORIDA EAST COAST TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR TO MEET THE GROWING TRANSIT NEEDS AND COMPLEMENT FREIGHT INDUSTRY GROWTH IN THE SOUTHEAST FLORIDA AREA; PROVIDING FOR DISTRIBUTION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, highway capacity expansion will only increase by one-third of the expected fifty percent increase in Southeast Florida population by the year 2030, which will lead to dramatic worsening of congestion levels and travel times, and a critical need to develop adequate transit services to provide for the mobility needs of Southeast Florida residents; and

WHEREAS, the Eastward Ho! public policy initiative, developed by the Governor's Commission for a Sustainable South Florida and the Florida Department of Community Affairs, provides guidance and strategies for improving quality of life and managing growth in Southeast Florida including the redevelopment of eastern Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach Counties to preserve natural resources and reduce the detrimental effects of suburban sprawl development; and

WHEREAS, in 1997/98, cities and counties in the Southeast Florida region began to meet on a continuing basis to approve resolutions asking state and federal transportation agencies to negotiate with the Florida East Coast Industries, Inc. ("FECI") for inclusion of passenger service within their corridor; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, a collaboration of freight operators and the Florida Department of Transportation ("FDOT") completed the "Rail Rationalization Study" and recommended long term planning for both the South Florida Rail Corridor ("SFRC") and the Florida East Coast Railway ("FEC") Corridors, including double tracking of the SFRC and the concurrent, public investment in the FEC corridor, and to consider implementation of passenger service within the FEC Corridor; and

WHEREAS, the FEC Corridor right-of-way represents an important and strategic transportation corridor that provides vital freight and transportation rail services to and from South Florida; and

WHEREAS, the trend in economic growth along the FEC is only beginning, resulting in the building of compact residential and commercial development, including tens of thousands of new residents and hundreds of thousands of square feet of office space within walking distance of the corridor; and

WHEREAS, the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority's 2003 strategic plan, entitled "South Florida Transit Analysis" outlines transit corridor expansion alternatives including the FEC corridor; and

WHEREAS, an integrated, complementary system of transit services is needed to provide for various existing and future travel markets including long-distance travel served by the Tri-Rail Commuter Rail System, moderate-distance travel served by transit in the densely developed eastern FEC corridor, and local circulation in the urban centers by local circulator services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAKE WORTH, FLORIDA, that:

Section 1. The FDOT and its affiliated agencies are strongly encouraged to define specific and detailed local and regional passenger services needed for cities and unincorporated areas along the FEC Corridor area where tremendous compact growth is underway.

Section 2. The FDOT is encouraged to actively pursue the worthwhile effort of obtaining access to the FEC Railway corridor with the purposes of instituting and effectively operating the needed transit services within the FEC Corridor area without negatively affecting current or future freight operations.

Section 3. The FDOT is encouraged to work with local governments to develop complementary land use plans and local development regulations that further the goals of Eastward Ho! through developing communities that are best served by transit.

Section 4. The FDOT is encouraged to work with local governments to develop financing mechanisms that benefit eastern communities and advance near-term development of the necessary transit services in the FEC corridor.

Section 5. A copy of this resolution shall be provided to all government agencies involved, including County commissions and officials involved in regional transit planning, the RTA and its membership, the Florida League of Cities, municipalities and Chambers of Commerce within the South Florida area, CSXT and FECI and affiliates at the air and seaports.

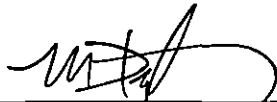
Section 6. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

The passage of this Resolution was moved by Commissioner Jennings, seconded by Commissioner Vespo, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

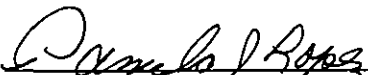
Mayor Marc J. Drautz	AYE
Vice Mayor Retha Lowe	ABSENT
Commissioner Cara Jennings	AYE
Commissioner Nadine Burns	ABSENT
Commissioner Dave Vespo	AYE

The Mayor thereupon declared this Resolution duly passed and adopted on this 5th day of December 2006.

LAKE WORTH CITY COMMISSION

By:   
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Marc J. Drautz, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Pamela J. Lopez, City Clerk

