

February 17, 2022 Membership Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

The February Board Meeting was called to order on February 17, 2022, at 6:33 pm and was presided over by Melinda Bowker - President. Melinda reviewed the agenda.

2. Roll Call

Six attendees were present via zoom meeting. The roll was called by Melinda Bowker. The following 2021 Board Members were present: Melinda Bowker, Debra Picker, Lianne Rubbo, Sonia Jones, Linda Davis, and Nicole Marsala. Absent Board member Ian Lubetkin quorum was met with 6 of 7 Board members present.

3. Admin

Review of Board Meeting Minutes was deferred until next board meeting.

4. Tunnel v Bridge: The Broward Commuter Rail and Impact/Options for our Downtown Neighborhood

- Special Guest: City of Fort Lauderdale Mayor Dean Trantalis went through the history bringing a commuter rail line to Ft Lauderdale and what the implications of having a bridge crossing the river vs having a tunnel. A bridge would span a mile in each direction to allow the incremental increase in height (50'). He feels that the bridge would interfere with the existing infrastructure and design of the Downtown neighborhood.
- FDOT presentation guests:
 - Phil Schwab, P.E.-Project Mgr., FDOT, District 4
 - Mike Ciscar, Consultant PD&E Project Mgr.-The Corradino Group
 - Lauren Hatchell, Media Relations Group LLCPhil Schwab provided us with an update of the project and highlighted the mobility, enhance quality of life, economic and residential growth, commuter rail benefits for employers and the environmental aspect. The project would run from Aventura to Deerfield Beach with 6 stations in between. The FSR will continue to run the freight rail on the existing line. They are seeking capital improvement grant funding. The study provides 4 crossing alternatives for the project.

5. Community input and questions for presenters

- Member suggested combining the bridge for both vehicle and trains.
- Would the rail system qualify for Federal money? Mayor Trantalis said the Federal Government would cover 50% of the project.
- Member questioned the price tag of the project, ranges from 2 – 4 billion. Mayor said that the 4 billion is greatly inflated, it should be around 2 billion or less.
- Member questioned the disruption to the community while building the tunnel. The mayor mentioned it would be minimal.
- Mayor spoke about the 2 possible ways the tunnel would be constructed, boring and cut and cover.
- Can freight trains be run through the tunnel, according to the freight company freight cannot be run through tunnels because of federal standards.
- What can be done to increase ridership, Phil explained that ridership will grow as development occurs and population density increases.



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6. Downtown Civic Board Vote on Locally Preferred Alternative

The Board voted 5 to 7 to support the tunnel option for the commuter rail.

7. Annual Election and Meeting is (In Person and Outside!) Thursday 2/24/22 at 6pm Stranahan House

“District 4 Commissioner Ben Sorensen, Fort Lauderdale Police Dept, FDOT.

8. The meeting was adjourned by Melinda Bowker at 8:40 pm

Minutes prepared by: Lorena Melgarejo 2022 Recording Secretary

Minutes approved by: Board at Meeting held on 01/04/2023

Recording Secretary Approval:

Lorena Melgarejo

Date: 01/04/2023