




Interoffice Memorandum

February 3, 2023

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

FROM: Timothy L. Boldig, Interim Director 
Planning, Environmental, and Development Services Department

CONTACT PERSON: **Renzo Nastasi, AICP, Manager**
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SUBJECT: February 21, 2023 – Work Session
Sunshine Corridor Project

The Sunshine Corridor has recently received significant news coverage due to announcements by International Drive stakeholders regarding 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 near the Orange County Convention Center, continuing further west to the Interstate 4 corridor towards Tampa, with connection to the existing north-south SunRail system. The proposed corridor would support both commuter rail and passenger rail technologies.

The proposal is being reviewed and discussed by several regional transportation agencies, including the Central Florida Rail Commission, MetroPlan Orlando, and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). While some preliminary engineering evaluations have taken place by private parties, significant additional information regarding operations, ridership, and costs have yet to be developed. For the project to advance, the County will need to work with local and State partners in supporting applications to the Federal Transit Administration and Federal Rail Administration to complete a series of technical studies and potential Federal grant applications.

At the February 21, 2023 Work Session, staff will present an update on the Sunshine Corridor Project and ongoing coordination with FDOT and other community stakeholders, including how the project may impact the County's obligations regarding SunRail. The future consideration for local funding commitments for capital and operating costs will be briefly discussed. FDOT will also be part of the presentation to discuss their role in the project and anticipated near term steps and schedule, including applications for State and Federal funding.

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

TB/RN/ep

c: Byron W. Brooks, AICP, County Administrator
Jon V. Weiss, P.E., Deputy County Administrator
Joseph Kunkel, P.E., Director, Public Works Department
Brett Blackadar, P.E., Deputy Director, Public Works Department
Renzo Nastasi, AICP, Manager, Transportation Planning Division