



**BROWARD COMMUTER RAIL (BCR)**  
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT (PD&E) STUDY



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT), DISTRICT 4  
BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA • FPID: 448942-1

Project Update for:  
South Middle River Civic Association  
Project Update  
March 22, 2022





**MOBILITY** – More and enhanced Transit options can increase transit use, improve travel times and provide congestion relief on roadways



**ENHANCE QUALITY OF LIFE** - Enhances quality of life by increasing mobility, transportation choices, and access to jobs and services



**ECONOMIC & RESIDENTIAL GROWTH** - Economic development increases tax base, affordable/workforce housing incentives, and funding and use of overall transit facilities



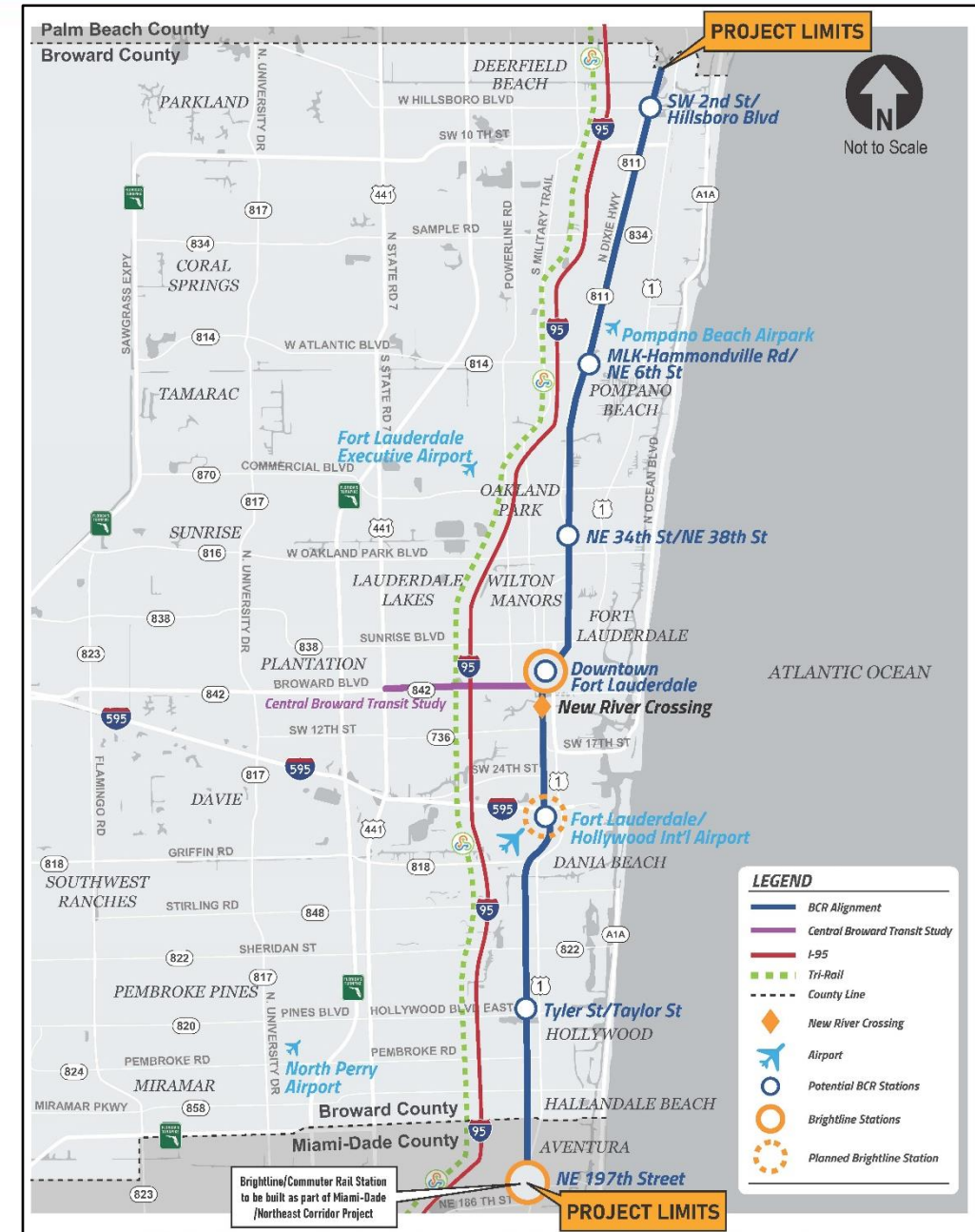
**COMMUTER RAIL BENEFITS FOR EMPLOYERS** - Employer benefits include access to a wider talent pool and enhanced productivity

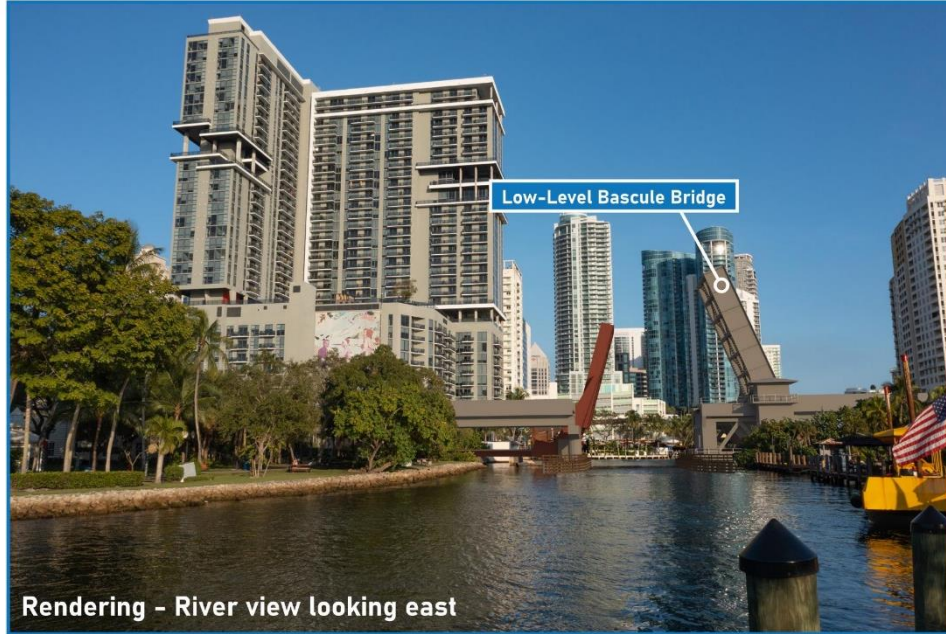


**ENVIRONMENTAL** - Environmental benefits include sustainability, reduced vehicle emissions, and cleaner air

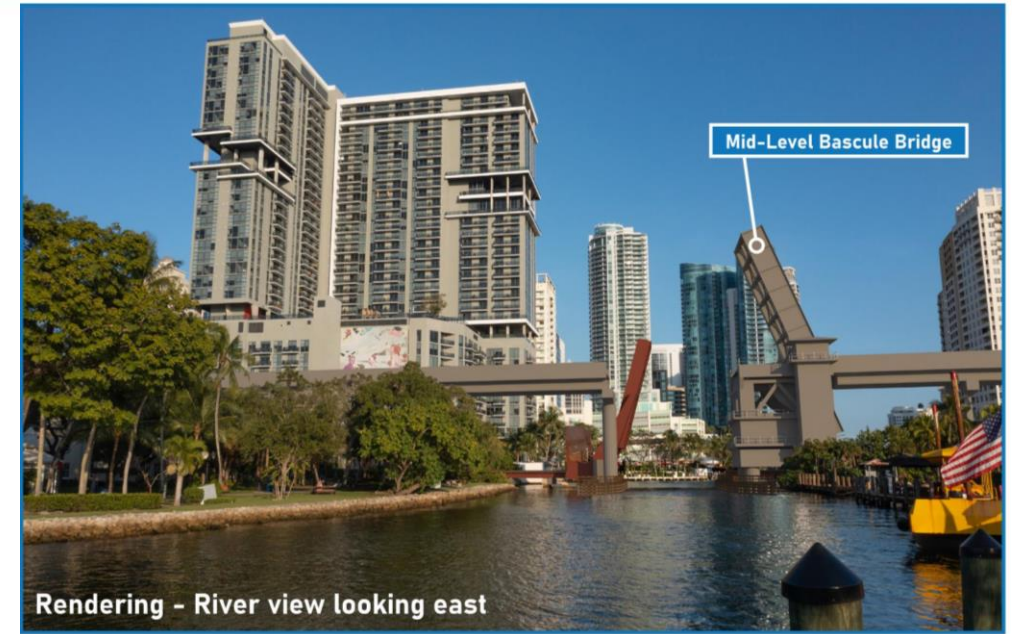
# Overview of Project

- ❑ Broward MPO endorsed Tri-Rail Coastal Link (TRCL) LPA in 2010 and is unfunded in needs plan (MTP)
- ❑ Miami-Dade has advanced the NE Corridor Project from Aventura to Downtown Miami with FTA
- ❑ Per Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
  - FDOT will lead the environmental study and technical analysis
  - Broward County is responsible for the Finance Plan, access fee, maintenance, operations as well as Consensus Building
- ❑ Aventura to Deerfield Beach (27 miles of the FEC corridor)
- ❑ Technical recommendations have been made for 6 station locations (general) in Broward
- ❑ Coordination with Brightline, FECR, USCG, FTA, MPO, municipalities, Broward and Miami-Dade Counties
- ❑ Stakeholder meetings and workshop focused on the New River Crossing (4 alternatives- Low and Mid-Level Bascule Bridges, High Fixed Bridge and a Tunnel)

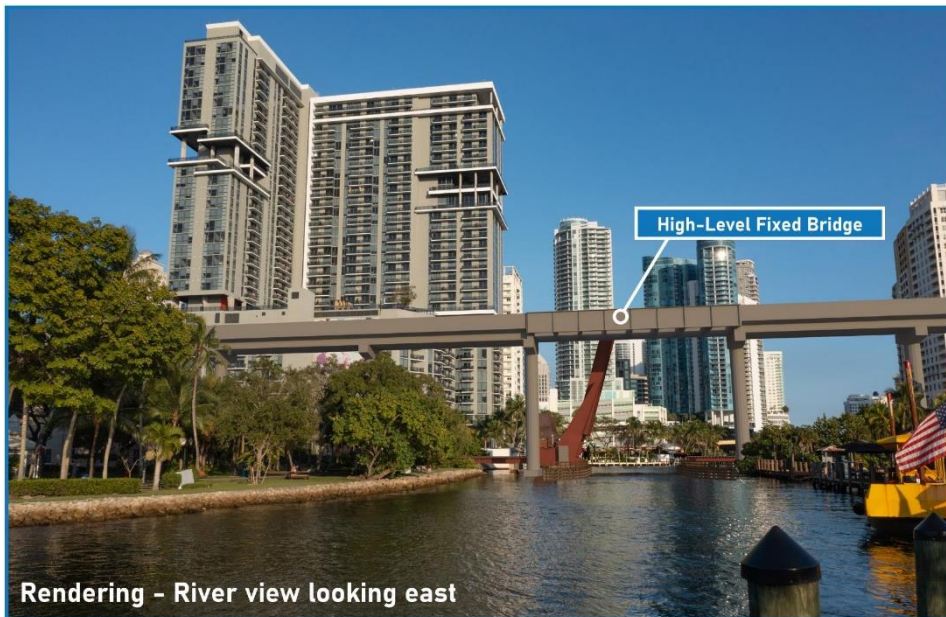




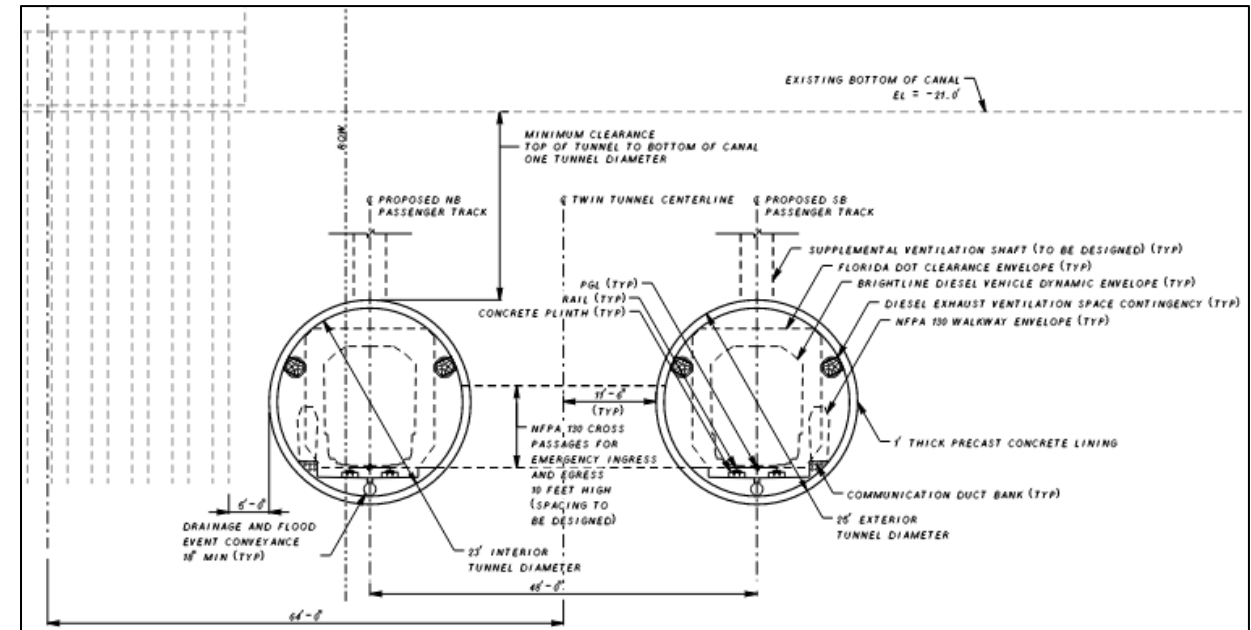
Rendering - River view looking east



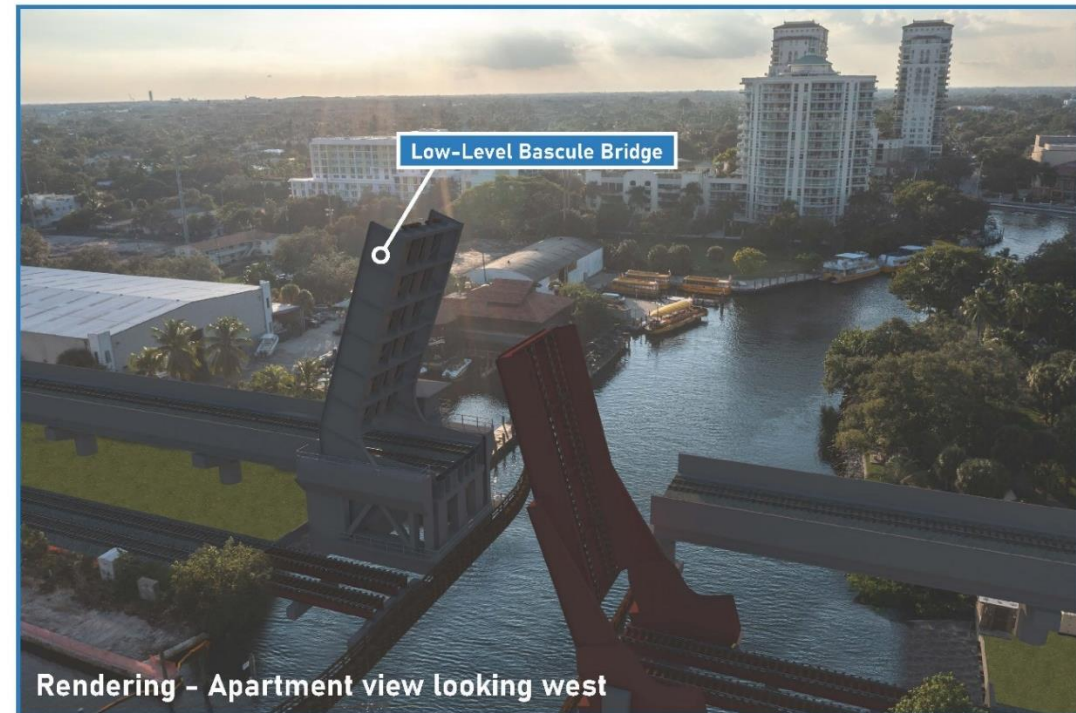
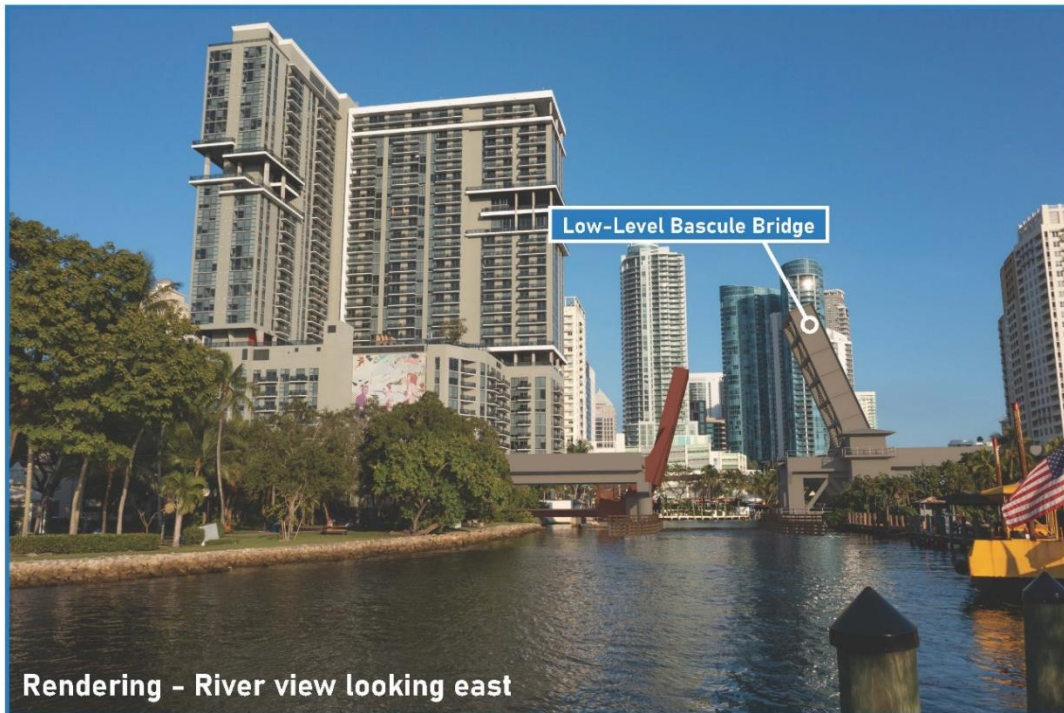
Rendering - River view looking east



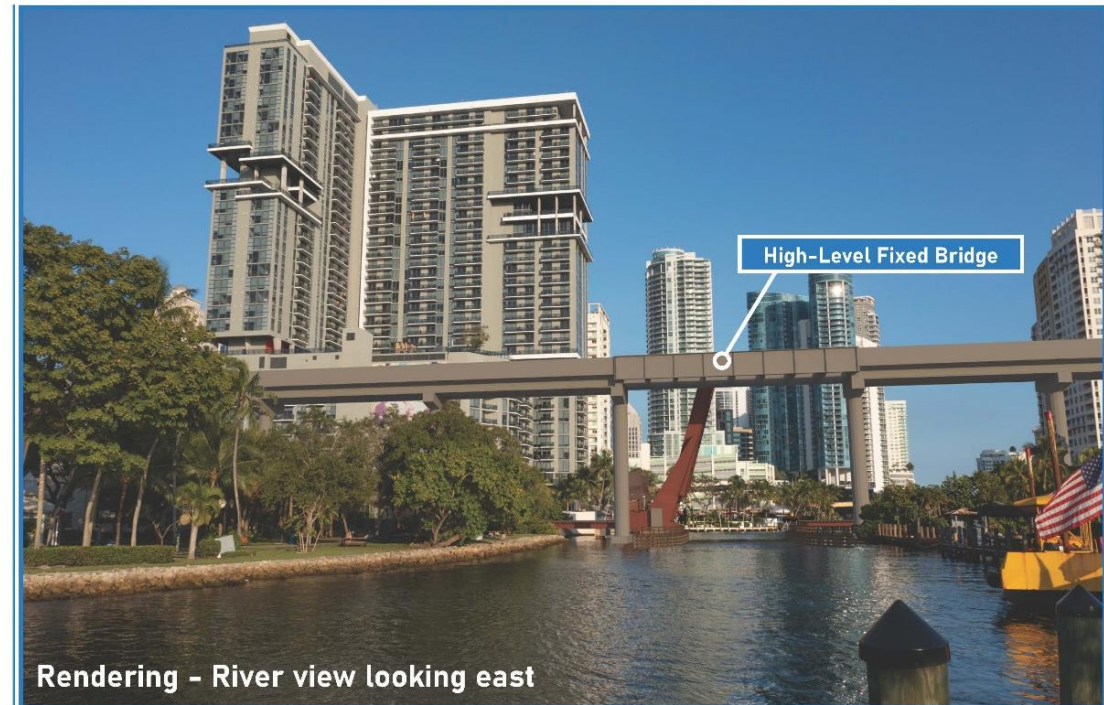
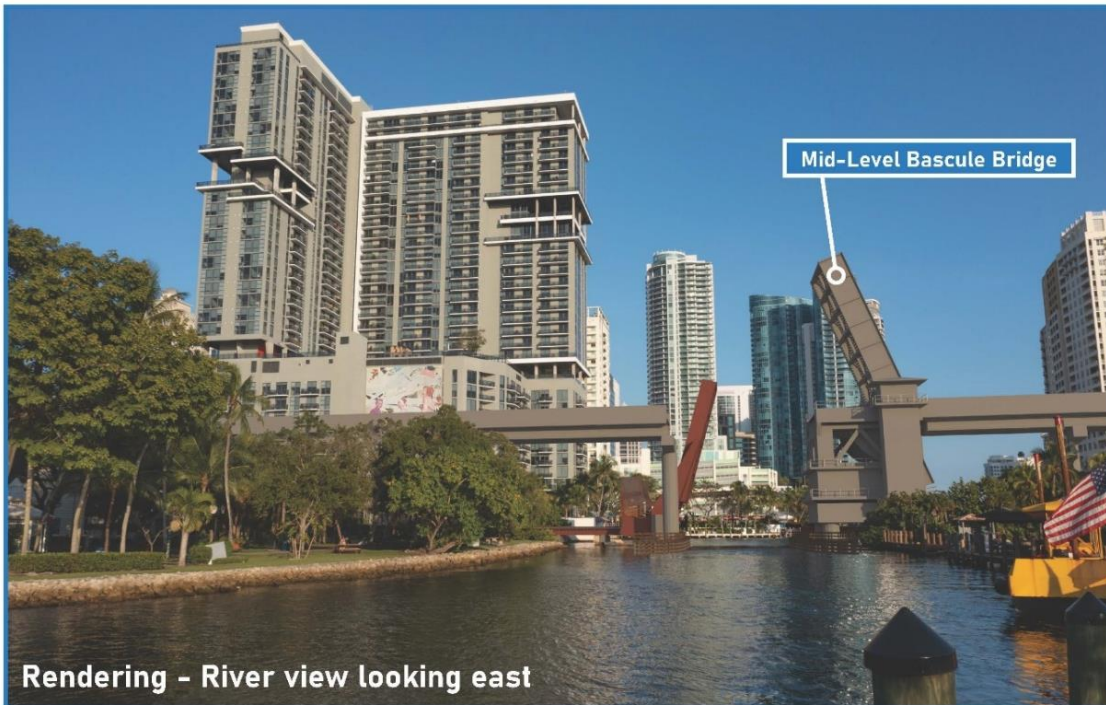
Rendering - River view looking east



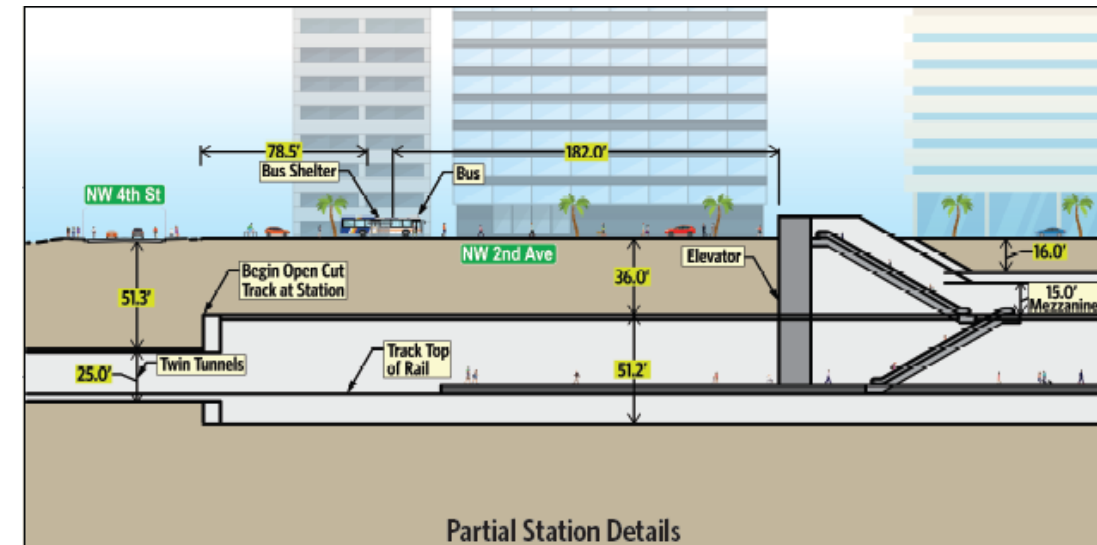
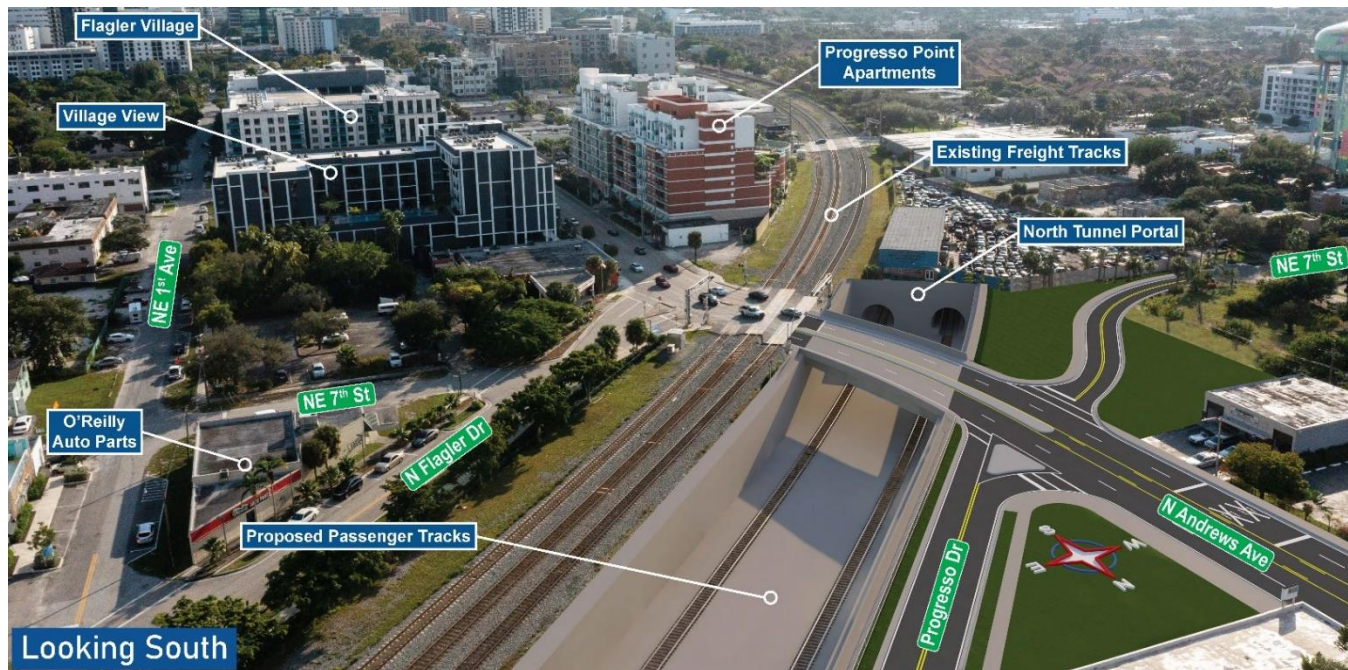
- ❑ Freight Trains remain on existing tracks and will continue to use existing bridge that will be shifted east
- ❑ \$240 M for Construction and no private Right-of-Way required
- ❑ No bridge throughout the downtown area
- ❑ Closes Grade Crossing at SW 5<sup>th</sup> Street
- ❑ Does not By-Pass the Broward Boulevard (a separate road project could be evaluated to place Broward Blvd under the tracks and potentially re-purpose some of the area above)
- ❑ Does accommodate 90% of Navigation and will most likely operate on a schedule that will reduce boat congestion at the crossing and provide for a known bridge operating schedule



- ❑ Freight Trains remain on existing tracks and will continue to use existing bridge that will be shifted east Mid-Level and High-Level Bridges By-Pass Broward Boulevard
- ❑ Mid and High Level require bridge structure throughout the downtown area (charettes and aesthetic design of structures most likely will be required if these alternatives move forward)
- ❑ Mid and High Level do not close any grade crossings
- ❑ Mid Level will have a large bascule pier and requires additional maintenance and a full-time bridge tender
- ❑ Has full support of the Marina community with the Mid-Level accommodating 99% of boats when closed
- ❑ \$444M for construction of the Mid-Level and \$452M for the High-Level and both require \$98M in Right of Way



- ❑ Supported by many City of Fort Lauderdale stakeholders, including the city commission
- ❑ Will provide the best noise protection and least visual concerns in the areas between the portals
- ❑ Bypasses both Broward and Davie Boulevards with passenger rail
- ❑ \$1.8 Billion for construction and \$150M in Right of Way,
- ❑ Lengthy permitting and construction schedule
- ❑ Larger local disruptions for trucking of excavation and dewatering as well as concern for the protection of the existing structures in the area with the tunneling operations
- ❑ Higher risks for contamination, permitting, construction and resiliency than the other alternatives

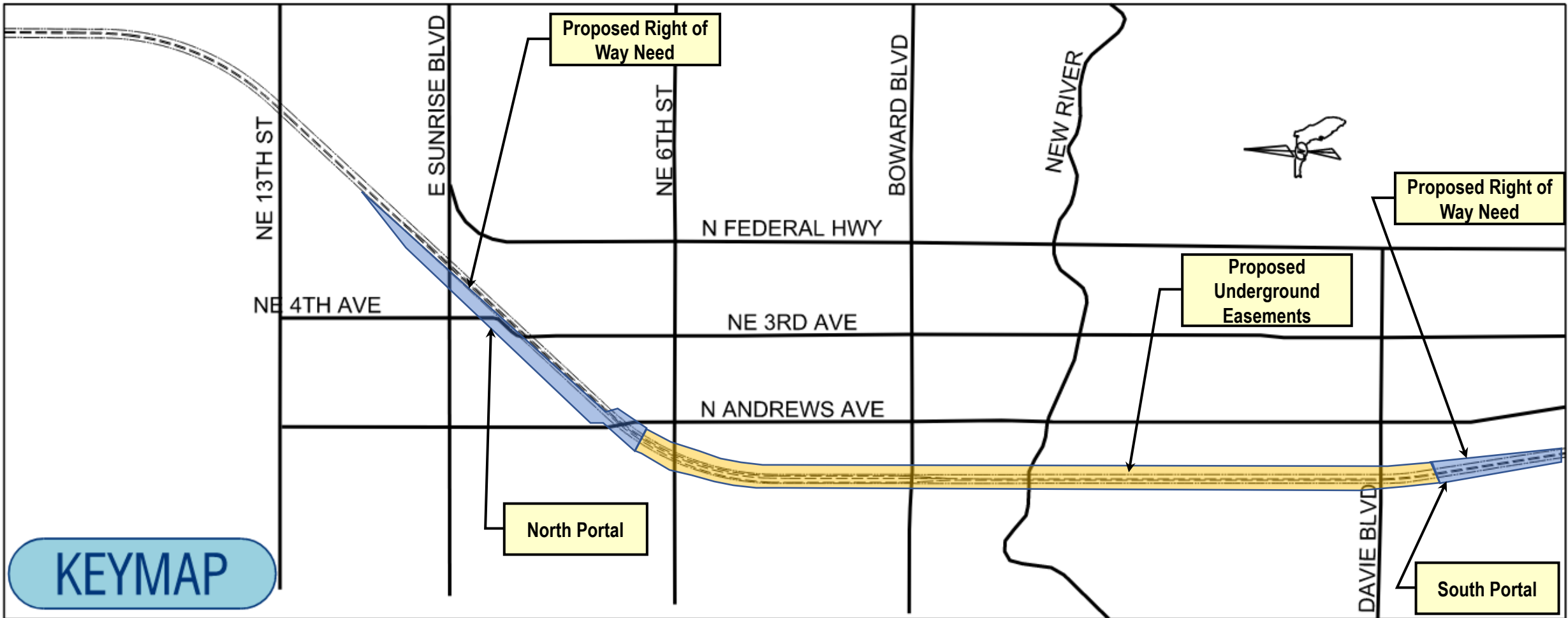


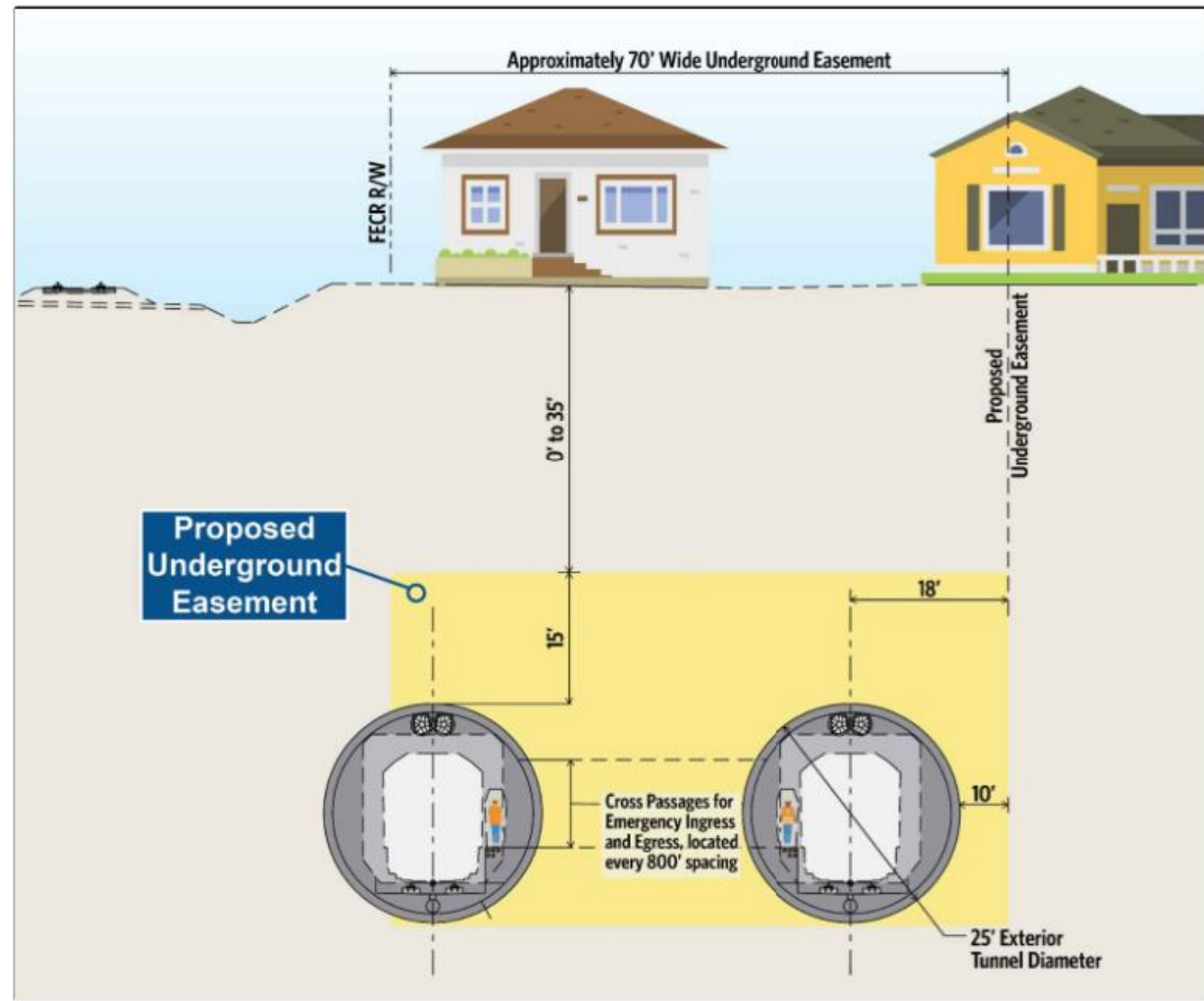
- ❑ **Proposed Right of Way** – Purchase of full property rights of the area needed to construct, secure, and operate the Broward Commuter Rail
- ❑ **Aerial Easement** – Purchase of rights to construct, operate and maintain the Broward Commuter Rail above the property, that will allow the property owner to use the area below the structure overhang
- ❑ **Underground Easement** – Purchase of rights to construct, operate and maintain a tunnel below the property, that will allow the property owner to use the property above the tunnel

		New River Crossing Alternatives								
Description/Alternative	BCR Corridor		Low-Level Alternative		Mid-Level Alternative		High-Level Alternative		Tunnel Alternative	
Type of Property Impact	Number	Area (Acres)	Number	Area (Acres)	Number	Area (Acres)	Number	Area (Acres)	Number	Area (Acres)
Number of Properties Affected (Private Owners)	36		0		34		34		103	
Proposed Right of Way (Slivers) (From Private Owners)	36	7.5	0	0	32	2.4	32	2.4	58	5.1
Proposed Aerial Easements (From Private Owners)	0	0	0	0	11	0.3	11	0.3	0	0
Proposed Underground Easements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	12.3

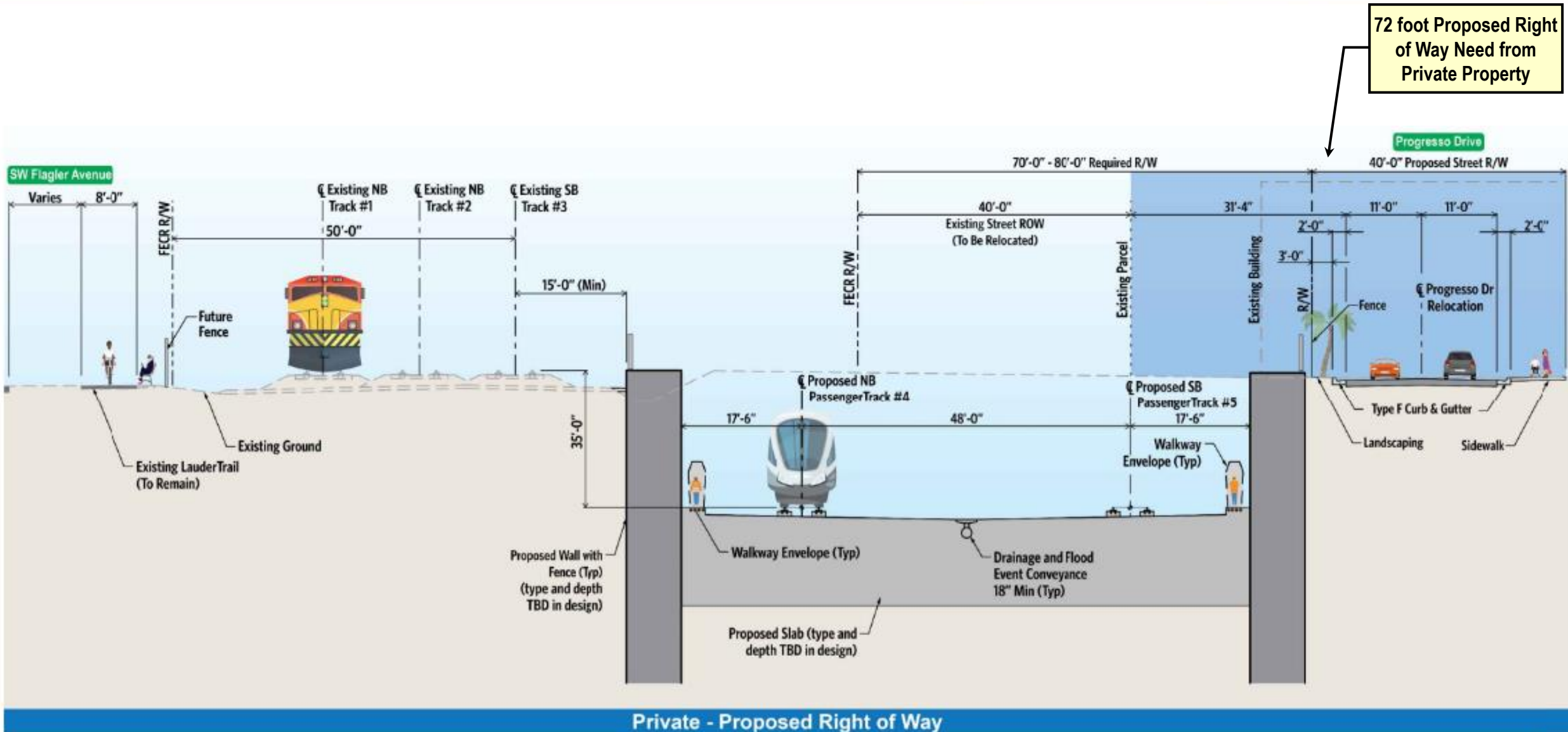


# Preliminary Right of Way Impacts (Tunnel)



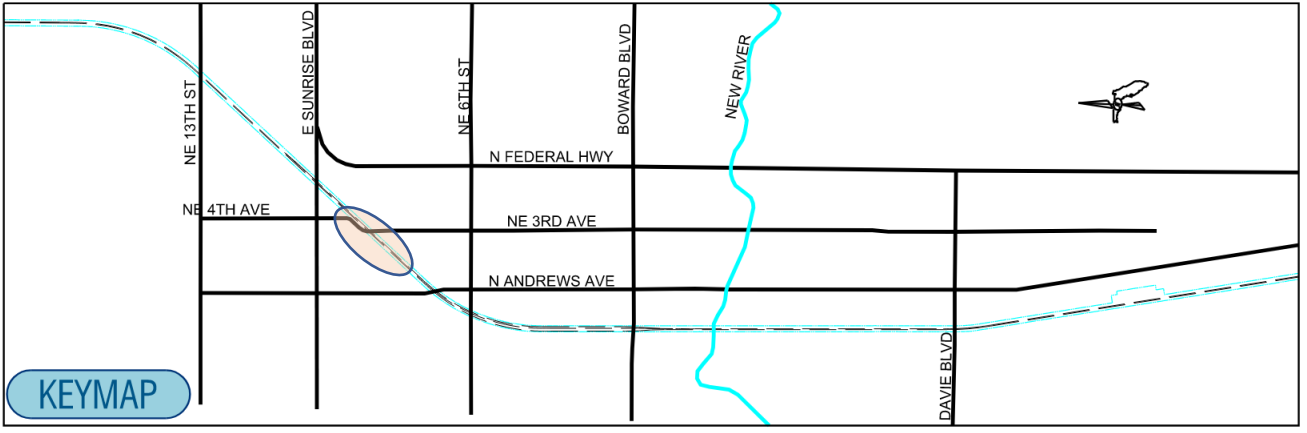


# Preliminary Right of Way Impacts (Tunnel)



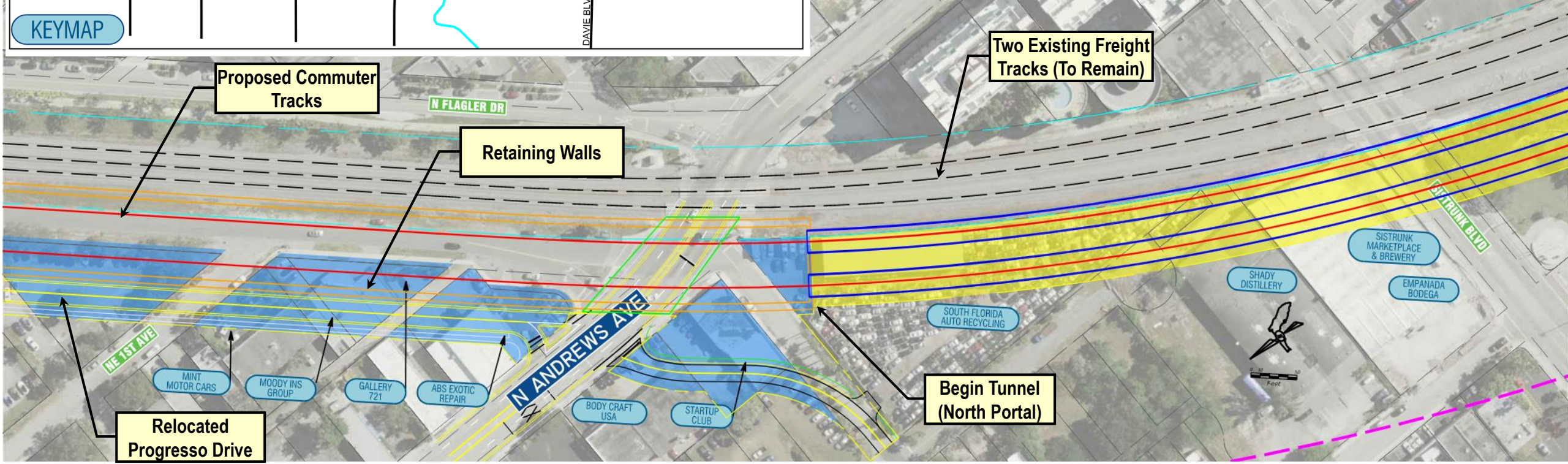
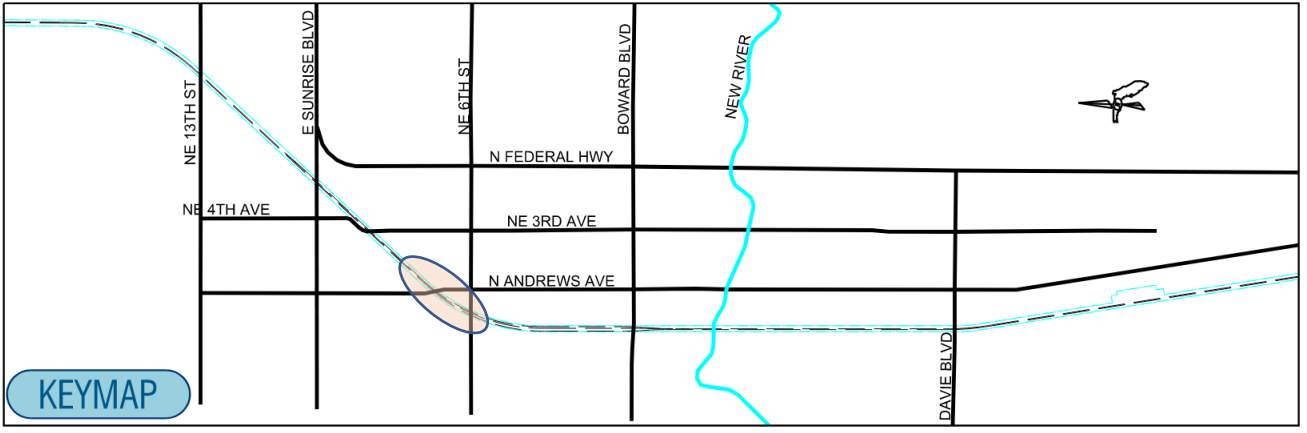
Private - Proposed Right of Way

# Preliminary Right of Way Impacts (Tunnel North Portal)



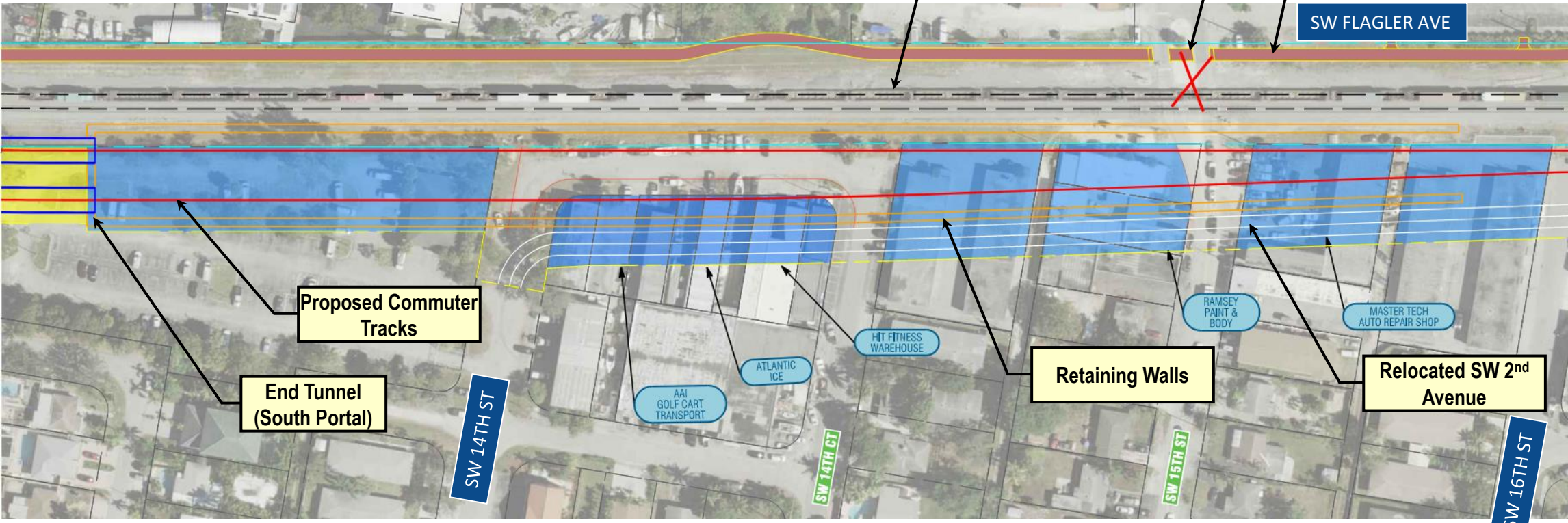
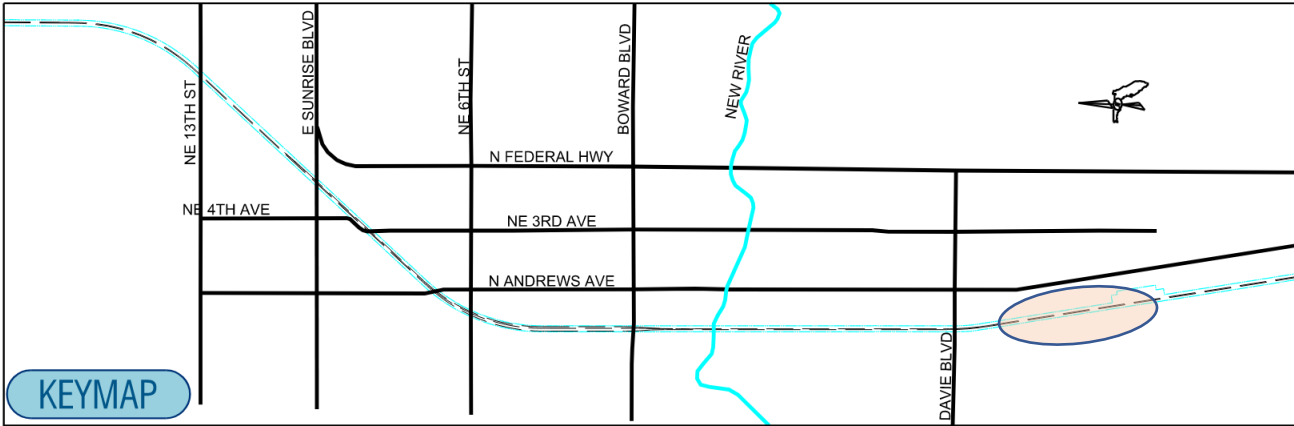
NE 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue to NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

# Preliminary Right of Way Impacts (Tunnel North Portal)



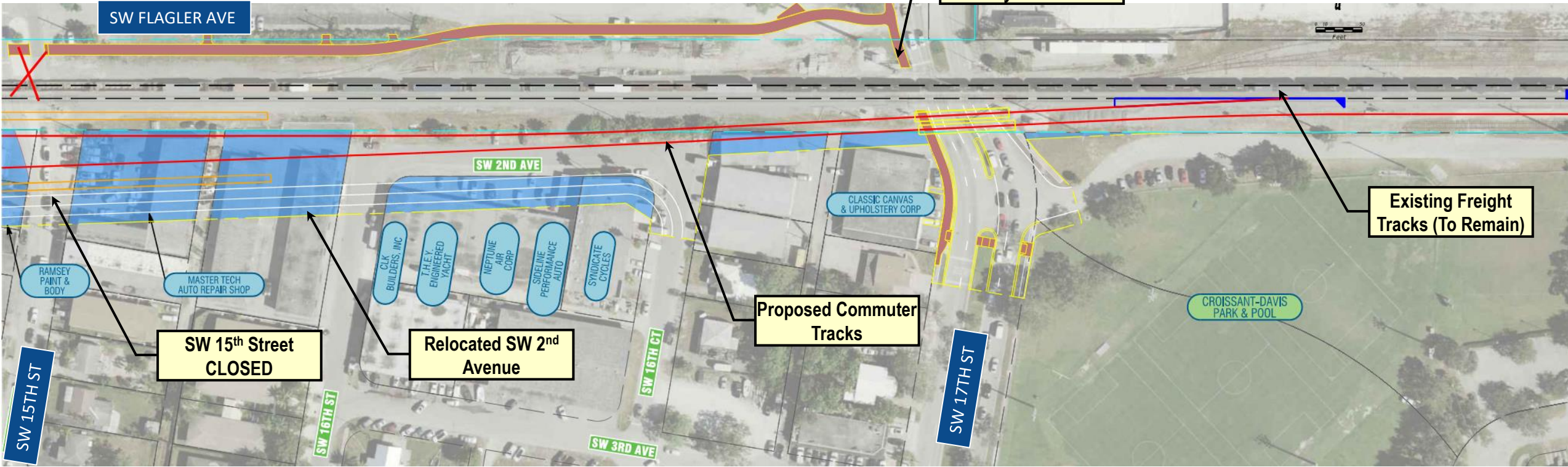
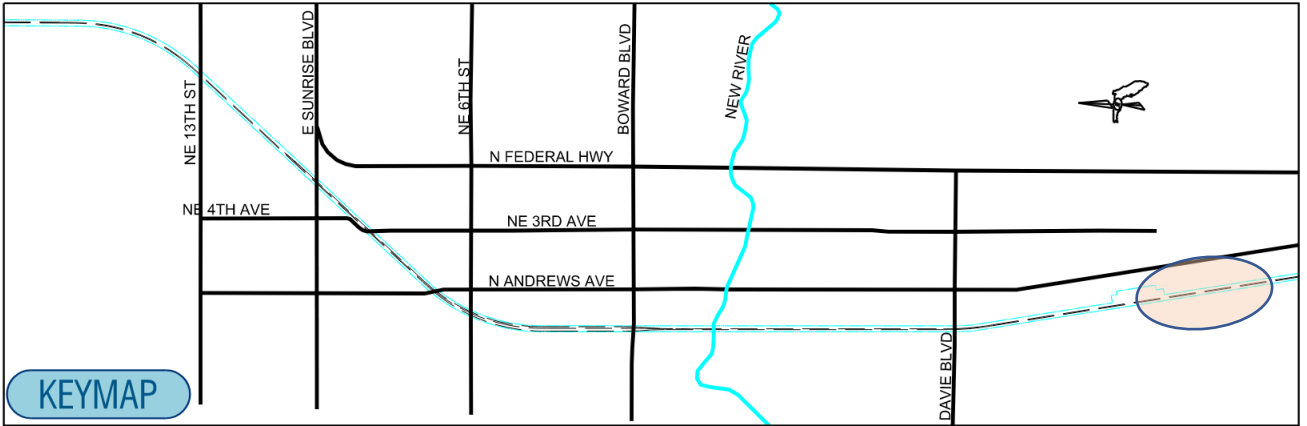
NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to Sistrunk Boulevard

# Preliminary Right of Way Impacts (Tunnel South Portal)



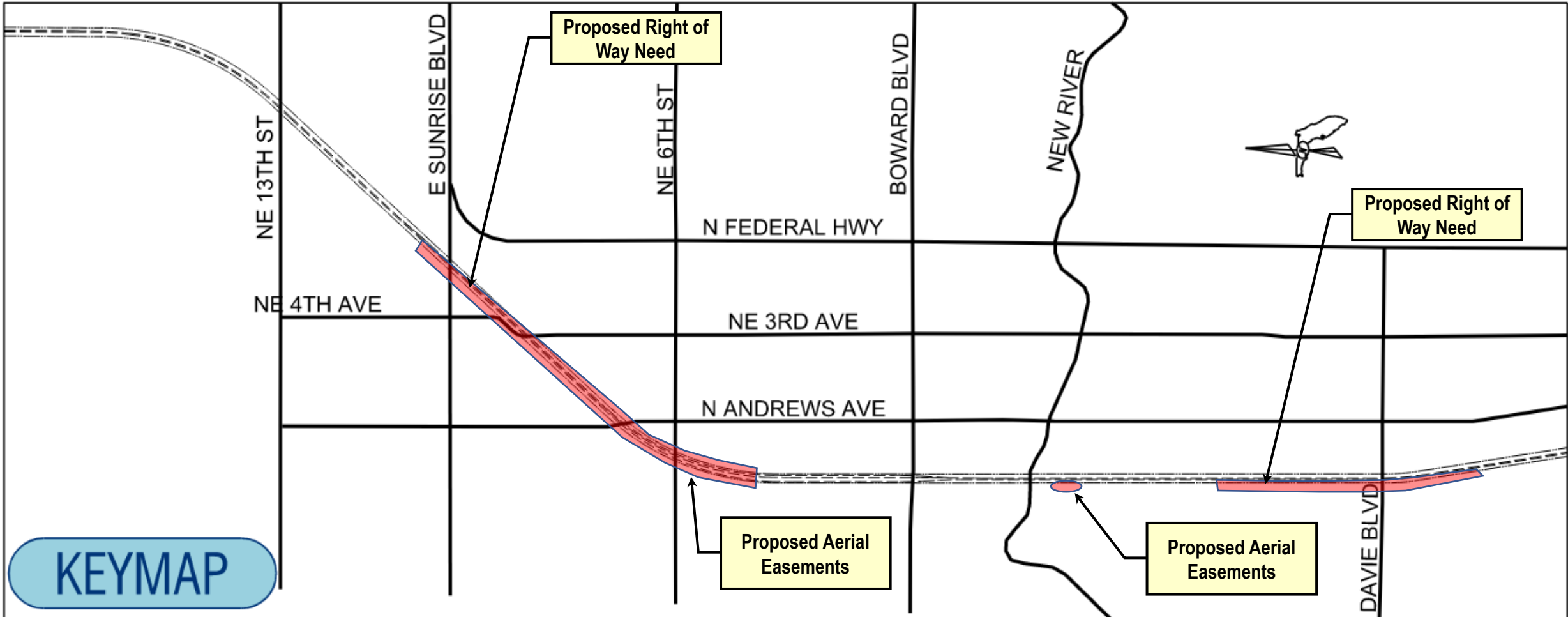
South of Davie Boulevard to SW 16<sup>th</sup> Street

# Preliminary Right of Way Impacts (Tunnel South Portal)



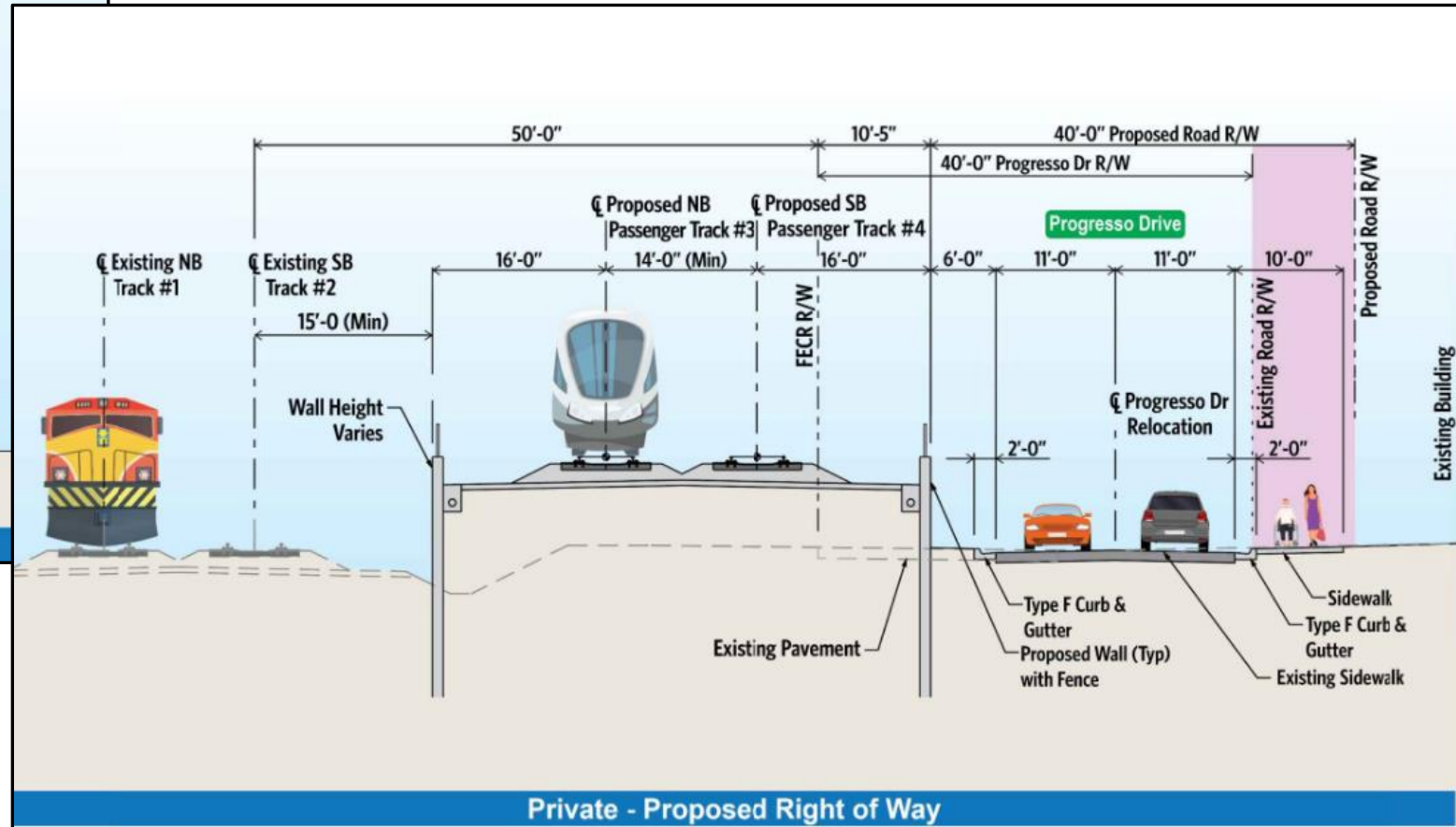
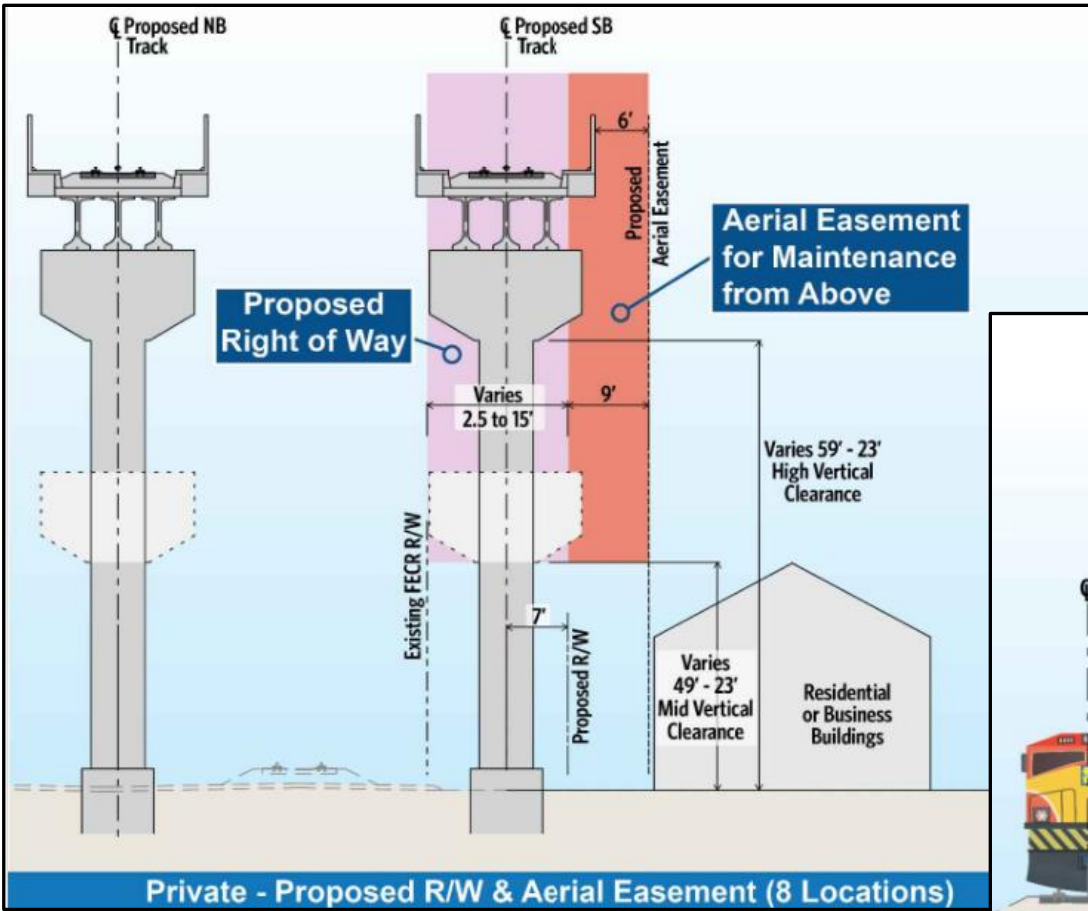
SW 15<sup>th</sup> Street to South of SW 17<sup>th</sup> Street

- Begin Project to Andrews Avenue – Proposed Right of Way Needs
- Andrews Avenue to NW 4<sup>th</sup> Street – Both Proposed Right of Way and Aerial Easements
- Near SW 5<sup>th</sup> Street – Proposed Aerial Easement
- SW 9<sup>th</sup> Street to SW 15<sup>th</sup> Street – Proposed Right of Way Needs

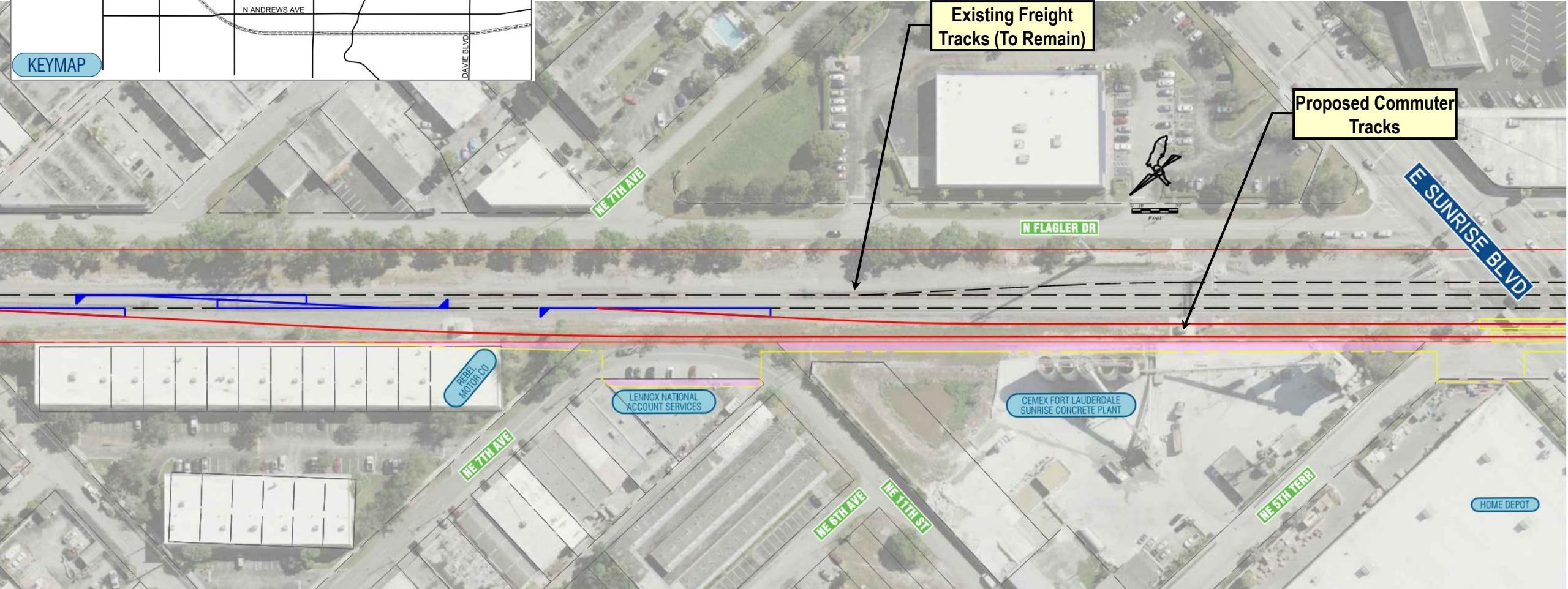
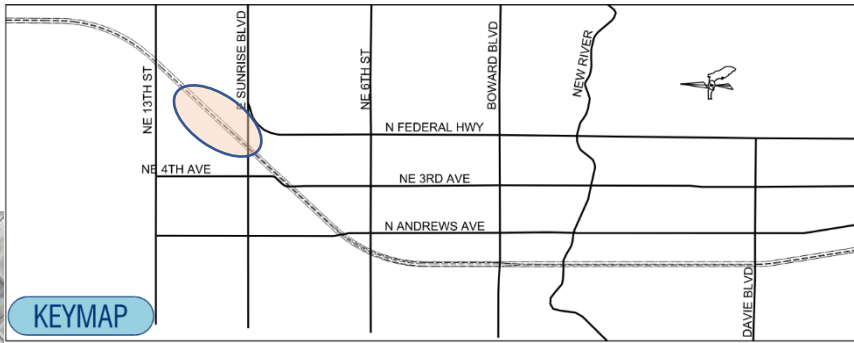




# Preliminary Right of Way Impacts (Mid / High Bridge)

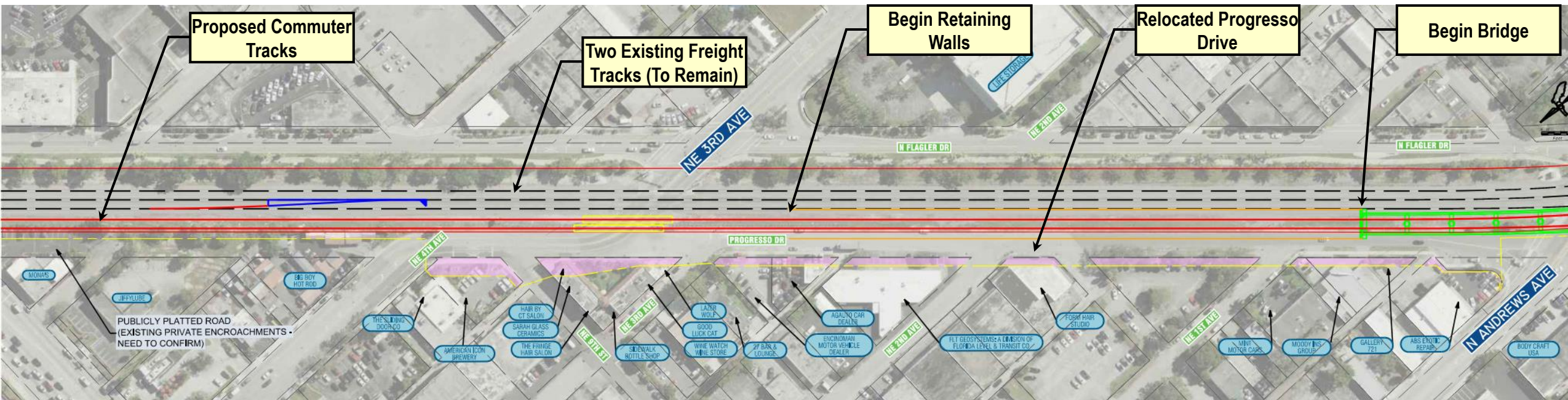
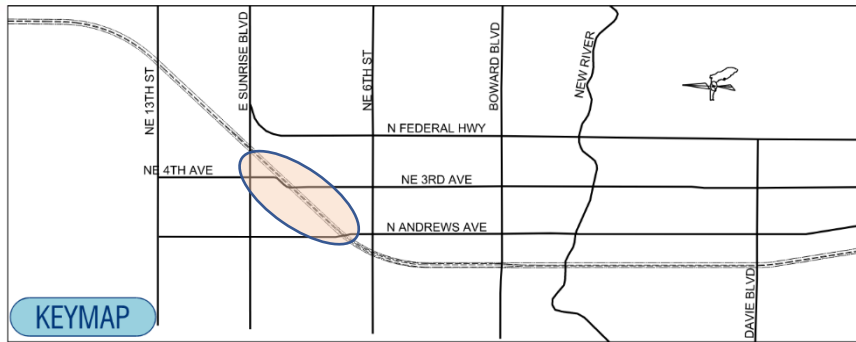


# Preliminary Right of Way Impacts (Mid / High Bridge)



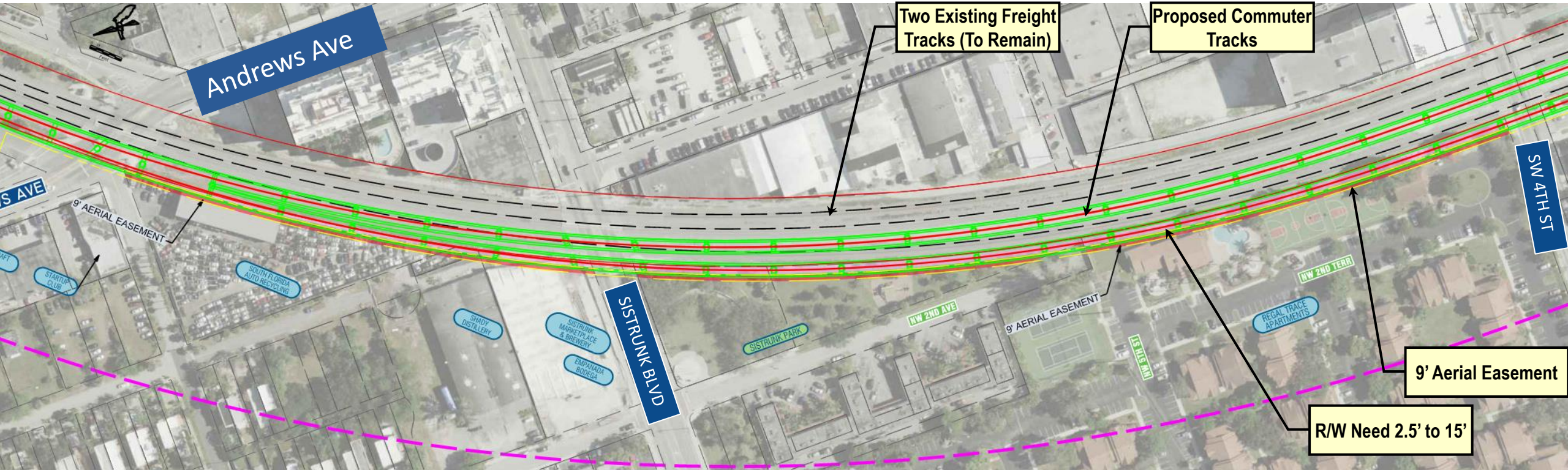
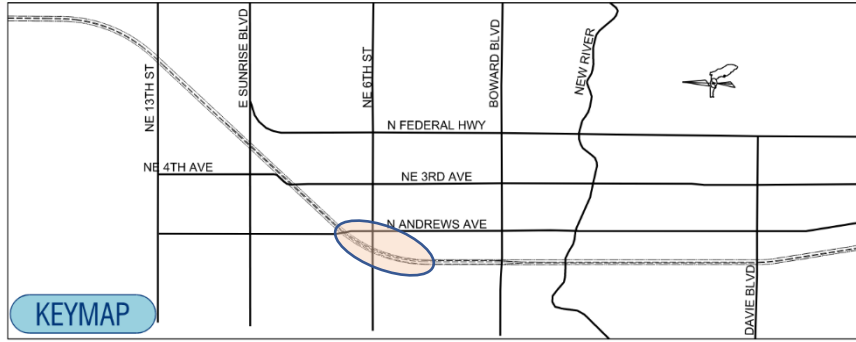
Begin Project to Sunrise Boulevard

# Preliminary Right of Way Impacts (Mid / High Bridge)



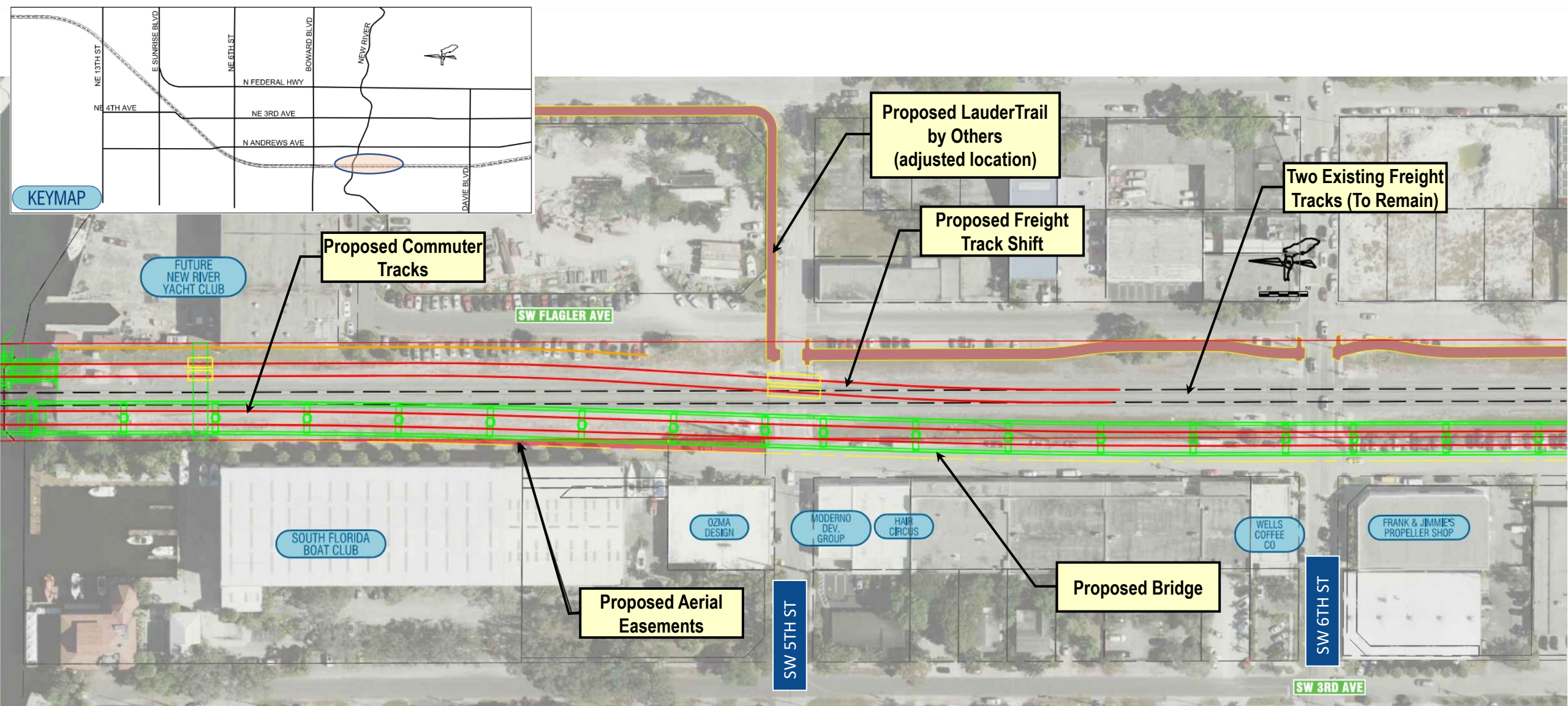
Sunrise Boulevard to Andrews Ave

# Preliminary Right of Way Impacts (Mid / High Bridge)



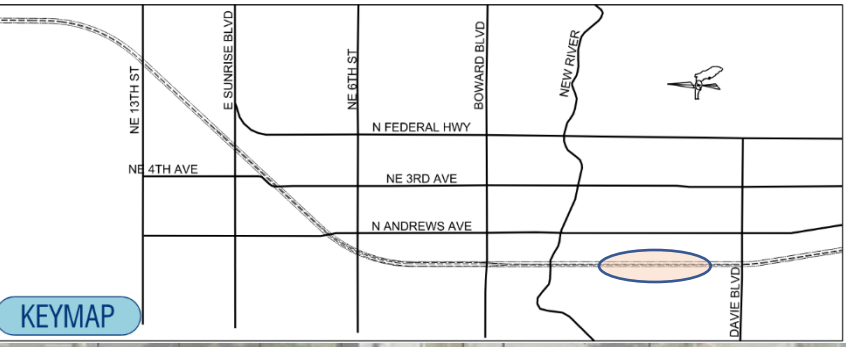
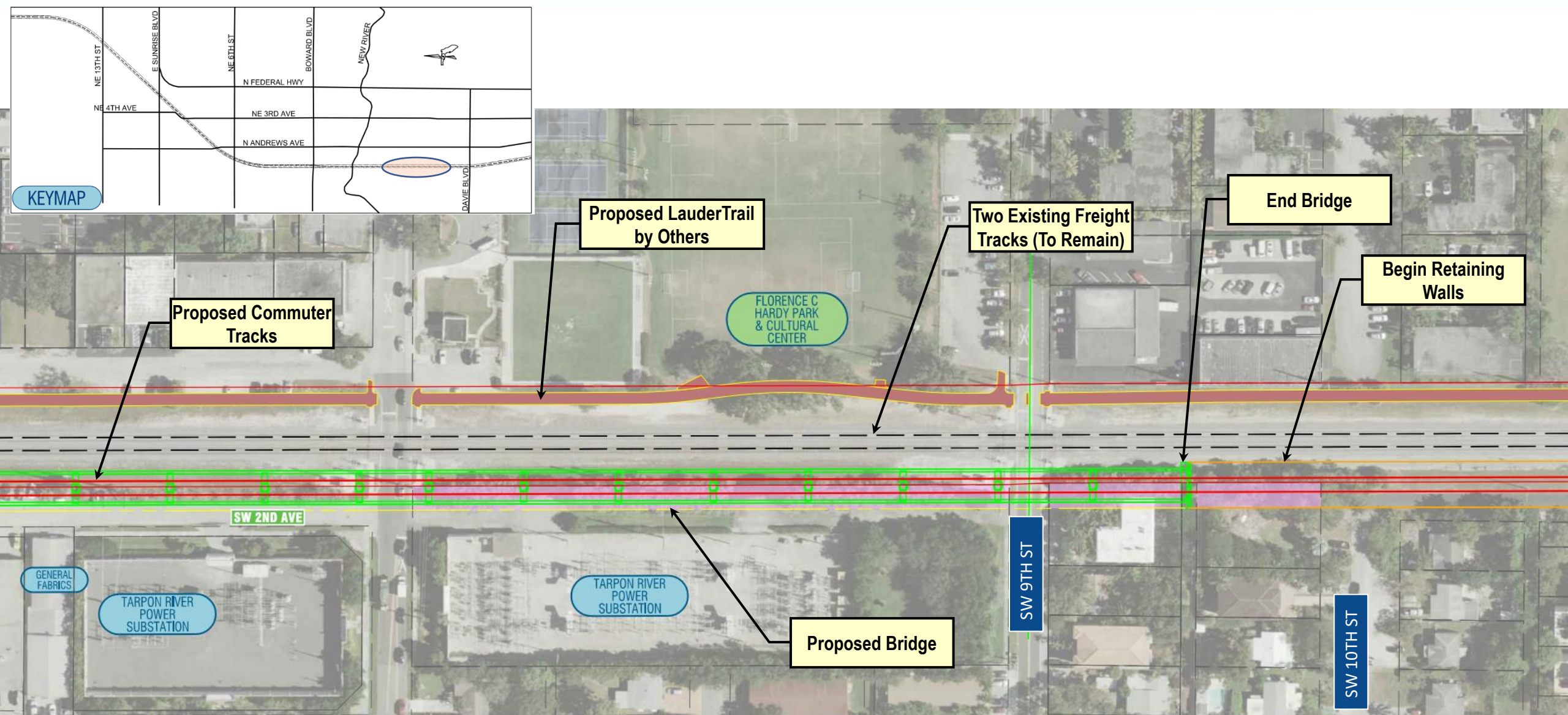
Andrew Ave to NW 4<sup>th</sup> Street

# Preliminary Right of Way Impacts (Mid / High Bridge)



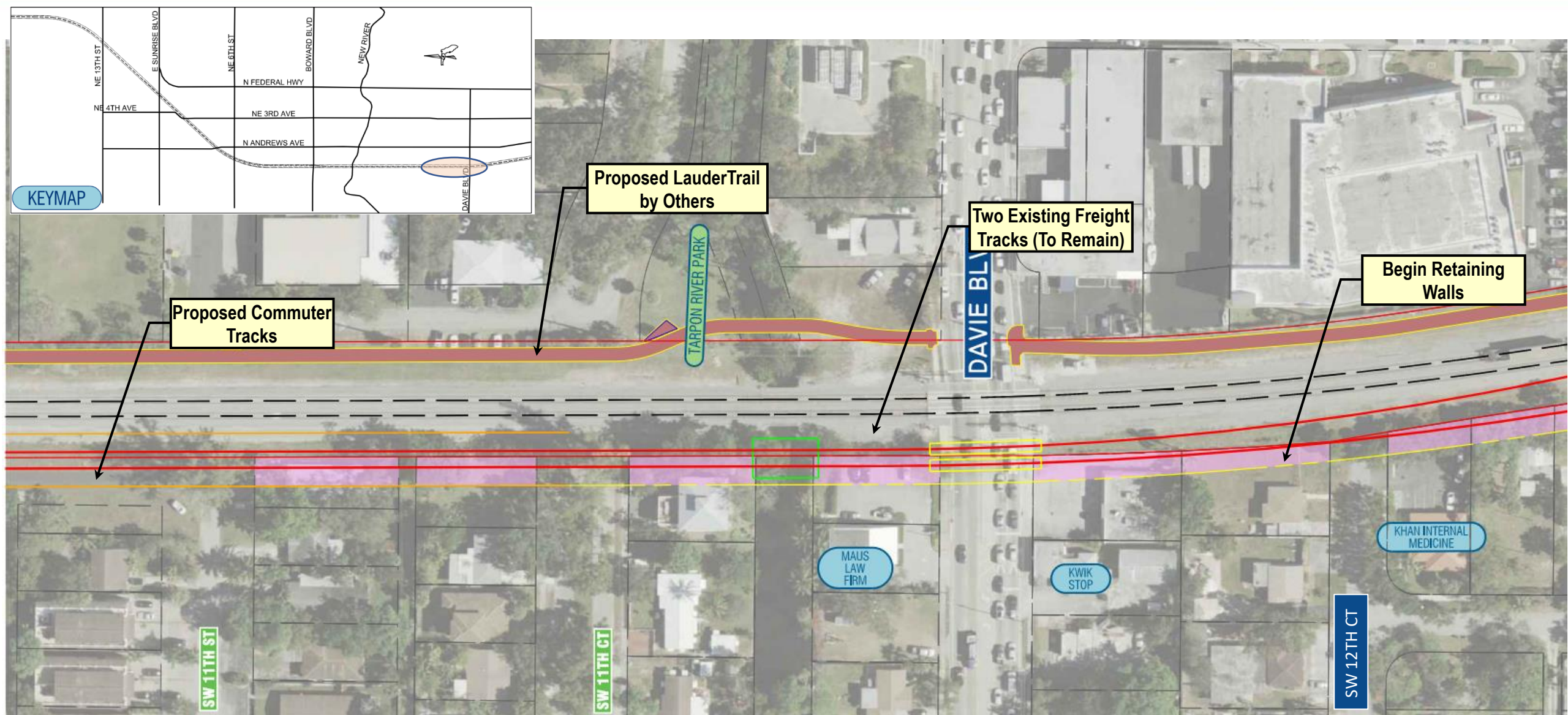
New River to SW 6<sup>th</sup> Street

# Preliminary Right of Way Impacts (Mid / High Bridge)



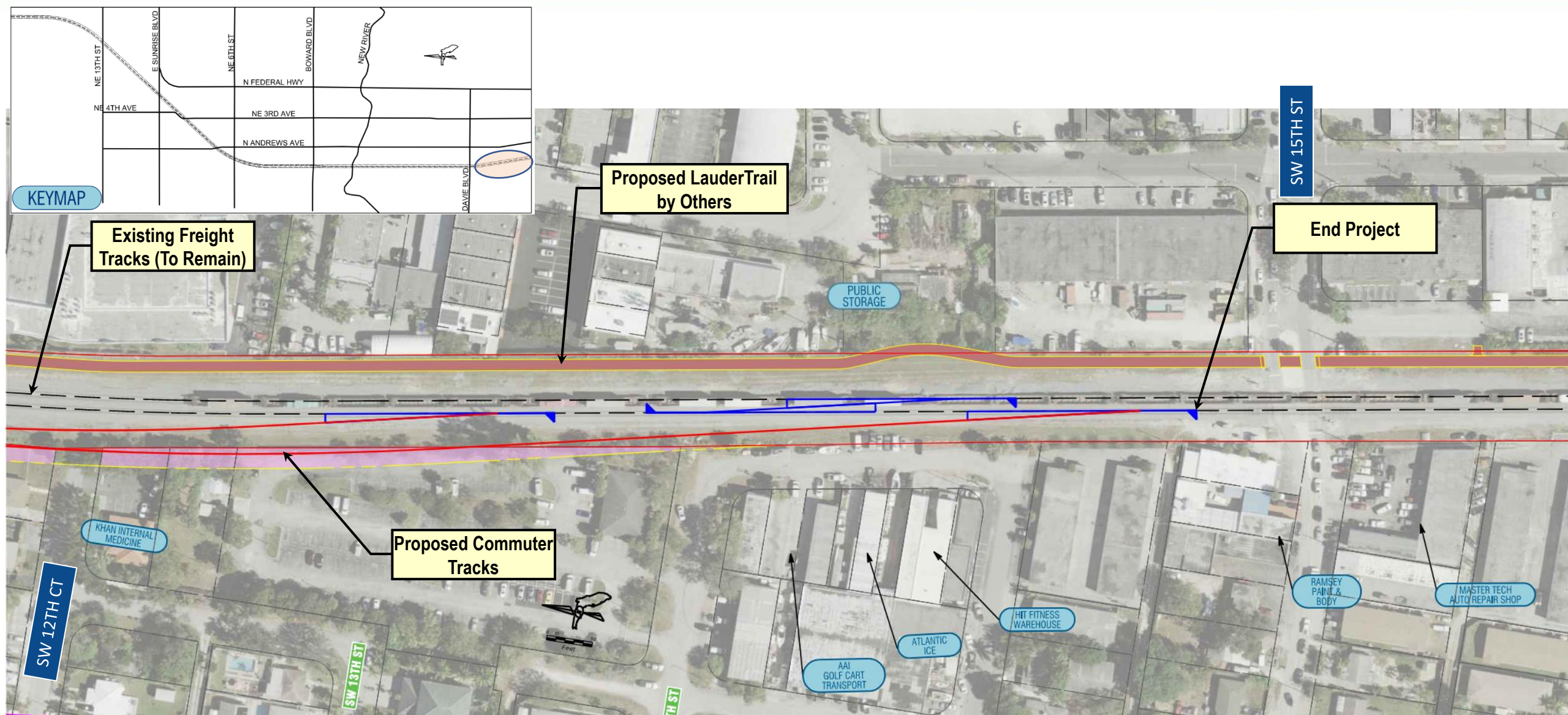
SW 6<sup>th</sup> Street to SW 10<sup>th</sup> Street

# Preliminary Right of Way Impacts (Mid / High Bridge)



SW 10<sup>th</sup> Street to SW 12<sup>th</sup> Court

# Preliminary Right of Way Impacts (Mid / High Bridge)



SW 12<sup>th</sup> Court to SW 15<sup>th</sup> Street (End of Project)



## New River Crossing Alternative Cost Table (\$2021)

Alternative	Low-Level Bascule	Mid-Level Bascule	High-Level Fixed	Tunnel
<b>New River Crossing</b>	\$240 M	\$444 M	\$452 M	\$1.82 B <sup>4</sup>
<b>Right-of-Way (Private)</b>	\$0	\$98 M	\$98 M	\$148 M
<b>Operations &amp; Maintenance<sup>1</sup></b>	- Bridge Tender - Mechanical Systems	- Bridge Tender - Mechanical Systems	- Regular Maintenance	- Underground Station - Ventilation Systems

## Corridor Cost Table (\$2021)

<b>Corridor Capital Cost<sup>2</sup></b>	\$495 M			
<b>Right-of-Way (Stations)</b>	Under Analysis will be the same for each alternative			
<b>Total Capital Cost</b>	\$735 M	\$1.04 B	\$1.05 B	\$2.46 B

## Other Project Cost Table (\$2021)

<b>Operations &amp; Maintenance<sup>1</sup></b>	\$18 - \$28 M	\$18 - \$28 M	\$17 - \$27 M	\$18 - \$28 M
<b>Access Fee and Agreements<sup>3</sup></b>	TBD			

<sup>1</sup> O&M costs are per year and are not calculated in the total cost. There are differences among the NRC alternatives , with the tunnel O&M costs expected to increase in the outer years.

<sup>2</sup> Capital Cost Includes Construction, Stations, Vehicles, Yards, Parking, etc. (Costs shown are in 2021 dollars and will need to be escalated for year of expenditure

<sup>3</sup> Access Fee and Agreements - A negotiated fee to allow commuter trains to use the Brightline passenger easement on the FEC corridor, also may need to cover potential compensation for temporary and permanent operational impacts associated with the New River Crossing and station impacts

<sup>4</sup> Tunnel construction cost does not address potential need for resiliency infrastructure that may be necessary, such as portal covers, additional pumps, salt water intrusion protection

## Bridge Alternatives

- Shift the Existing Freight bridge to the east
- Traditional Bridge Construction from the ground up
  - Foundation
  - Concrete pier pours and Girder placement with cranes during off peak traffic windows.
  - Typically performed with progressive crews or multiple crews / shifts.
- Track work deliveries by rail then built from one end of the bridge to the other.
- Downtown aerial station modifications tie into mid- and high-level bridges at platform level above existing station.
- Bridge construction impacts are fewer and less disruptive. A bridge can be built faster than a tunnel.



Bridge - Cranes Setting Girders



Retaining Walls at the end of Bridge

## Tunnel Alternatives

- Extensive Laydown areas and dewatering
- Extensive conveyor systems for removal and treatment during tunneling with increased number of trucks hauling on City streets.
- Build the portal walls and then TBM bores through it.
- Underground station construction requires deep excavation and would last longer and be more disruptive than bridge construction.
- Requires special geotechnical work due to Karst Limestone soils



Tunnel - Large Footprint for Material Preparation

The difference in O&M costs are focused on the additional activities needed to maintain a bascule bridge as well as a tunnel:

- 1) High-Level Fixed Bridge - this will have the lowest O&M costs.
- 2) Low-Level and Mid-Level Bridges - this requires efforts to operate and maintain the mechanical and electrical equipment of a bascule bridge. This will also require a bridge tender to be on-site full time but may be able to be shared with the existing freight bascule bridge that will remain in service.
- 3) Tunnel - this requires maintenance of the ventilation building and systems needed to operate the tunnel. Security for the Underground Station.

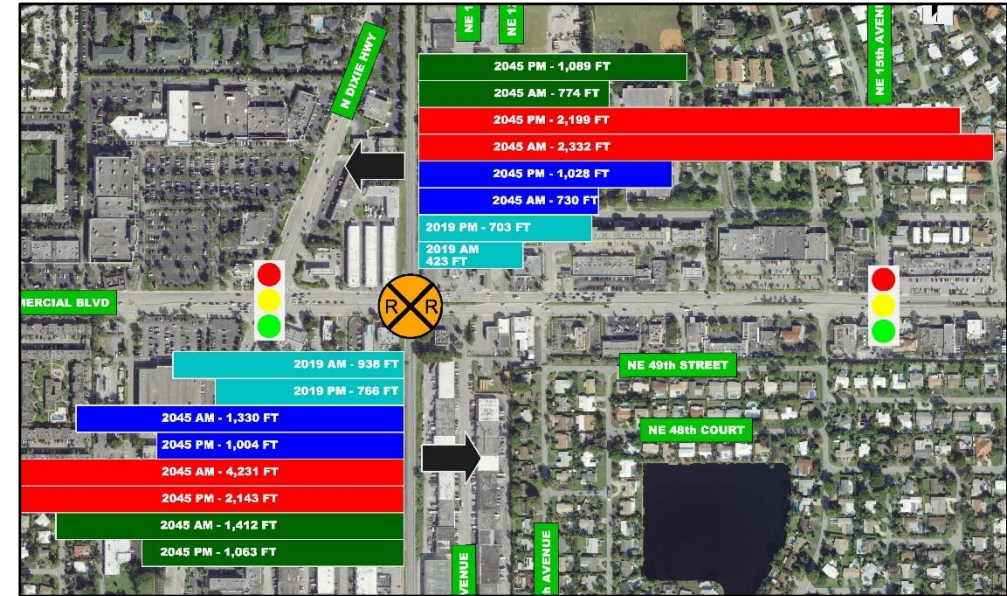


## PORT MIAMI TUNNEL



- Tunnels are more challenging than bridges to address resiliency
  - Sea level rise
  - Hurricanes, storm surges
- Hurricane Sandy flooded NYC's subway system, taking weeks to restore and \$ billions in repairs and longer term infrastructure hardening measures
- Review of the NOAA high sea level curves
  - 54" by year 2070
  - 136" by year 2120
- Mitigation possible, but expensive
- Bridges can be shut down during severe storms, but normally do not suffer major damages as a result of flooding/storm surge, (unless foundations are unprotected and exposed to strong currents/erosion)

- ❑ Total roadway closure time at each railroad crossing will be less than 90 seconds (advanced warning time + crossing time + clearance time)
- ❑ On average, 3 to 5 BCR Trains will traverse each crossing during the AM and PM peak hours on a typical weekday
- ❑ BCR Train travel times, delays, and queuing impacts along the railroad crossings are similar to the current Brightline service.
- ❑ At-grade railroad crossings will experience no significant change in intersections LOS, speeds, or queuing when compared to the No-Build Alternative
- ❑ Grade separated railroad crossings (Mid/High Level Bridge or Tunnel) will experience improved operating conditions when compared to the No-Build Alternative



**Note: Freight will remain at-grade and on existing tracks(that may be shifted within the existing rail Right of Way)**

**❑ Low Level**

- **Closes SW 5<sup>th</sup> Street**

**❑ Mid-Level Bascule and High-Level Fixed Bridges**

- **No Road Closures**
- **Closure of NW 5<sup>th</sup> Terrace at Sunrise Blvd (will be cul-de sac)**
- **Closure of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue between SW 10<sup>th</sup> and SW 11<sup>th</sup> Street (they will be cul-de sacs)**
- **Visual Impact of 8050-foot-long Bridge and +/- 1700 feet of approach walls to the bridge**

**❑ Tunnel**

- **Closure of SW 15<sup>th</sup> Street**
- **Closure of NW 5<sup>th</sup> Terrace at Sunrise Blvd (will be cul-de sac)**
- **Visual Impact of Portals/Trenches +/- 2600 feet short walls with protective fencing/barrier surrounding the portals**

# PD&E Study Milestone Schedule

PROJECT MILESTONES	2021						2022						2023																																													
	Q1-Q2		Q3		Q4		Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4		Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4																																					
	JAN		JUN	AUG	SEP	OCT	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC																											
Begin Study	◆																																																									
Data Collection	█																																																									
Public Kick-off Meeting				◆																																																						
Engineering and Environmental Analyses			█																																																							
Financial Plan	█																																																									
Alternatives Public Workshop									◆																																																	
Select Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) (County Commission & MPO)									█																																																	
Request Entry into PD and COA from FTA																																																										
Entry into FTA Project Development																																																										
Draft Engineering and Environmental Reports													█																																													
Begin FTA CIG Application Process																																																										
Public Hearing																																																										
BoCC & MPO Adopts Refined LPA																																																										
Final NEPA Action																																																										
CIG Submittal to FTA																																																										
Public Involvement	█																																																									

NEPA Schedule assumptions:  
 CatX-12 months  
 EA-18 to 24 months  
 EIS 24+ Months

NOTE: Design can begin in 2023, with R/W acquisition and construction could begin in 2025 with initial operations potentially starting in 2028, depending upon adoption of the Refined LPA and associated access agreement, funding and implementation plans and FTA approvals.

- General Project Tasks
- Public Meetings
- General Project Milestones
- Critical Project Milestones



# BROWARD COMMUTER RAIL (BCR)

## PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT (PD&E) STUDY

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT), DISTRICT 4  
BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA • FPID: 448942-1



Questions???