



**Interoffice Memorandum**

January 3, 2024

TO: Mayor Jerry L. Demings  
-AND-  
County Commissioners

FROM: Brett Blackadar, P.E., Deputy Director, Public Works Department *BWB*

**CONTACT PERSON: Brian R. Sanders, Interim Manager  
Transportation Planning Division**

**PHONE NUMBER: (407) 836-8022**

**SUBJ: January 23, 2024 – Discussion Agenda  
Sunshine Corridor Project and SunRail Update**

On February 21, 2023, Orange County staff and Florida Department of Transportation District 5 Secretary John E. Tyler conducted a Board Work Session to discuss a potential expansion of SunRail in combination with intercity passenger rail by Brightline. More specifically, the proposed Sunshine Corridor would extend from the Orlando International Airport westwardly to the south International Drive area, continuing further west to the Interstate 4 corridor towards Tampa, with future potential connections to the existing north-south SunRail system. Ideally, the proposed corridor would support both commuter rail and passenger rail systems.

The proposal is being reviewed and discussed by several regional transportation agencies, including the Central Florida Commuter Rail Commission, LYNX, and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Preliminary engineering evaluations have taken place by private parties for intercity rail and significant additional information regarding operations, ridership, and costs for future Commuter Rail elements are being developed by FDOT through a Transit Concept and Alternatives Review (TCAR) study. FDOT conducted a series of public meetings this past December regarding the TCAR study which evaluated options for expanding SunRail from the Orlando International Airport to Orange County's Convention Center and South International Drive.

At the January 23, 2024, Board meeting, Orange County and FDOT staff will present an update on the Sunshine Corridor Project, status of the TCAR study and ongoing coordination with FDOT and other community stakeholders. An update regarding the transition activities that will be occurring this upcoming year for SunRail will also be presented.

This item is for informational purposes only; no action is required.

BWB/BRS/ep