





Broward Commuter Rail South

Virtual Public Information
Meeting #2 Presentation
May 23, 2024

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District 4 Broward County, Florida FDOT Project No. 452240-1

Moderator: Jennifer Straw





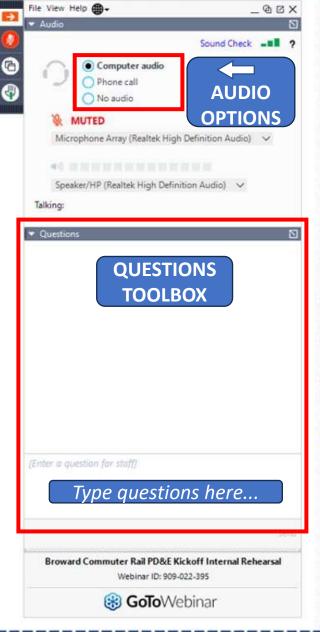
Public Information Meeting Agenda

1) PRESENTATION

2) QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION

GoToWebinar Features





Project Website-

www.BrowardCommuterRailStudy.com



DIGITAL EXHIBITS

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

WELCOME

Welcome to the BCR South Public Information Meeting



IN-PERSON (ONLY)

City of Hollywood City Hall 2600 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, FL 33020 Monday, December 4, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL (ONLY)

Register for the Virtual Public Information Meeting Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

















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TITLE VI NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Florida Department of Transportation is required to comply with various non-discrimination laws and regulations, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status.

Persons wishing to express their concerns about Title VI may do so by contacting either:

District Four

Florida Department of Transportation

District Four Title VI Coordinator

Sharon SinghHagyan

3400 West Commercial Boulevard

OR

Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309-3421

(954) 777-4190 or

Toll free at (866) 336-8435, ext. 4190

Sharon.SinghHagyan@dot.state.fl.us

Tallahassee Office

Florida Department of Transportation

State Title VI Coordinator

Stefan Kulakowski

605 Suwannee Street, MS 65

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450

(850) 414-4742 or

Toll free at (866) 374-3368, ext. 4753

Stefan.Kulakowski@dot.state.fl.us

PURPOSE OF TONIGHT'S MEETING

- Share information with the public about the project status and serve as an official forum to show the maps, drawings, and other information about the project
- Provide an opportunity for public input
- Public input will be considered as part of the concept development process







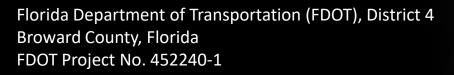




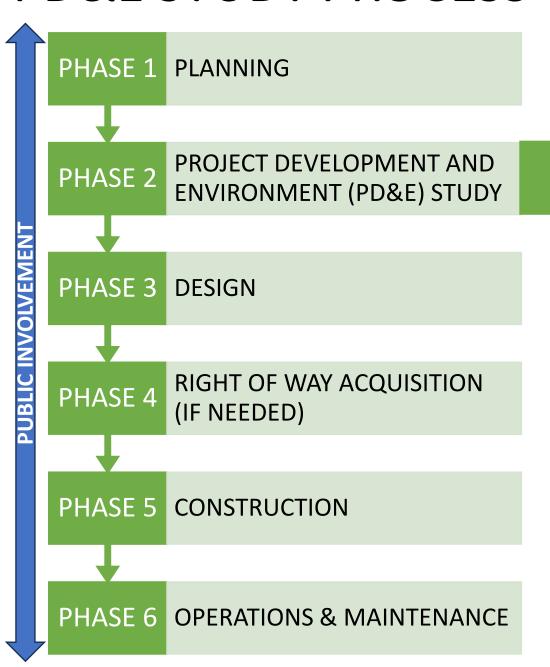


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PD&E STUDY PROCESS



WHAT IS A PD&E STUDY?

 A Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study is FDOT's procedure for complying with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and associated federal and state laws and regulations

WHY IT'S DONE:

- The objective of a PD&E Study is to support decisions concerning if, where, and what should be built to address the identified transportation needs
- Evaluate project feasibility, alternatives, and potential environmental impacts (natural, physical, social, and cultural)
- Comply with federal (NEPA) and state environmental laws
- Required to secure federal regulatory approval and funding

WHAT IT INVOLVES:

- Conducting preliminary engineering
- Evaluating alternatives that meet the Purpose and Need while enhancing, avoiding, minimizing, or mitigating potential environmental impacts
- Coordinating with stakeholders, federal, state, and local agencies
- Engaging the public in evaluation of the alternatives (a key aspect throughout the life of a project)
- Select a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) that will move forward with the Federal Transit Administration NEPA Process

HISTORY OF THE CORRIDOR

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Florida East Coast (FEC) request a Regional Transit Study conducted by Florida Department of Transportation

2004-2010

Three MPOs authorize request for Entry into Federal Transit Administration New Starts Project Development (PD)

2013

Brightline starts intercity revenue service from Miami to West Palm Beach. Miami Dade County starts access discussions with Brightline for NE Corridor study

2018

Miami-Dade County Resolutions for track access framework. Broward County continues the dialogue with Brightline and FDOT

2020

Broward County Commissioners approve LPA for BCR South.

BCR South enters FTA Project Development Phase

2022

2012

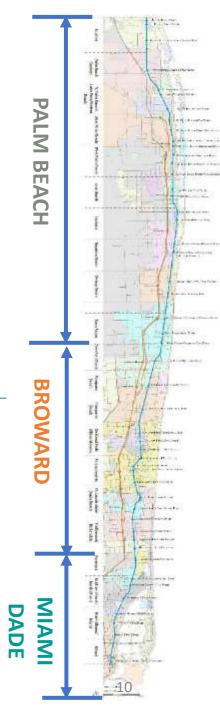
Refined Master Plan for 85-mile Commuter Rail Service from Miami to Jupiter. All Aboard Florida intercity service announced from Miami to Orlando 2014

FDOT & South Florida Regional Transportation Authority formally request entry into PD from FTA, but then put request on hold until three Counties could commit to dedicated funding and advance track access dialogue 2019

FDOT Conducts New River Crossing Feasibility Study for Florida Legislature 2021

Broward County and FDOT execute Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) to advance BCR South. Miami-Dade NE Corridor enters Project Development with FTA 2023

Class Action
Determination
received from FTA.
BCR South deemed
an Environmental
Assessment (EA)





PURPOSE AND NEED

Purpose

 The purpose of the Broward Commuter Rail (BCR) South Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study is to determine if a continuation of Northeast Corridor into Broward County is an alternative and reliable transportation option for north-south travel in southeastern Broward County that connects major activity centers and neighborhoods while enhancing intermodal connectivity, supporting economic and land development policies in eastern Broward County

Primary Needs

- Increase North-South Travel Opportunities
- Accommodate Existing and Future Population Growth
- Encourage Sustainable Land Use and Economic development

Secondary Needs

- Enhance Intermodal Connectivity
- Improve Transit Service To High Density Travel Market
- Preserve And Enhance The Environment And Safety¹¹



PROJECT OVERVIEW: LPA FOR BCR SOUTH

Anticipated Service Plan

Hours of Operation

5-9 a.m. & 4-8 p.m.

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. & 8 - 11:30 p.m.

6 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.

Weekends & Holidays

Alignment: Along FEC Railway Corridor from the planned station in Aventura to a terminus located near Broward Health Medical Center

Mode: Commuter Rail Transit

Technology: Push-pull locomotive

Recommended Station Locations:

- Hollywood Station
- Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport Station
- South Fort Lauderdale Station (Broward Health)

Project Length: Approximately 11.5 miles

Service:

Weekday vs. Weekend Frequency

Service Span 5:00 AM - 11:30 PM weekdays

6:00 AM - 11:30 PM weekends and holidays

Vehicle Maintenance Facility: Anticipated to be at the existing Hialeah Yard (NE Corridor will provide environmental and design analysis)

Headway

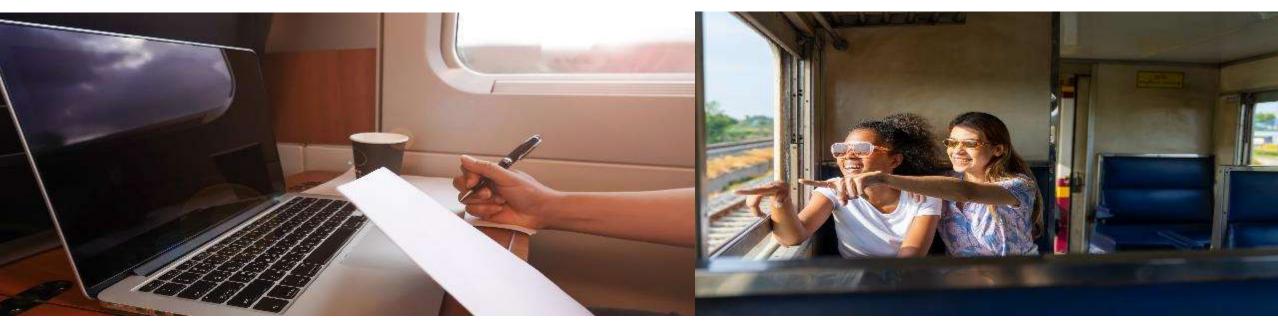
(minutes)

30

60

60

IMPORTANCE AND BENEFITS OF COMMUTER RAIL





ECONOMIC & RESIDENTIAL GROWTH

- Increase business investment
- Increase tax base
- Cities provide incentives for affordable housing
- Serve multiple downtown areas
- Provide rapid transit connection between counties



ENHANCE QUALITY OF LIFE

- Increased mobility and transportation choices
- Greater access to employment, education, and essential services



TRANSIT INCENTIVES TO THE PUBLIC

- Reduces travel times and provides more reliable commute times
- Save money on gas, parking, and car maintenance/repairs
- Increased ridership leads to a reduction in traffic and less need for additional travel lanes



ENVIRONMENTAL

 Cleaner air by reducing traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions



COMMUTER RAIL BENEFITS EMPLOYERS

- Access to a wider pool of talent
- Dependable and reliable transit service may boost and enhance productivity

12



RAIL SERVICES IN THE FEC CORRIDOR

- Study is being conducted in coordination with many parties that have an interest in the FEC railroad corridor
- Shared-use corridor with FEC freight trains and intercity (Brightline) passenger trains
- Florida East Coast Railway, L.L.C. owns the FECR right of way and operates freight service
- Brightline operates inter-city passenger rail trains via a passenger easement in the corridor

PROPOSED STATION CHARACTERISTICS

HOW IS A TYPICAL COMMUTER RAIL STATION DIFFERENT FROM A BRIGHTLINE STATION?

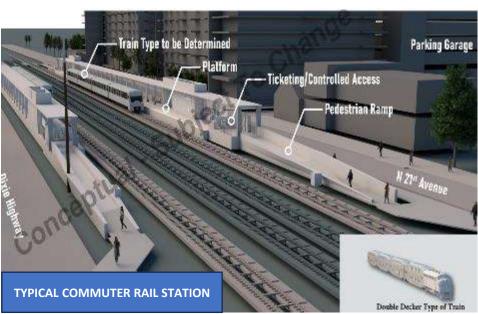
- Brightline stations include enclosed and air-conditioned terminals that feature security and lobby areas, lounge areas with snack and drink options, parking garages, and pedestrian overpasses
- Commuter rail stations are similar to SunRail stations in Central Florida

WHAT IS IN THE PROPOSED COMMUTER RAIL STATION?

- Approx. two 500' x 17' platforms to accommodate train sets of 4-5 cars
- Requires new siding tracks to avoid interference with freight and intercity service
- Potential pedestrian bridges to be constructed in the future, if necessary
- Broward County is evaluating potential station features to include:
 - Platform with Canopies
 - Bus Bays
 - Ticket Vending Machines (TVM)
 - Schedule Information and Boards
 - Wayfinding Signs & Audio
 - Benches, Bike Racks, and Garbage Cans

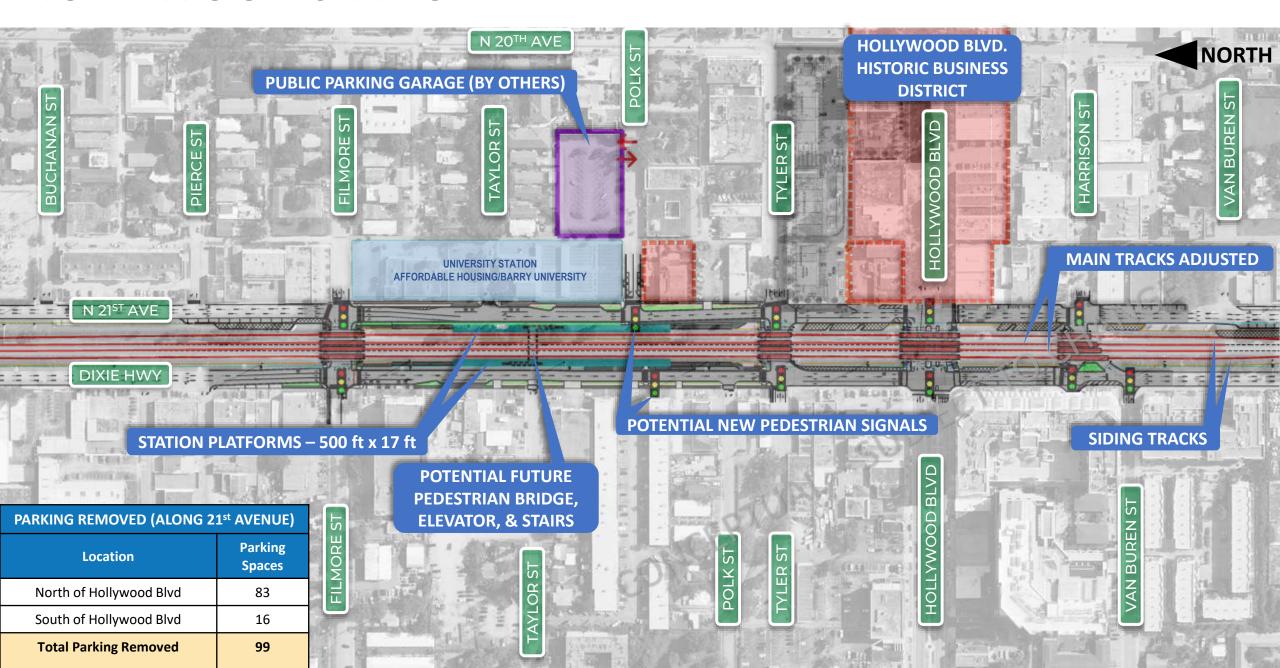
- Security Cameras
- Protection Railings
- Stairs and ADA Ramps
- Parking (Provided at Hollywood & South Fort Lauderdale Stations)
- Drop-off/Pick-Up Areas



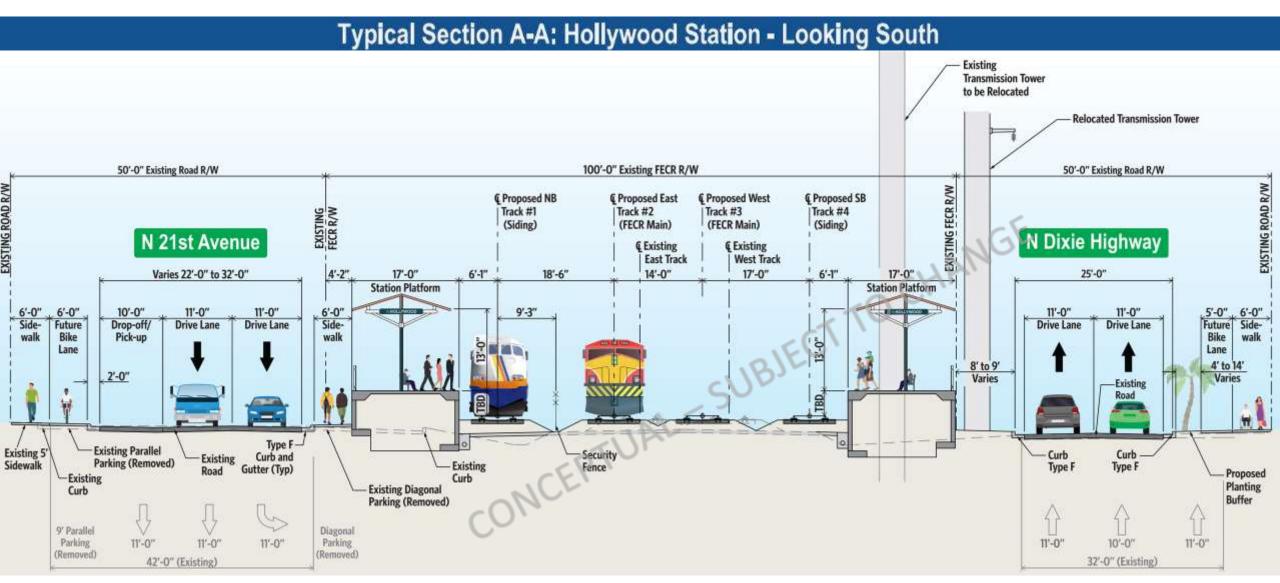


Note: Train type to be determined 15

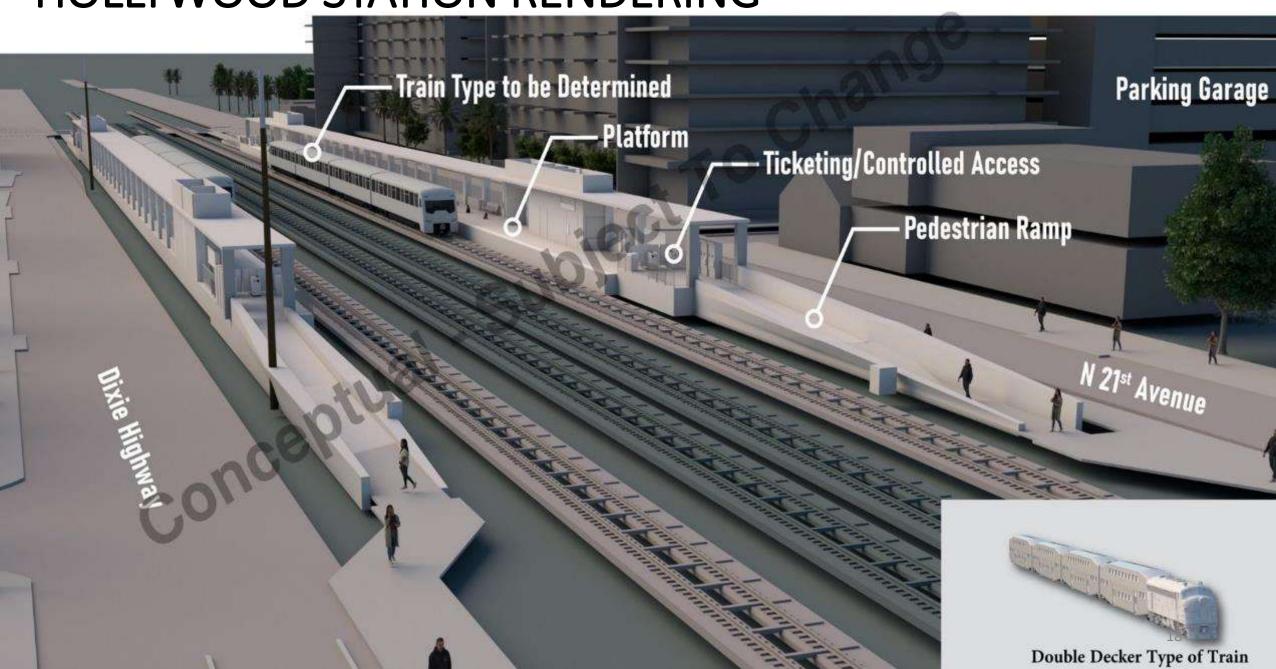
HOLLYWOOD STATION



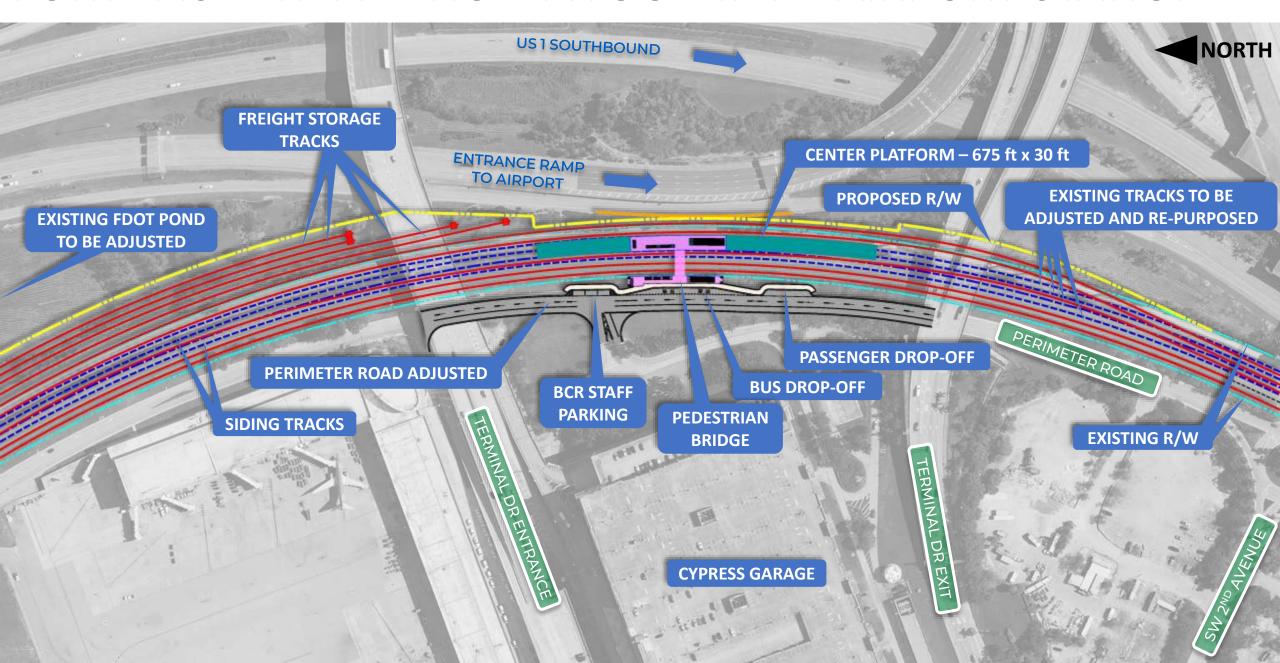
HOLLYWOOD STATION



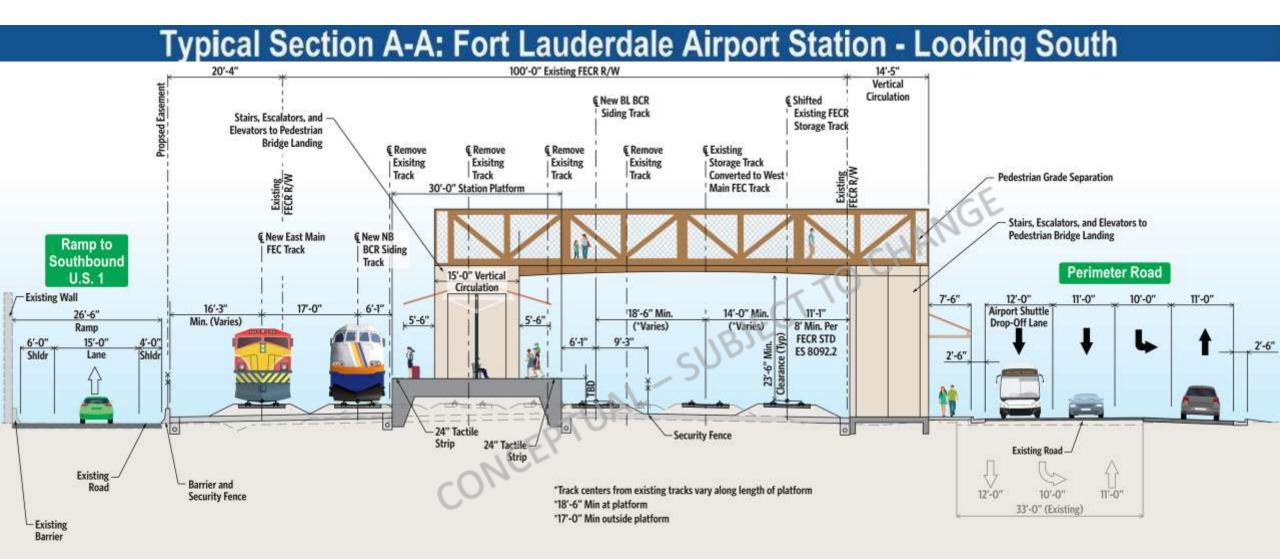
HOLLYWOOD STATION RENDERING



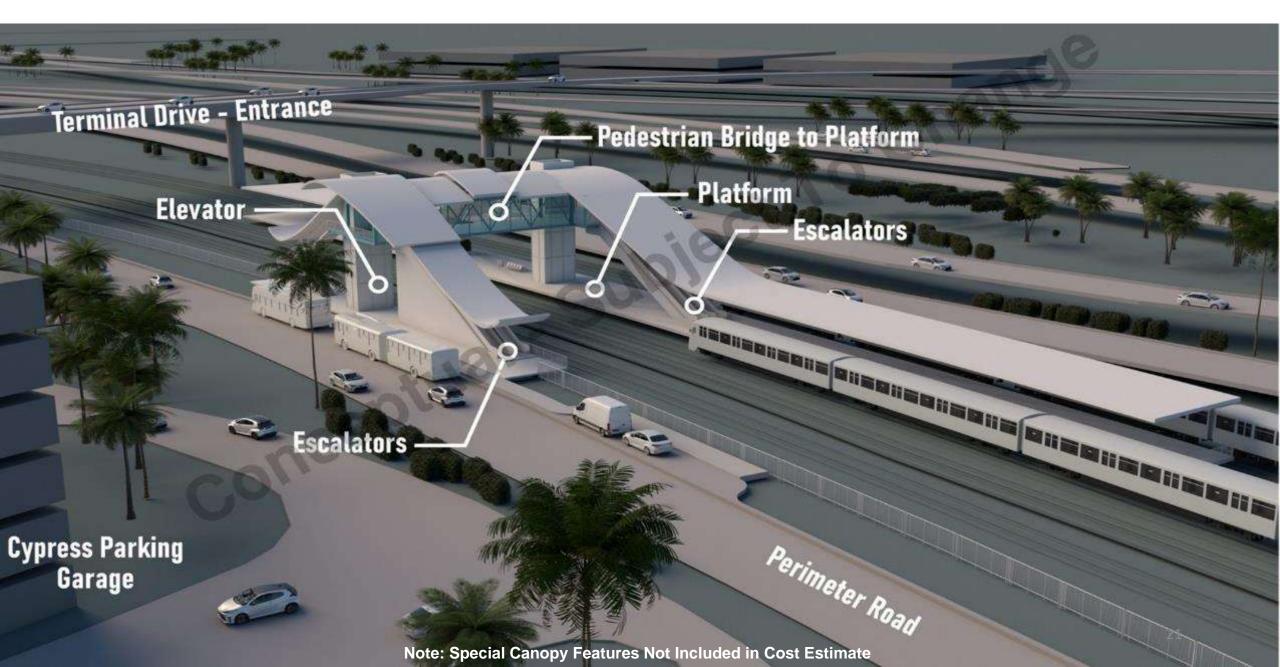
FORT LAUDERDALE-HOLLYWOOD INT'L AIRPORT STATION



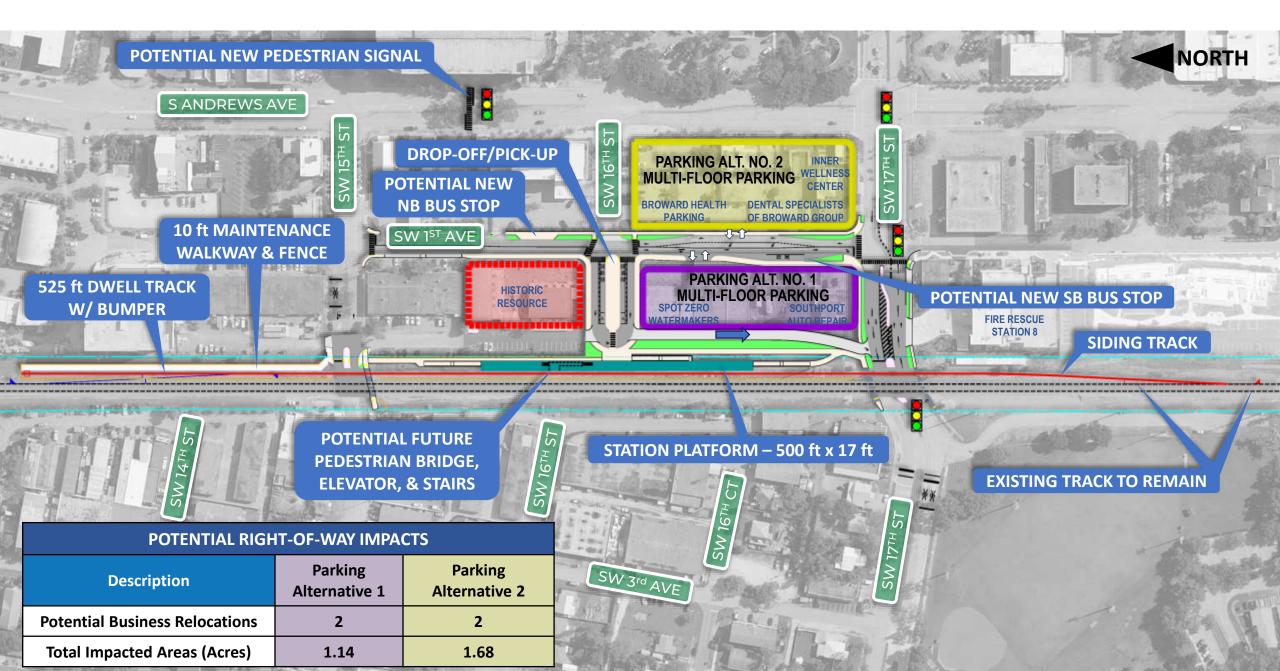
FORT LAUDERDALE-HOLLYWOOD INT'L AIRPORT STATION



FORT LAUDERDALE-HOLLYWOOD INT'L AIRPORT STATION

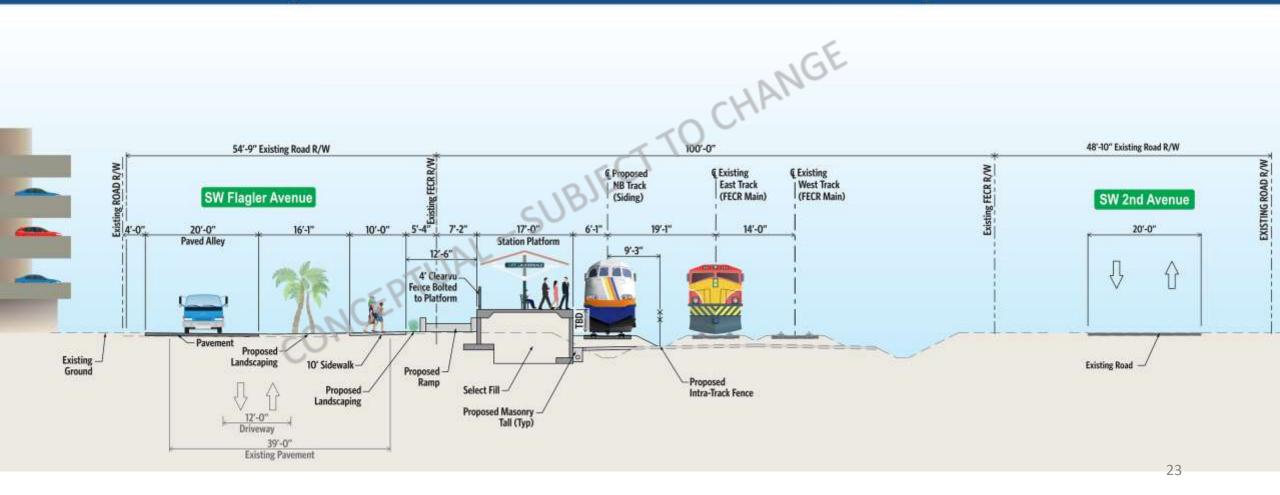


SOUTH FORT LAUDERDALE STATION

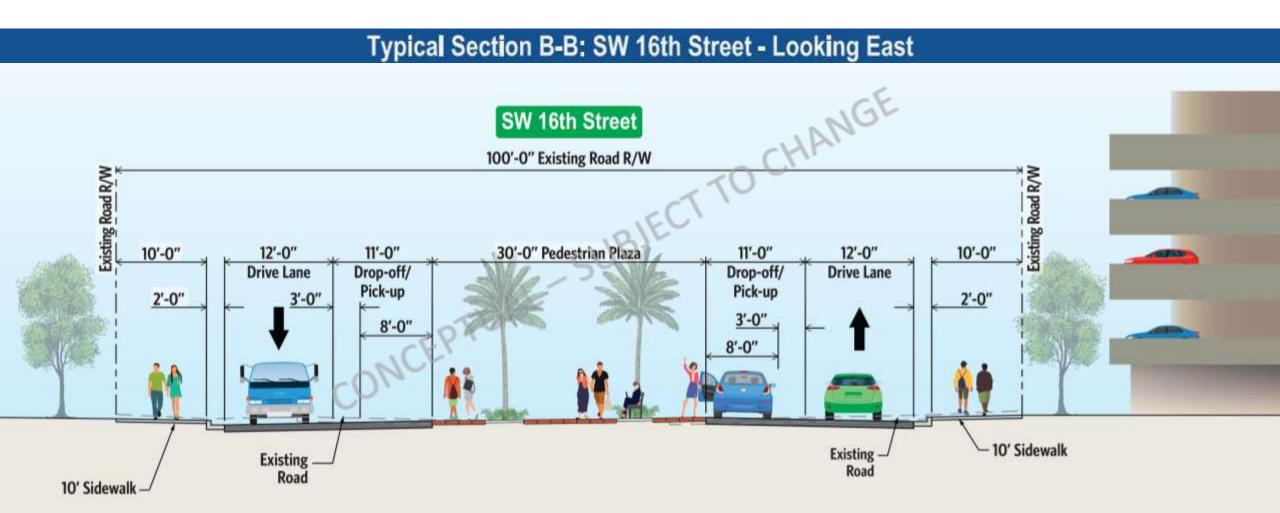


SOUTH FORT LAUDERDALE STATION

Typical Section A-A: South Fort Lauderdale Station - Looking South



SOUTH FORT LAUDERDALE STATION



SOUTH FORT LAUDERDALE STATION RENDERING



SOUTH FORT LAUDERDALE STATION RENDERING: STREET LEVEL VIEW



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS



Social Environment

Social Resources

Economics

Land Use Changes

Mobility

Aesthetic Effects

Relocations



Natural Environment

Wetlands

Protected Species

Essential Fish Habitat

Water Resources

Floodplains

Special Designations



Physical Environment

Farmlands

Noise and Vibration

Air Quality

Contamination



Cultural Environment

Historic Resources

Archaeological

Resources

Coordination with State

Historic Preservation

Officer

Recreational Section

4(f)(Parks and

Preserves)

BCR South will enhance safety, connectivity, mobility, the economy, and will improve access to public transportation at residential, employment, and travel centers.



Social Environment

- Social Resources Enhanced
- > Economics Enhanced
- ➤ Land Use Changes* *Minor Impacts*
- ➤ Mobility *Enhanced*
- ➤ Aesthetic Effects* *Minor Impacts*
- ➤ Relocations* <u>Potential 2 or 3 business</u> <u>relocations</u> to accommodate parking at <u>South Fort Lauderdale Station</u>

*ANTICIPATED MINOR IMPACTS

- Land Use Changes Minor changes due to potential parking garage at South Fort Lauderdale Station.
- Aesthetic Effects Minor changes due to construction of stations and parking garages.
- Relocations Minor changes due to two potential business relocations at South Fort Lauderdale Station.



Natural Environment

- ➤ Wetlands *No Impacts*
- ➤ Protected Species *No Impacts*
- ➤ Essential Fish Habitat *No Impacts*
- ➤ Water Resources *No Impacts*
- ➤ Floodplains *No Impacts*
- Special Designations No Impacts



Physical Environment

- Farmlands *No Impacts*
- ➤ Noise and Vibration* *No Impacts*
- ➤ Air Quality *No Impacts*
- ➤ Contamination *Minor impacts*



Cultural Environment

- ➤ Historic Resources *No Impacts*
- ➤ Archaeological Resources *No Impacts*
- Coordination with State Historic Preservation
 Officer* Ongoing
- Recreational Section 4(f)(Parks and Preserves) – No Impacts

STEP-BY-STEP TRAFFIC PROCESS

1 - Identify Traffic Analysis Locations

2 - Collect Traffic Data

3 - Estimate Future Traffic Demand

4 - Perform Traffic
Operational
Analysis
(Existing & Future)

Intersections Level of Service

Queuing Analysis

Four Train Events:
No Trains, Freight
Trains, Brightline
Trains and BCR South
Trains

37

TRAFFIC ANALYSIS APPROACH

Roadway Traffic Analyses

- 1. East-West At-Grade Railroad Crossings at 25 Locations
- 2. Proposed 3 Station Areas

Evaluation of Existing, No-Build, and Build Alternatives

- 7 crossings were analyzed to represent the operations of the 25 locations
- 3 crossings were selected to evaluate overlapping train events
 - Griffin Road, Hollywood Boulevard, and Hallandale Beach Boulevard

TRAFFIC ANALYSIS RESULTS

Peak-Hour Results at Each Railroad Crossing	
Gate Closure Time at Crossings	Less than 90 seconds per single train (advanced warning + crossing + clearance time)
No. of Trains Per Hour	3-5 trains
Travel Times, Delays, and Queuing Impacts	Similar to Brightline Service
Build vs. No-Build Traffic Operations	No significant change
Vehicle Queues Generated by Trains	Clear prior to next train crossing

STEP-BY-STEP SAFETY ANALYSIS PROCESS

1 - Identify Safety Analysis Locations

2 - Gather Vehicle and FRA Train Incident Data and Establish Trends

3 - Identify On-Going Safety Improvements

4 - Identify Best Practices for Crossing Safety

5 - Analysis Results and Recommendations

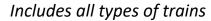
SAFETY ANALYSIS LOCATIONS AND INCIDENT TRENDS

Safety Analysis Locations

- East-West Highway-Rail Grade Crossings at 25 Locations
- Proposed Station Areas with Trackwork

Summary of Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) 5-Year Incident Behavior Trends (25 Crossings)

Behavior Action	Number Of Incidents
Went Around the Gate	22
Went Thru the Gate	1
Stopped on Crossing	9
Suicide/Attempted Suicide	2
Other (Specify)	1
Total Incidents Over 5 Years	35



ON-GOING SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Safety Improvements

- Brightline Phase II Improvements
- 2017 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant and Broward County Delineator Project
- 2022 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Improvements
- Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)'s 2023 FRA Rail Crossing Elimination Program Grant (RCEP)

SAFETY ANALYSIS RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Safety Analysis Results Recommendations

7 Grade Crossings near BCR South Passenger Stations

- Install 4-quadrant Gates at Crossings Near Stations
- Install Vehicle Detection at 4-Quadrant Gates
- Install Pedestrian Gates & Escape Gates at Crossings

 Near Stations
- Install Corridor Fencing in Station Areas
- Install Second Train Coming and Turn Blank-out Signs
- Adjust Signal Pre-emption Timings for Traffic Signals
- Adjust Traffic Signal Timings
- Install Pre-Signals and Extend Cross-Hatching Pavement Markings for Short Storage Crossings
- Edgeline Delineators and RPMs in Median and Outside Edges to Prevent Turning onto Tracks









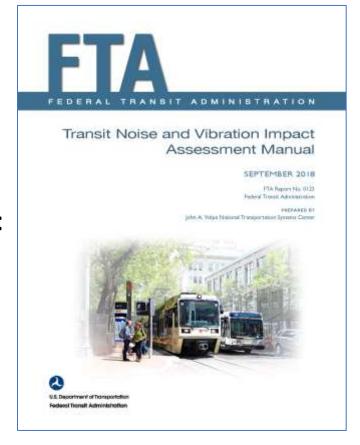


RAIL NOISE AND VIBRATION

- Noise and Vibration Analyses was performed in accordance with Federal Transit Administration Manual (2018)
- Potential Noise and Vibration Impacts to Sensitive Site were Evaluated for:
 - New Commuter Rail Service along FECR Corridor
 - Proposed Stations

Sensitive Sites: Residences, Schools, Libraries, Parks, and Places of Worship

- Determined Existing Noise Levels and Dominant Sources
 - Performed Short-term Monitoring at 27 Locations
 - Existing Rail (FECR Freight and Brightline Trains)
 - Highway Traffic Noise







RAIL NOISE AND VIBRATION

Calculated Future Project Noise and Vibration Levels

Compared Project Noise and Vibration Levels to FTA's Impact Criteria

Documented Results in Noise and Vibration Study Report

- Project does not result in the Exceedance of FTA's Noise and Vibration Impact Criteria
- Project does not warrant consideration of abatement

Noise and Vibration Study Report

National Environmental Policy
Act (NEPA) Study

Broward Commuter Rail South
Broward County, Florida

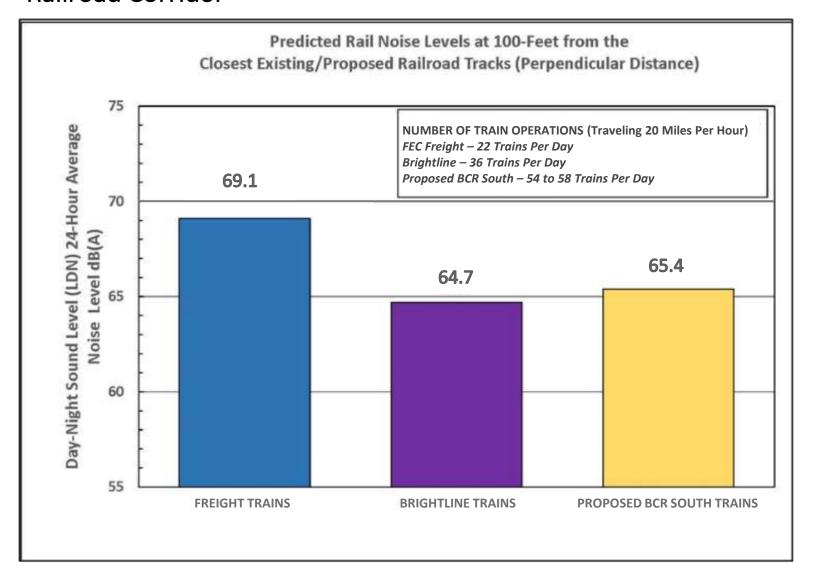






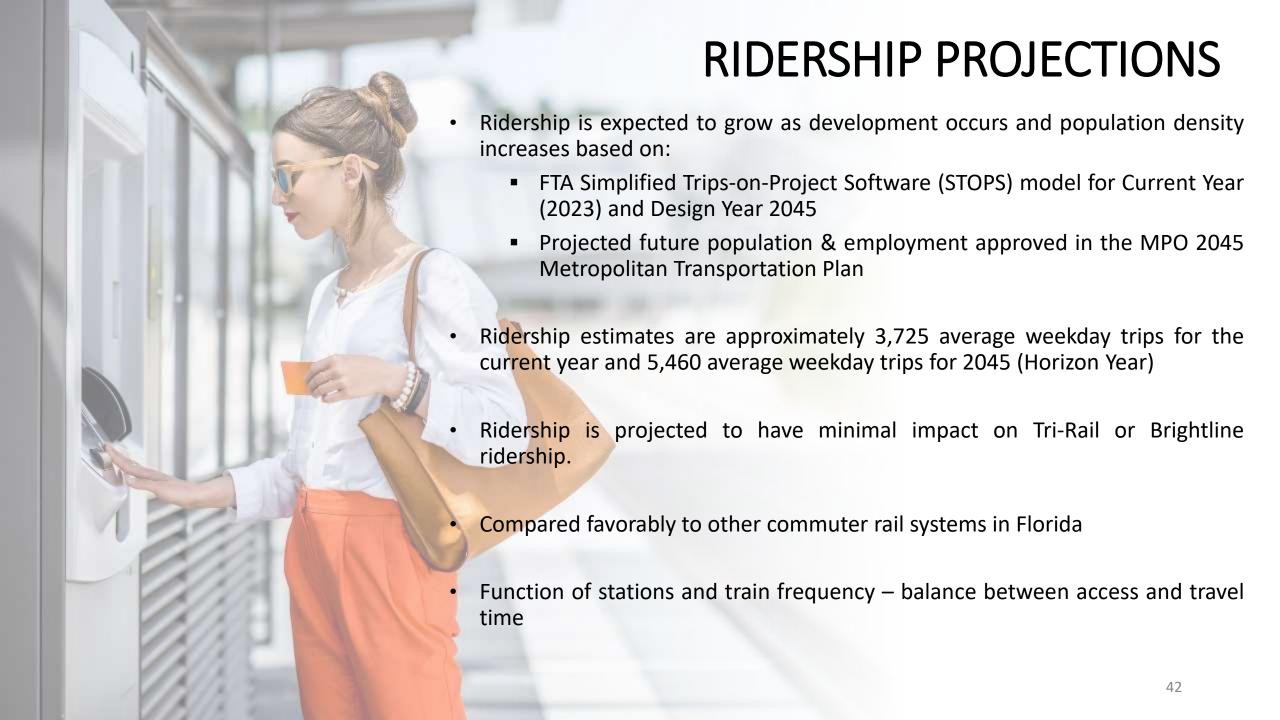
RAIL NOISE ANALYSIS

Relative Comparison of Train Noise Levels Adjacent to the FEC Railroad Corridor









PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATE

Build Alternative

- Capital Base Year 2023 Cost is \$291 Million
 - Includes track construction, basic stations, purchasing of vehicles, potential right-of-way acquisitions, a portion of the Hialeah Vehicle Maintenance Facility (VMF), and parking costs.
- Maximum FTA Small Starts Grant is \$150 Million
- Operations & Maintenance Cost is \$15 Million
- Access/Easement Fee is a negotiated fee (TBD) to allow commuter trains on the Brightline passenger easement on the FEC corridor.

HIALEAH RAIL YARD

Proposed for Commuter Rail Use

- Storing and Maintaining Trains
- Planned improvements are under study by the Northeast Corridor Project Team that will include BCR South needs

Owned by FDOT

- Occupied by CSX, Amtrak, and Tri-Rail
- Located Northeast of the Miami International Airport in Miami-Dade County

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND COORDINATION

FDOT and Broward County have been and will continue to hold meetings with the public, agencies, and stakeholders throughout the entire study

Public Meetings

- Broward County Commission LPA Vote February 22, 2022
- Public Information Meeting #1 December 4 and 6, 2023
- Public Information Meeting #2 May 22 (In-Person)/Tonight's Meeting May 23 (Virtual)
- One-on-One Elected Official Briefings
- Newsletters
- Project Website

www.browardcommuterrailstudy.com

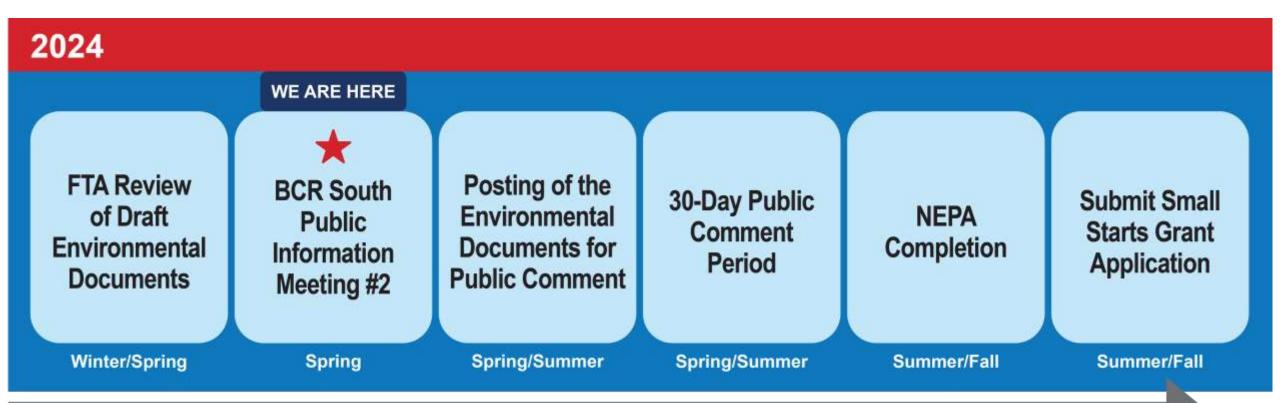
- Social Media
 - @ MyFDOT_SEFL MyFDOTSEFL
- Email

BCRSouth@broward.org



- Small Group Meetings
- One-on-One Stakeholder Meetings
- County and City Commission Meetings
- MPO Board and Committee Meetings

NEXT STEPS



Public Involvement

Public involvement and engagement will continue throughout the life of the study to ensure the corridor residents, businesses, the traveling public, and other interested parties have meaningful participation in the process.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT - COMMENT OPTIONS

- 1) Provide a comment during the Question and Answer Session
- 2) Email your comments to: BCRSouth@broward.org
- 3) Mail your comments to:
 ATTN: Phil Schwab
 Florida Department of Transportation District Four
 3400 West Commercial Boulevard
 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309
- 4) Submit comments on project website: www.browardcommuterrailstudy.com

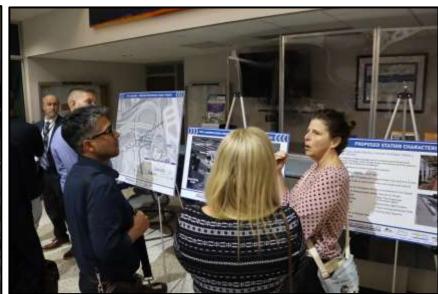
FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the project website: www.browardcommuterrailstudy.com
- Email questions to: BCRSouth@broward.org
- Visit the social media platforms:
- **10 @** MyFDOT_SEFL

 MyFDOTSEFL

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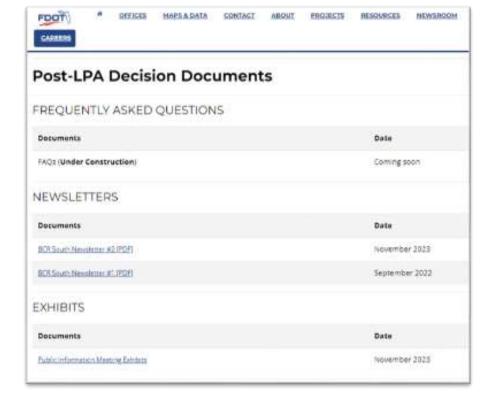


PROJECT WEBSITE

Project Website

www.browardcommuterrailstudy.com







CONTACT INFORMATION:

Phil Schwab, P.E.

Project Manager Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)

(954)777 - 4524

BCRSouth@broward.org

Jie Bian

Project Manager
Broward County Transit
(BCT)

(954) 357 - 8532

BCRSouth@broward.org



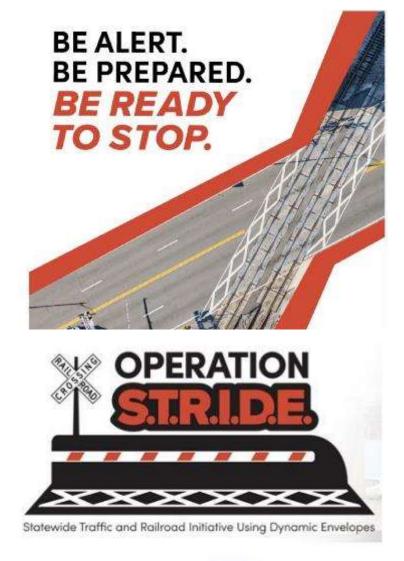
PREMO Premium Mobility Plan

Broward County Transit

Learn more at: Premo.Broward.org or email questions to PREMO@broward.org









WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK









Broward Commuter Rail South

Virtual Public Information

Meeting #2 Comment Period Session

May 23, 2024

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District 4 Broward County, Florida FDOT Project No. 452240-1

Public Involvement - Comment Options

- 1. Comment during this Public Information Meeting using the GoToWebinar Questions tool or by clicking the Raise Hand button
- 2. Email your comments to: BCRSouth@broward.org
- 3. Mail your comments to:

Florida Department of Transportation

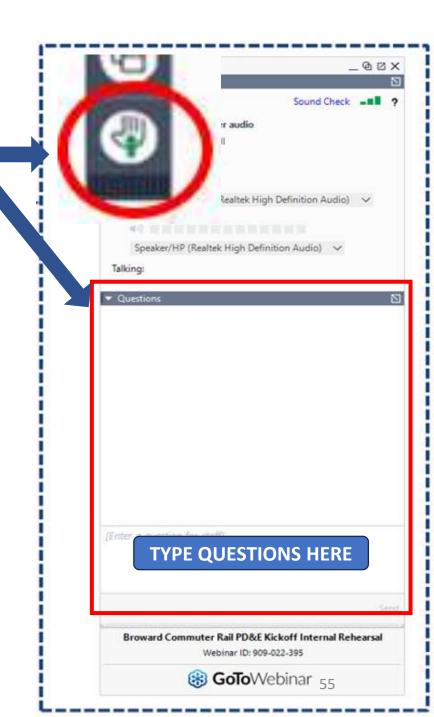
3400 West Commercial Boulevard

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309

Attn: Phil Schwab, P.E.

4. Submit comments on project website:

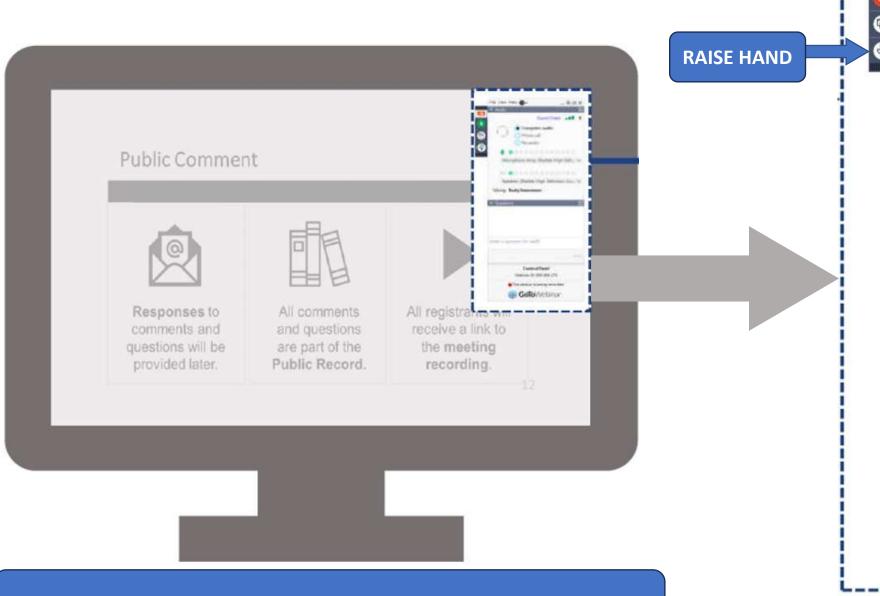
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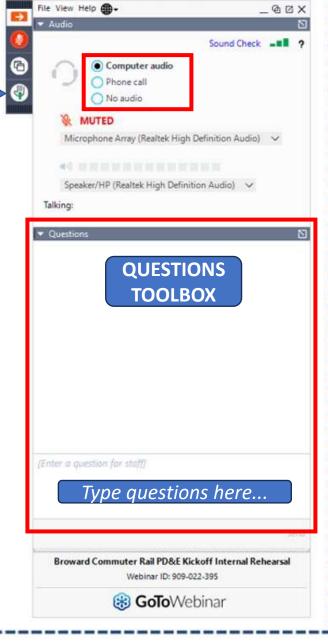


Question & Answer Session - Panelists

- 1. Coree Cuff Lonergan Broward County Director of Transportation
- 2. Jie Bian Broward County Transit Project Manager
- 3. Phil Schwab FDOT Project Manager
- 4. Mike Ciscar Consultant PD&E Project Manager

GoToWebinar Features





Public Involvement - Comment Options

Questions submitted through the GoToWebinar questions tool



Raise your hand and wait to be called by the moderator



State your name, address and who you represent before making your comment.



If you have additional comments, you may continue after other people have had an opportunity to comment.



We ask that you limit your input to 2 minutes.

CONTACT INFORMATION

BCR South Related Questions

BCRSouth@broward.org

PREMO Related Questions

PREMO@broward.org