



Broward Commuter Rail South

Virtual Public Information Meeting Presentation

December 6, 2023



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

Moderator: Vanessa Spatafora



Public Information Meeting Agenda

1) PRESENTATION

2) QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION

Project Website

www.browardcommuterrailstudy.com

 BROWARD COMMUTER RAIL (BCR)
SOUTH PD&E STUDY

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)

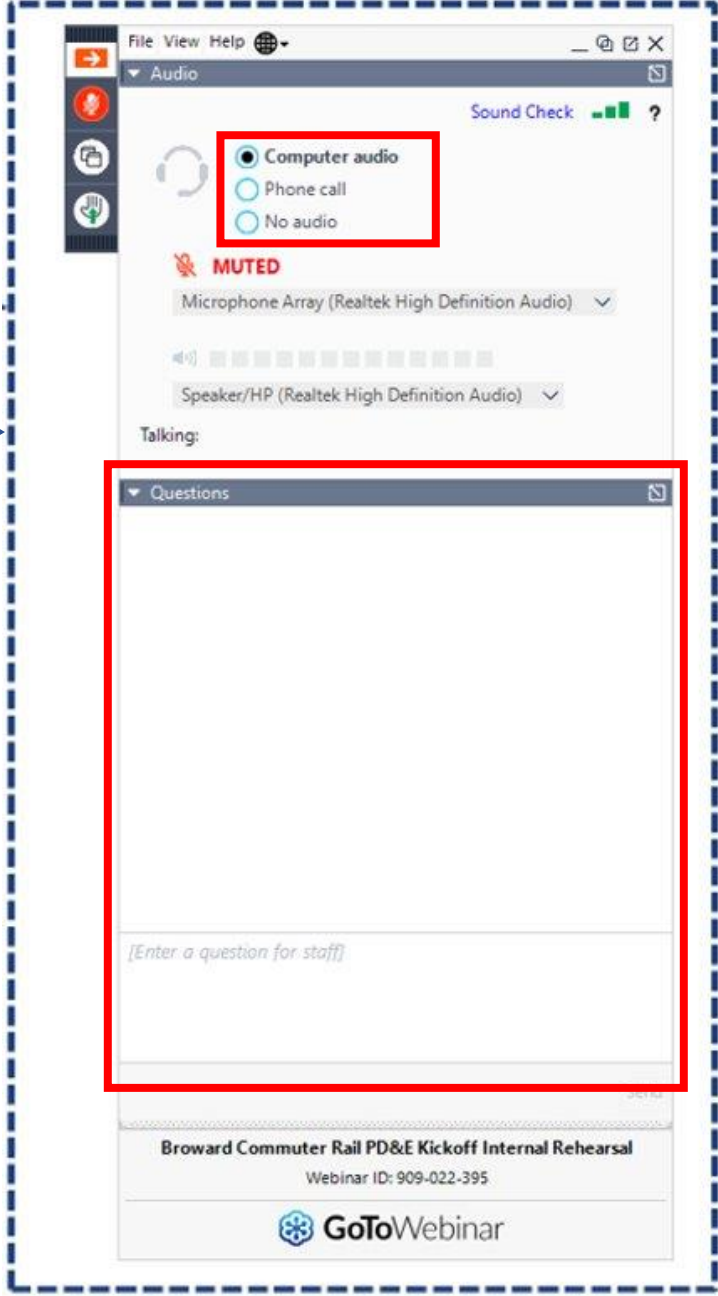
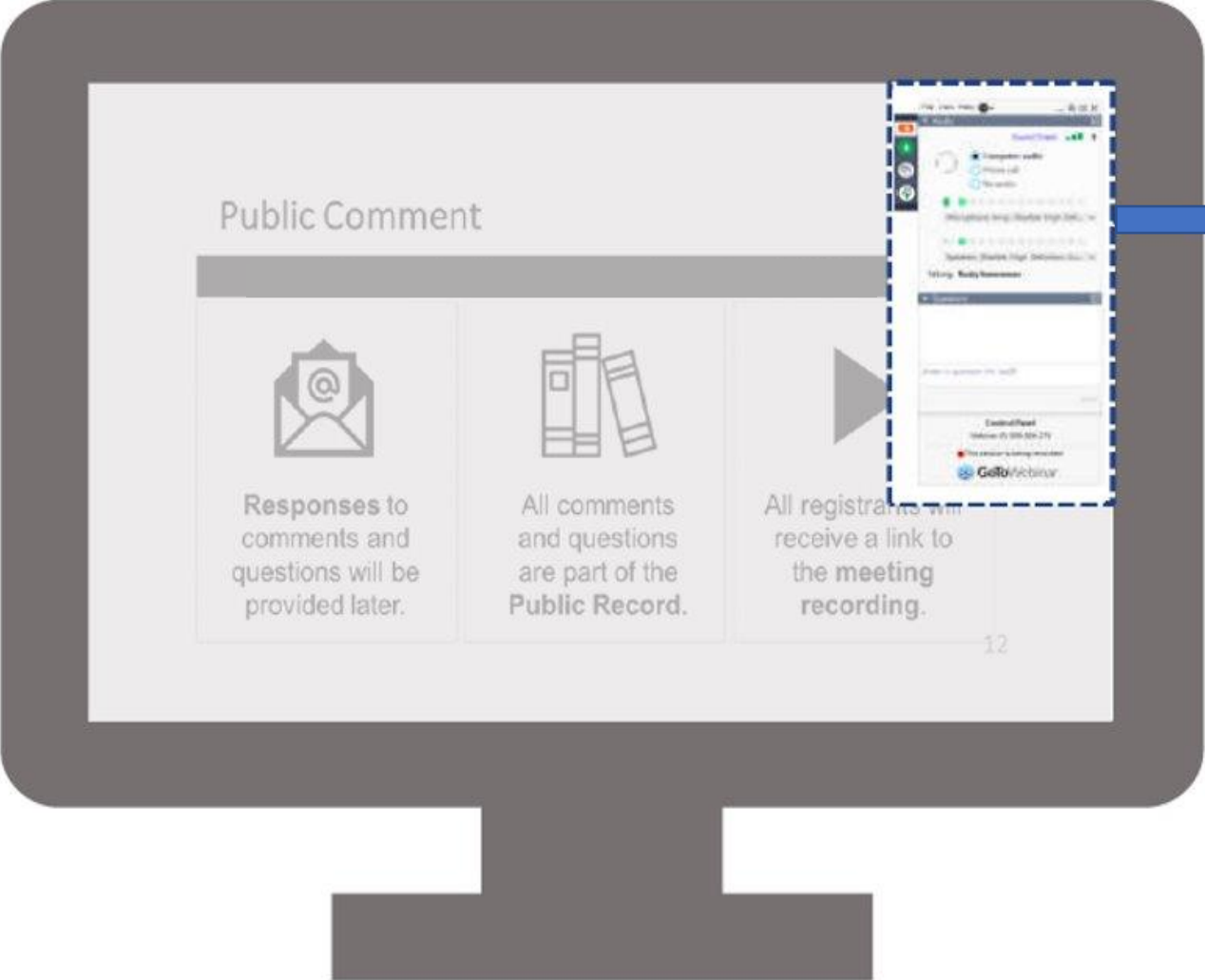
City of Hollywood City Hall
2600 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, FL 33020
Monday, December 4, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL (ONLY)

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



GoToWebinar Information



1 (800) 887-5551



Broward Commuter Rail South

Virtual Public Information Meeting Presentation December 6, 2023



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

Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309-3421

(954) 777-4190 or

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

Sharon.SinghHagyan@dot.state.fl.us

OR

Tallahassee Office

Florida Department of Transportation

State Title VI Coordinator

Stefan Kulakowski

605 Suwannee Street, MS 65

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450

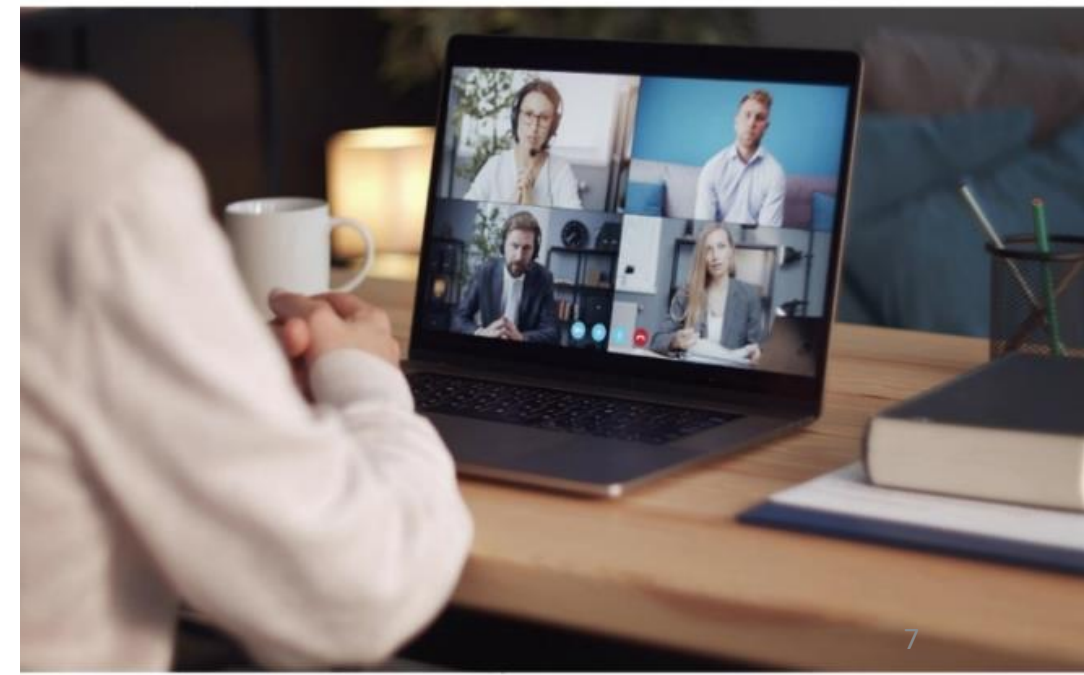
(850) 414-4742 or

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**
 - All public comments will become part of the project's public record
- **Public input will be considered as part of the concept development process**



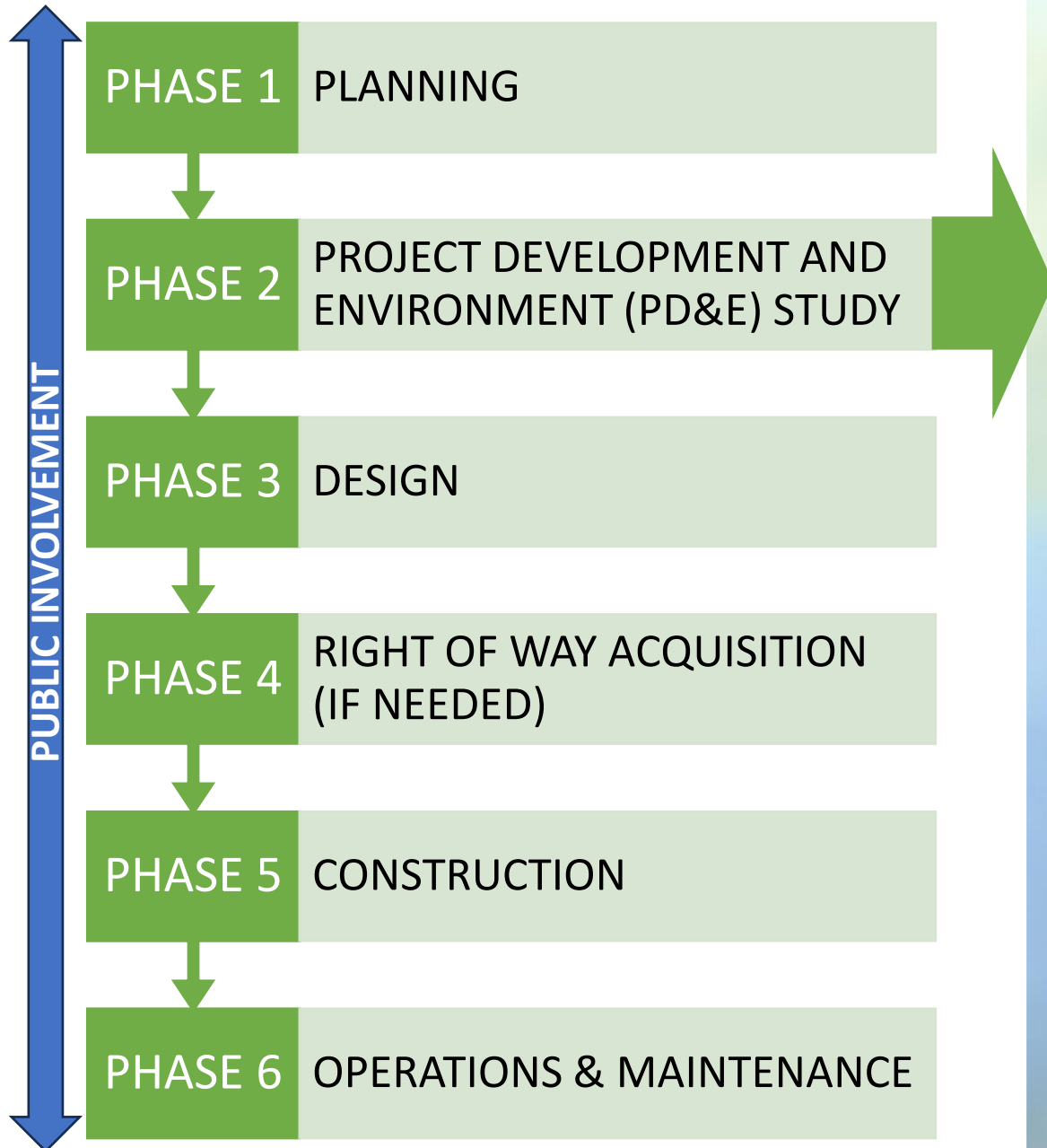


Broward Commuter Rail South

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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

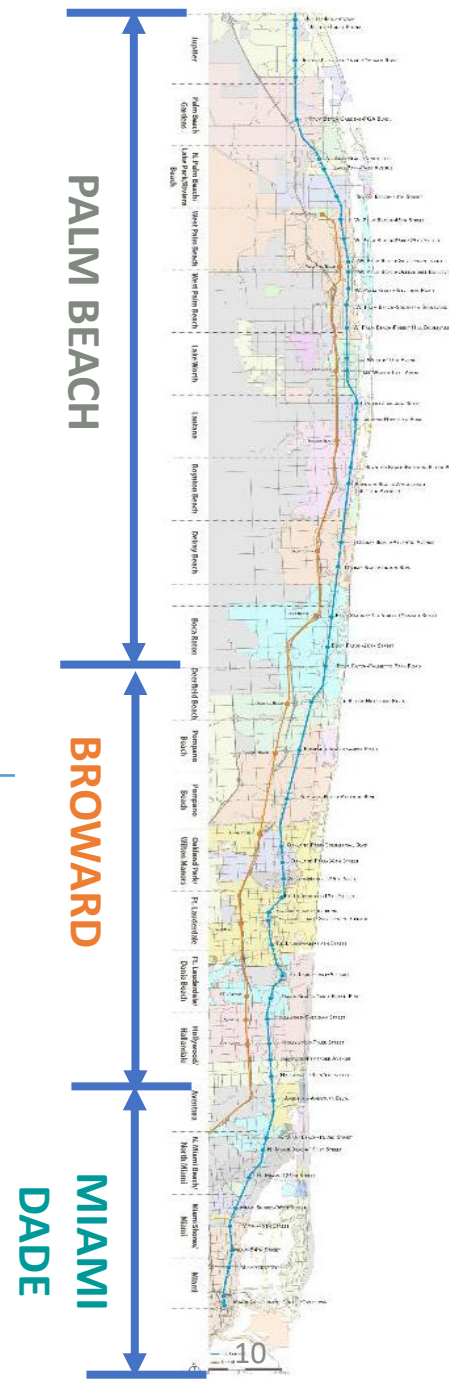
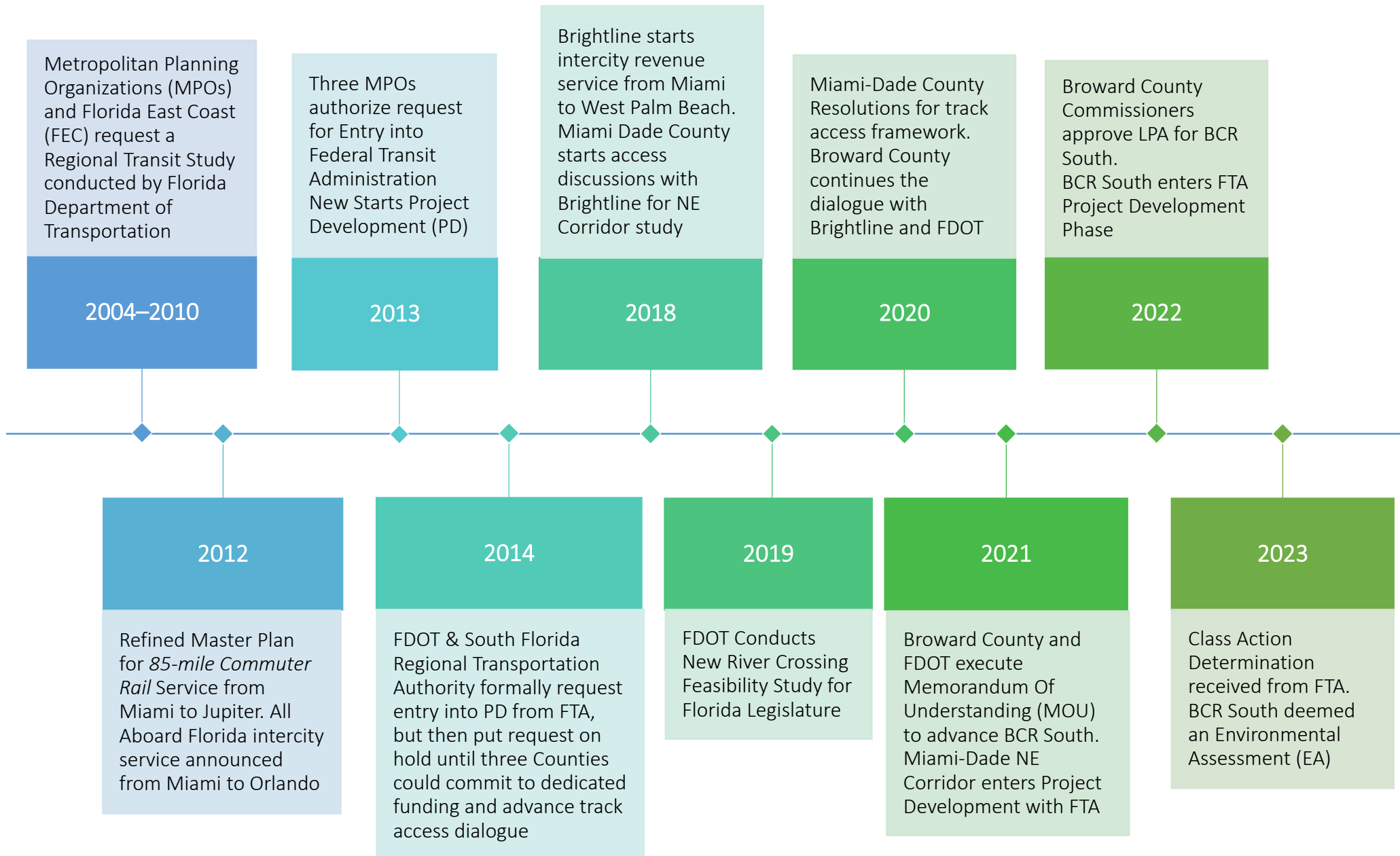
WHY IT'S DONE:

- 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





PURPOSE AND NEED

Purpose

- The purpose of the Broward Commuter Rail (BCR) South Project Development and Environment (PD&E) 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 Safety



PROJECT OVERVIEW – LPA FOR BCR SOUTH

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)

Hours of Operation	Headway (minutes)
Monday to Friday	
5 – 9 A.M.	30
9 A.M. – 4 P.M.	60
4 – 8 P.M.	30
8 – 11:30 P.M.	60
Weekends and Holidays	
6:00 A.M. – 11:30 P.M.	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



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

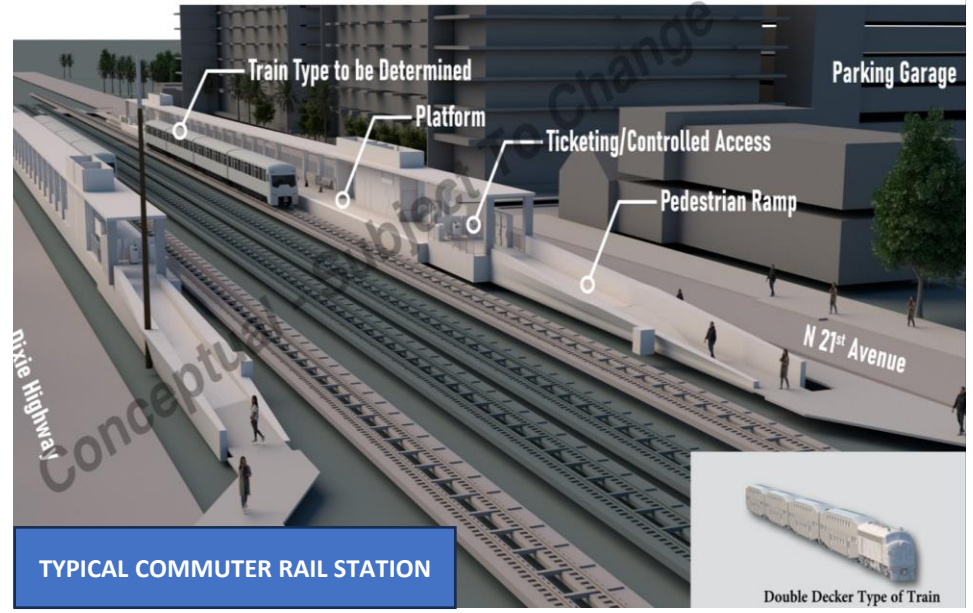
PROPOSED STATION CHARACTERISTICS

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

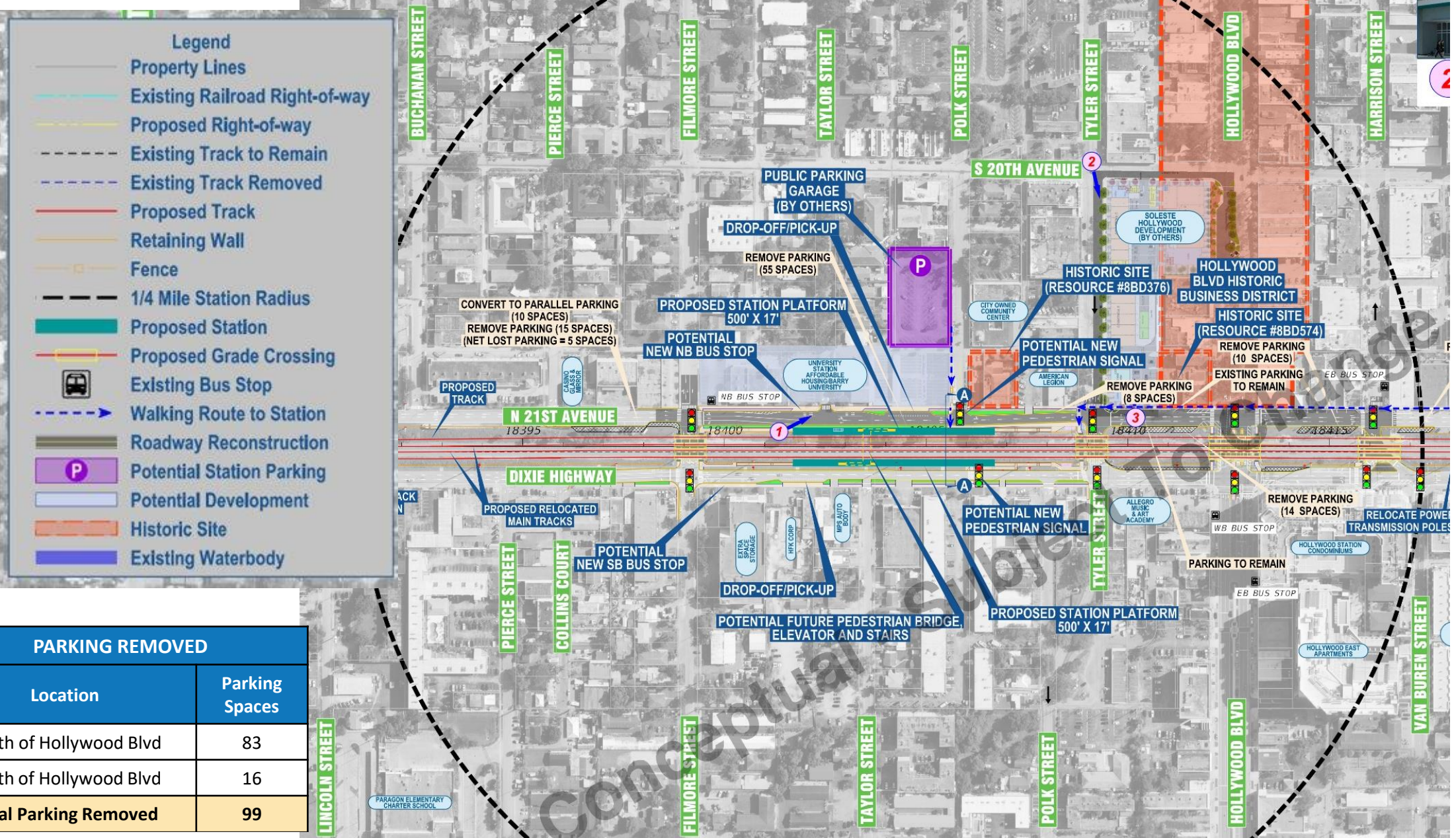
WHAT IS IN THE PROPOSED COMMUTER RAIL STATION?

- 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
- Pedestrian bridges are not anticipated but are under evaluation for potential future implementation
- Broward County is evaluating potential station features to include:
 - Bus Bays with Canopy
 - Drop-off/Pick-Up Areas
 - Customer Restrooms
 - Security Cameras
 - Protection Railings
 - Benches, Bike Racks, & Garbage Cans
 - Stairs and ADA Ramps
 - Real Time Passenger Information Signs
 - Wayfinding Signs & Audio
 - Ticket Vending Machines (TVM)
 - Parking (Site-Specific)



Note: Train type to be determined

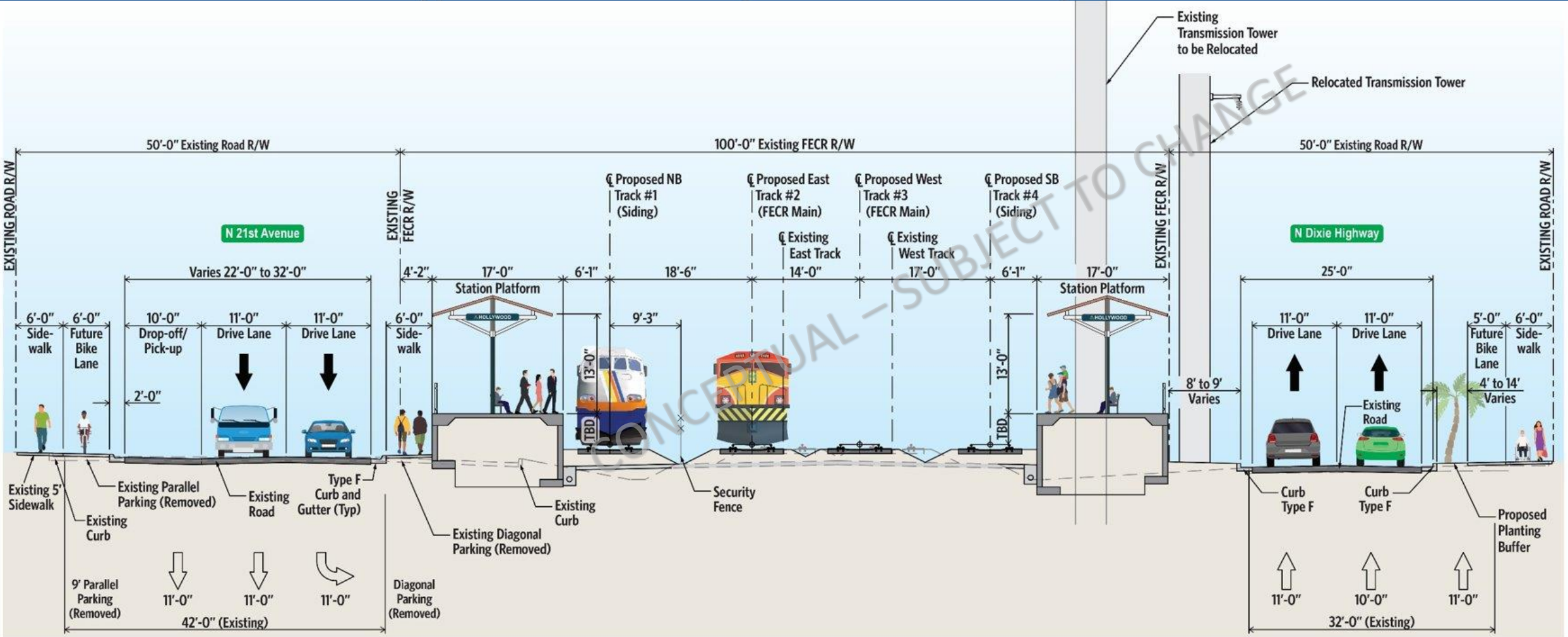
HOLLYWOOD STATION



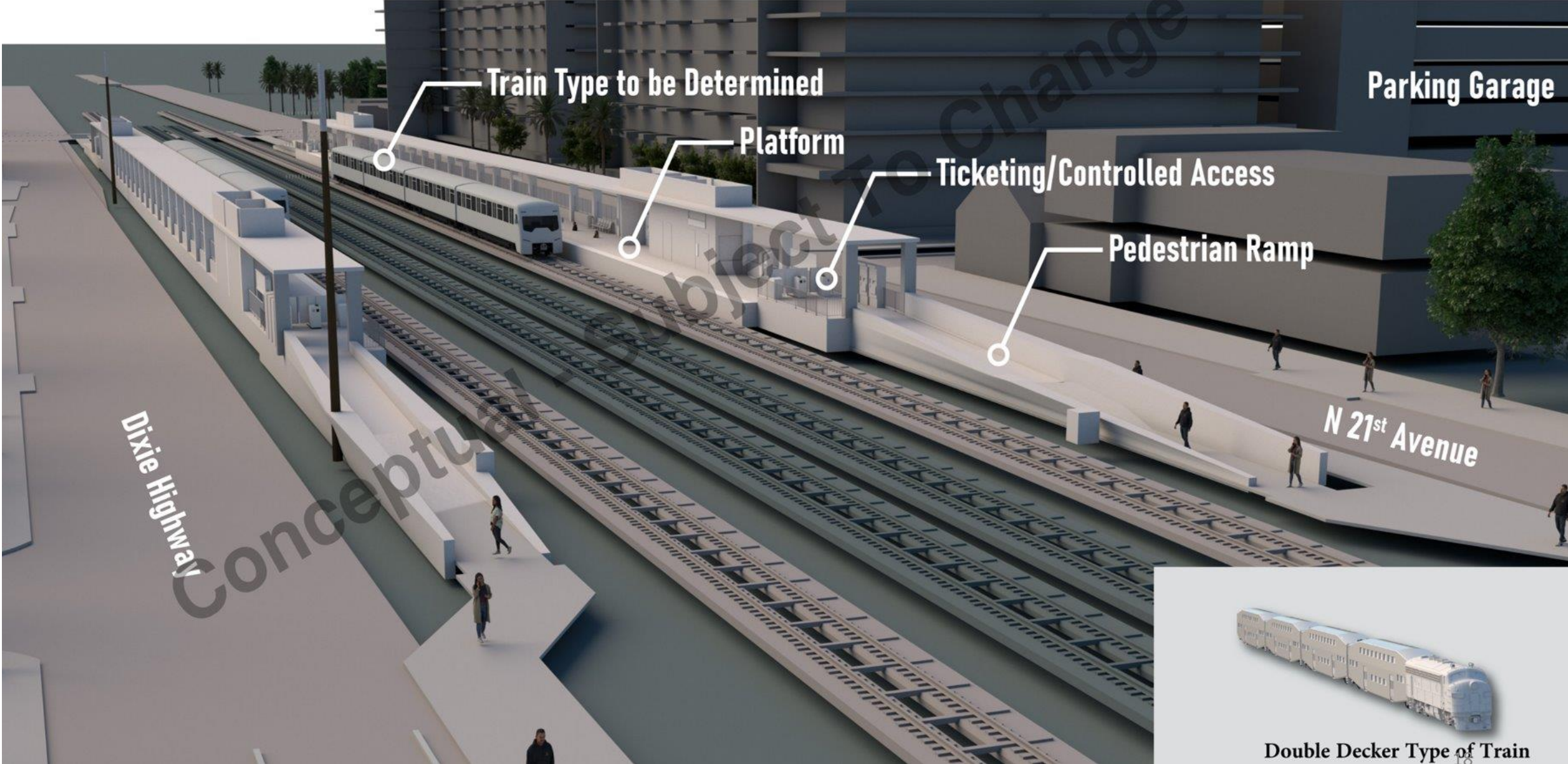
PARKING REMOVED	
Location	Parking Spaces
North of Hollywood Blvd	83
South of Hollywood Blvd	16
Total Parking Removed	99

HOLLYWOOD STATION

Typical Section A-A: Hollywood Station - Looking South

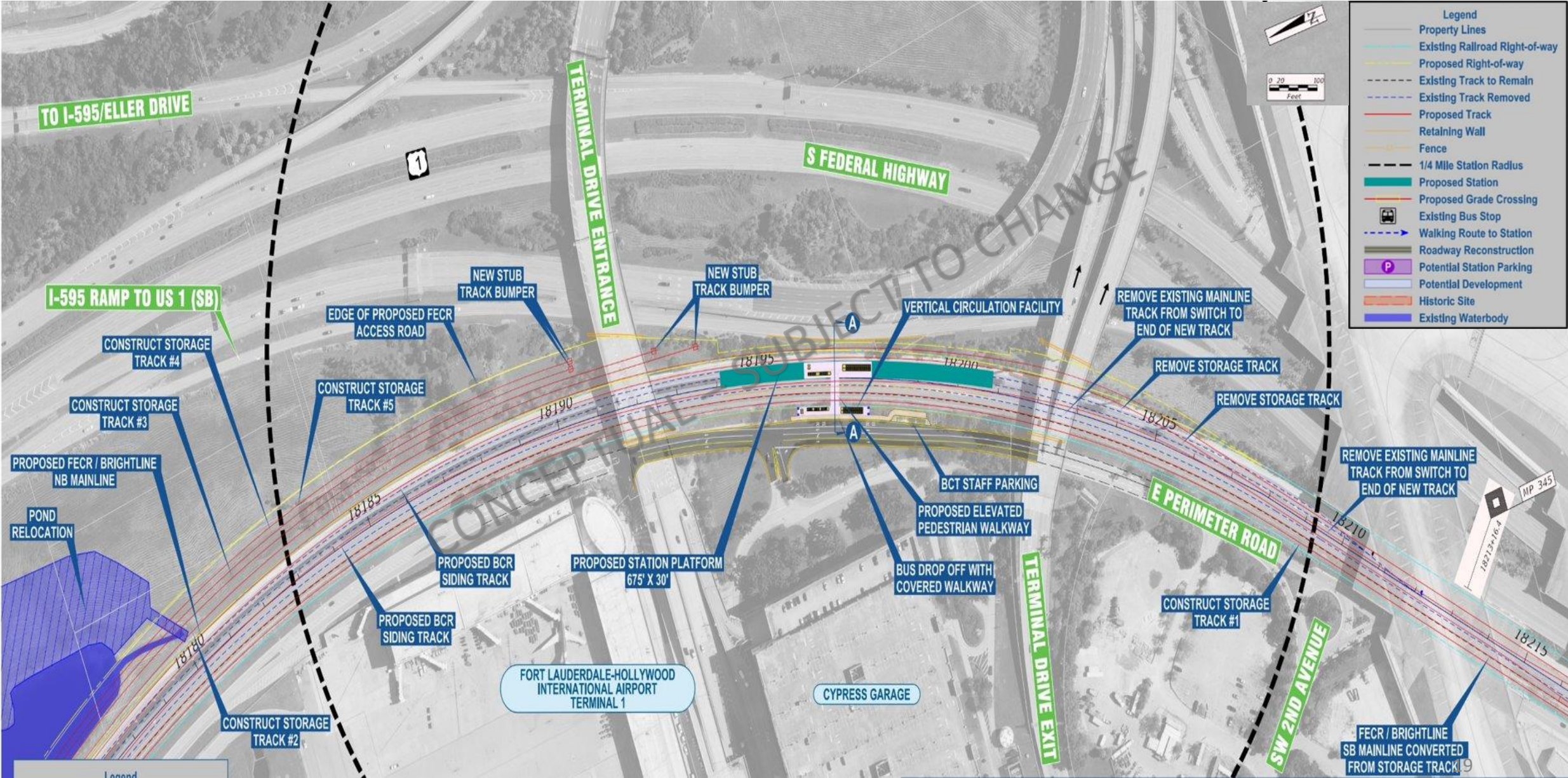


HOLLYWOOD STATION RENDERING

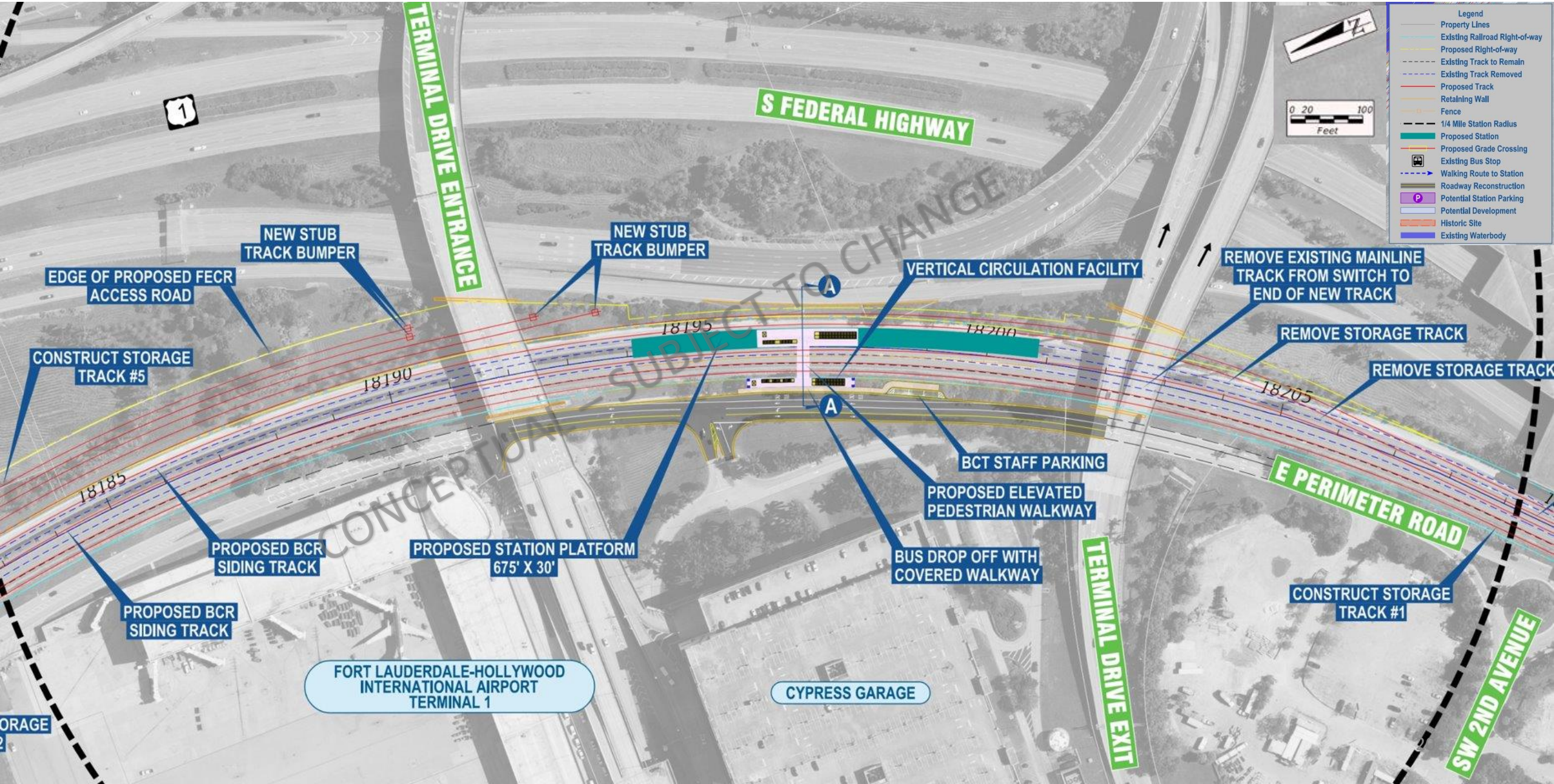


Double Decker Type of Train

FTL-HOLLYWOOD INT'L AIRPORT STATION

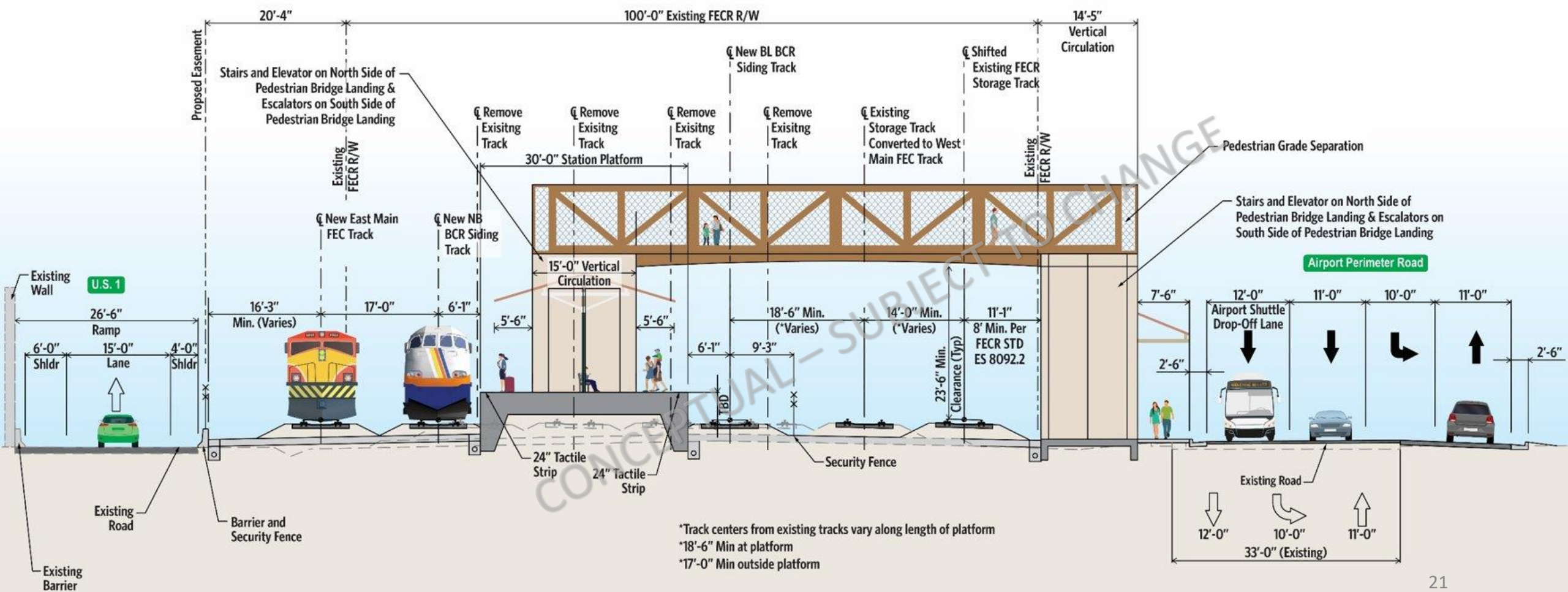


FTL-HOLLYWOOD INT'L AIRPORT STATION (CLOSE-UP)

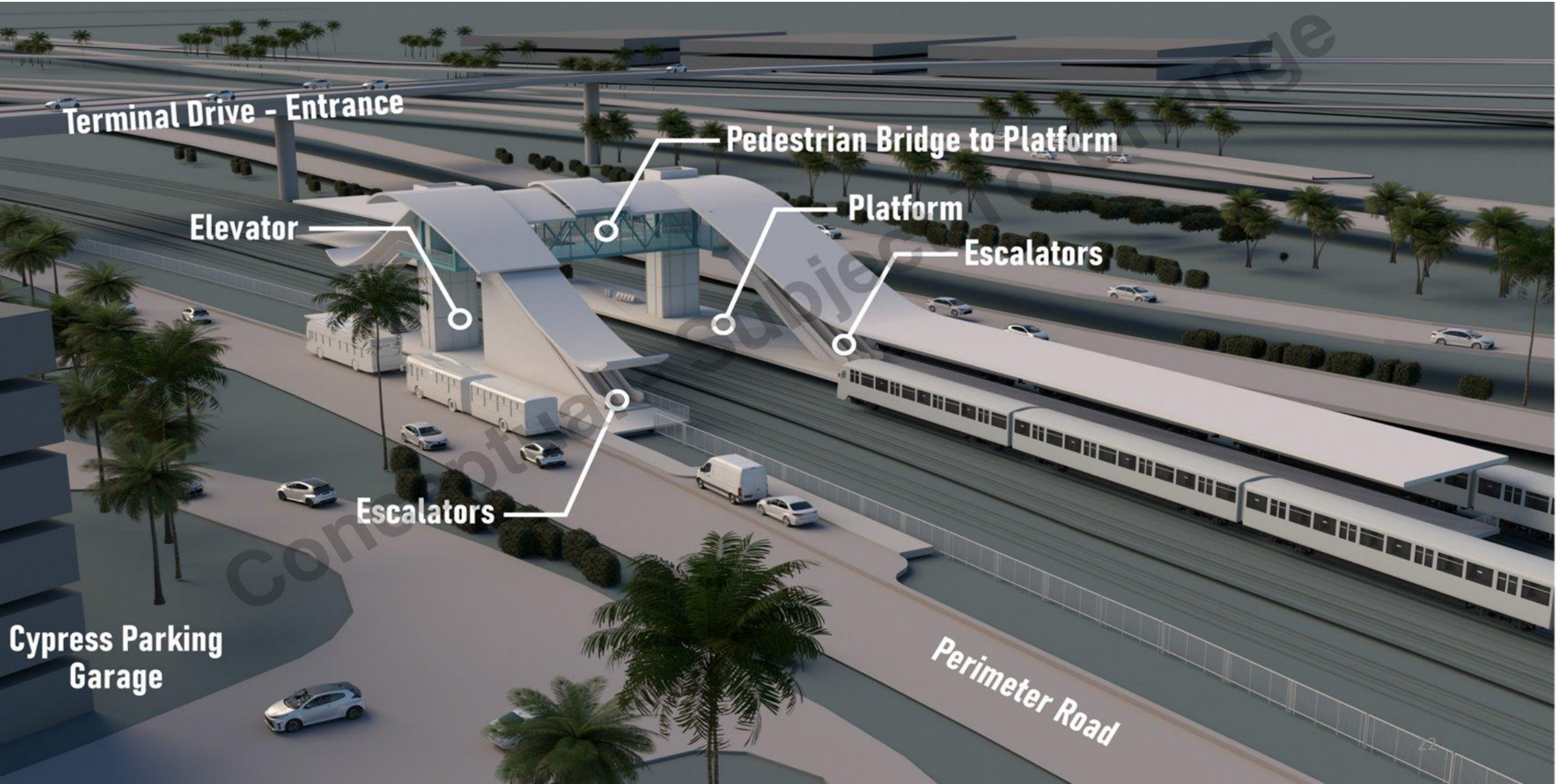


FTL-HOLLYWOOD INT'L AIRPORT STATION

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



FTL-HOLLYWOOD INT'L AIRPORT STATION RENDERING



Terminal Drive - Entrance

Pedestrian Bridge to Platform

Elevator

Platform

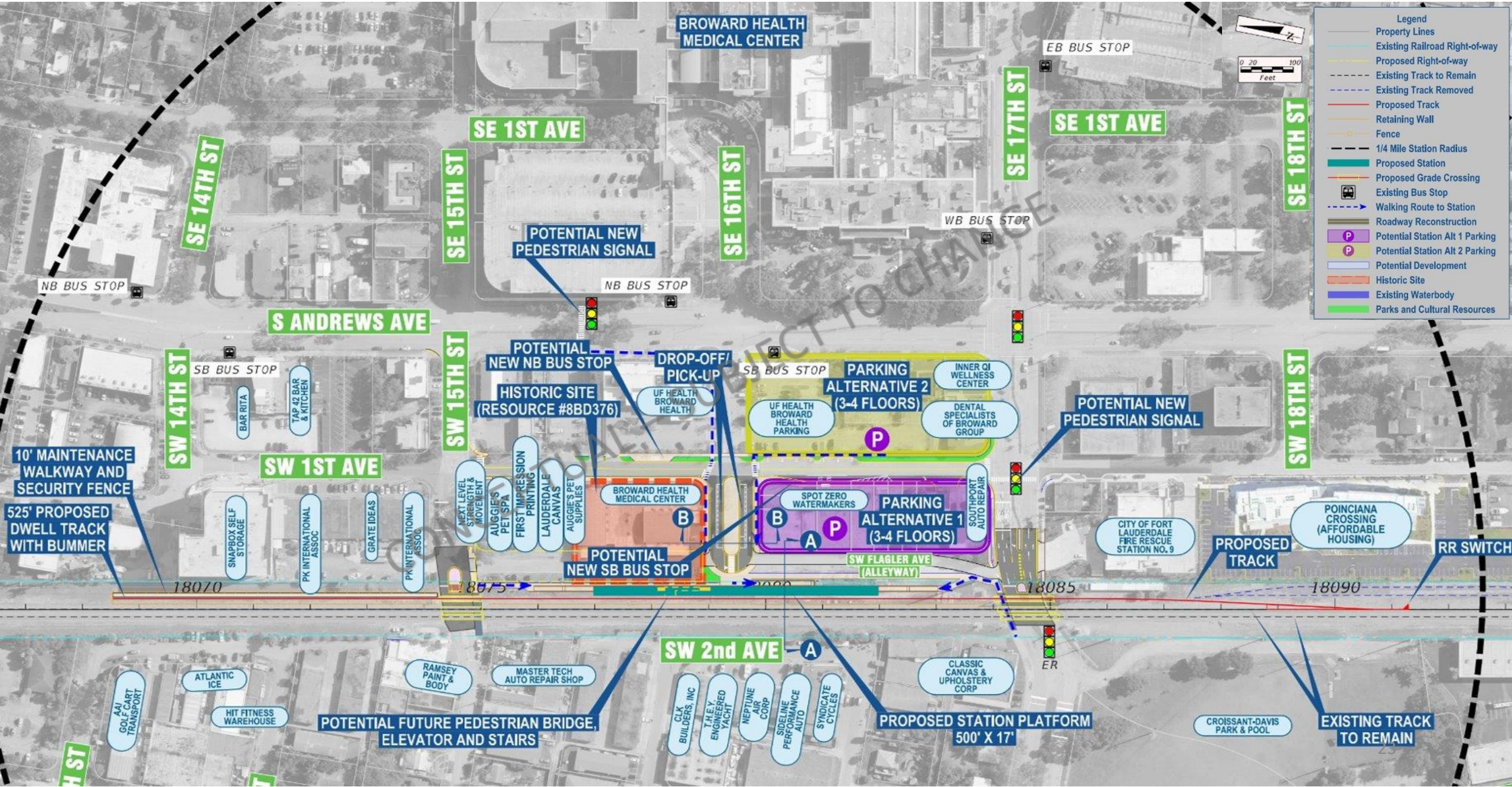
Escalators

Escalators

Cypress Parking Garage

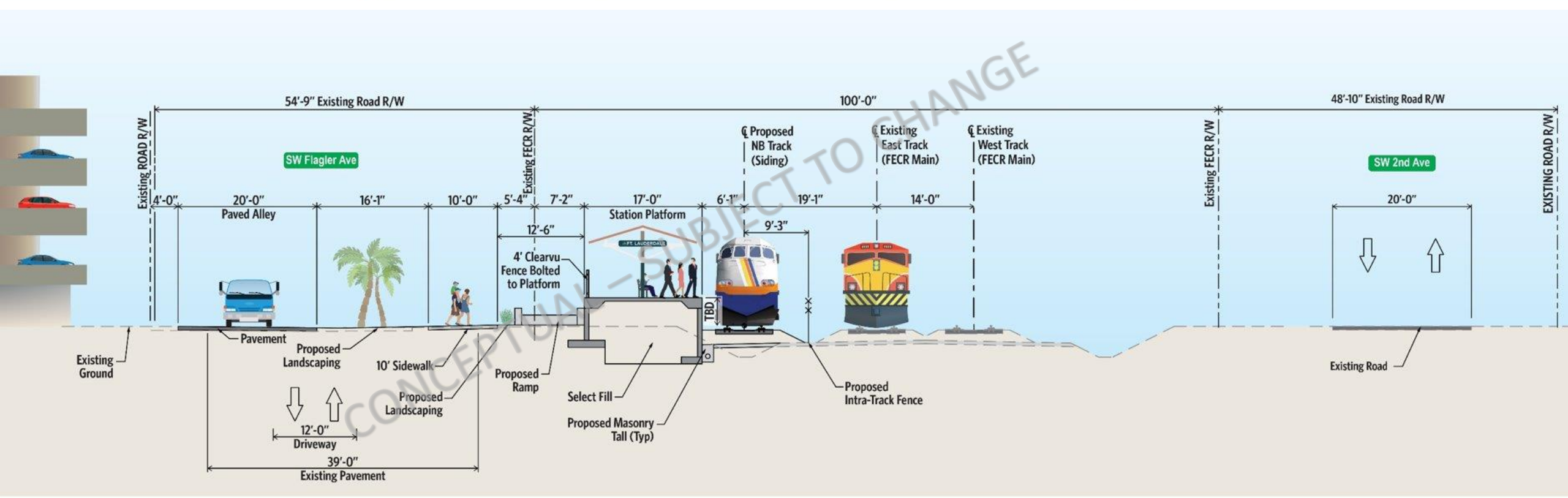
Perimeter Road

SOUTH FT. LAUDERDALE STATION



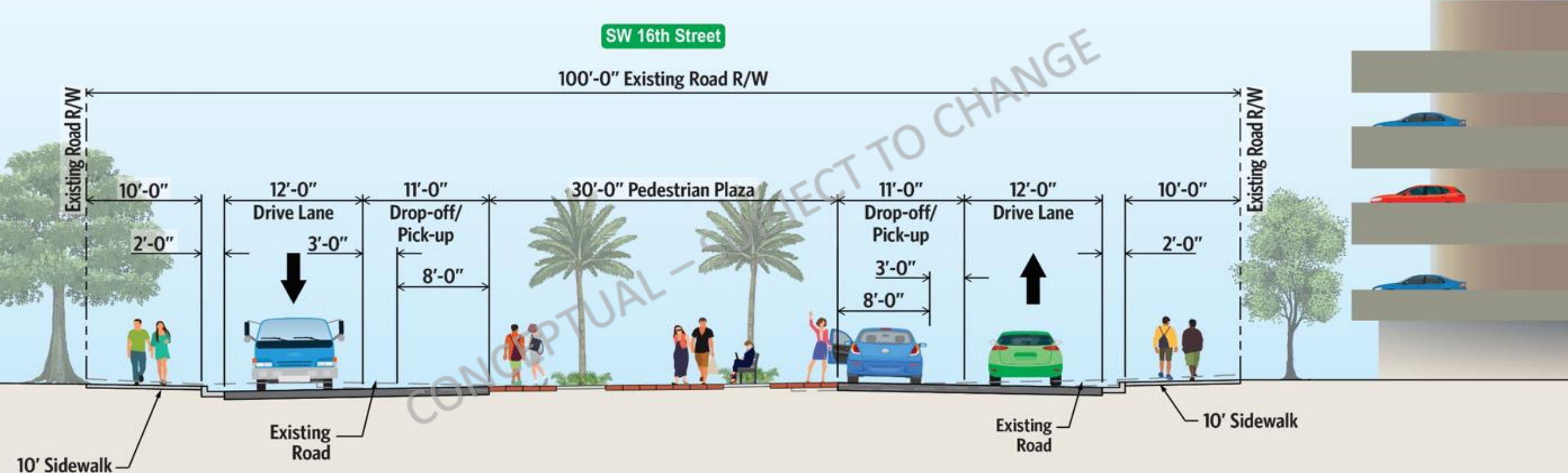
SOUTH FT. LAUDERDALE STATION

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

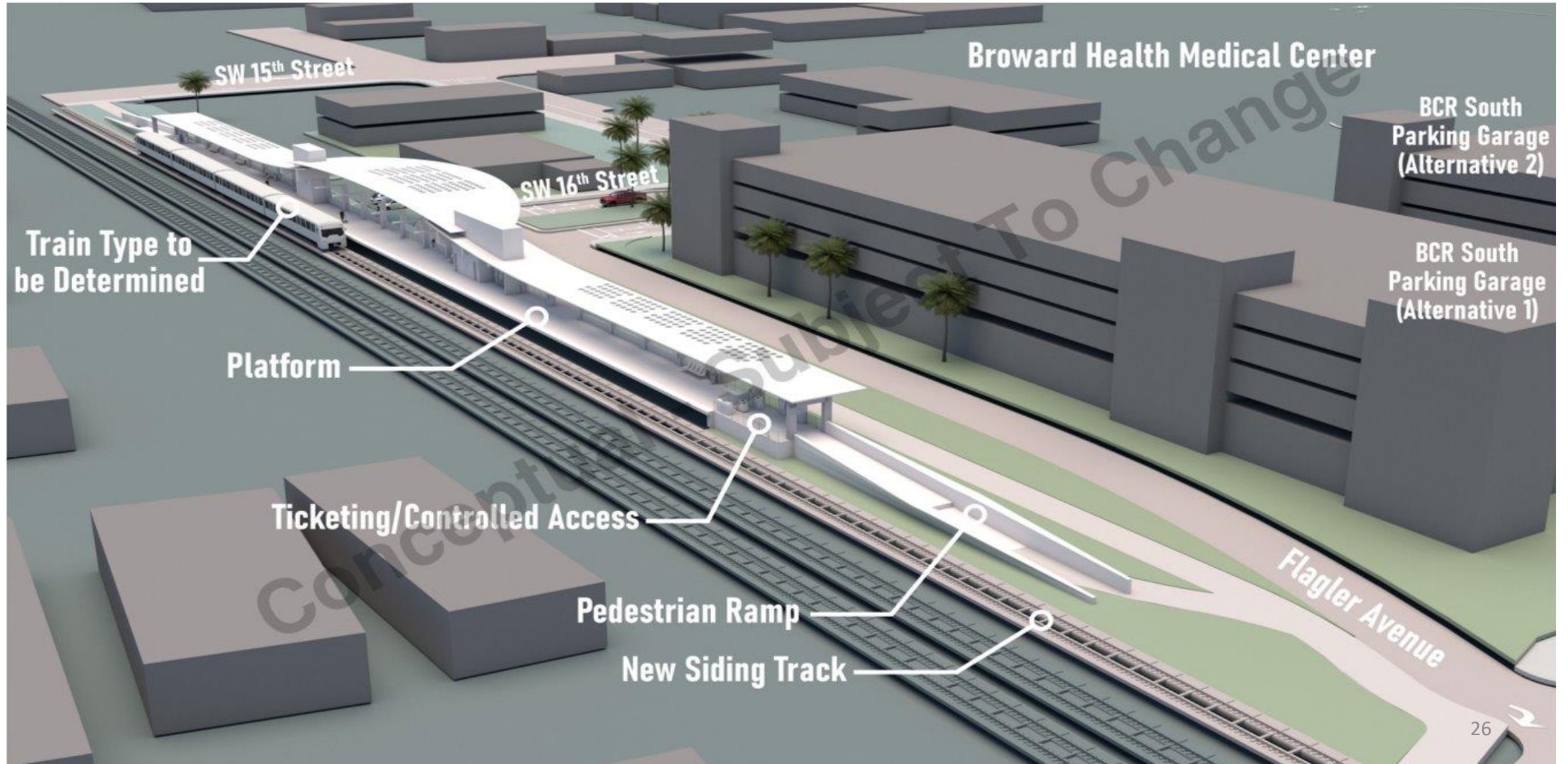


SOUTH FT. LAUDERDALE STATION

Typical Section B-B: SW 16th Street - Looking East



SOUTH FT. LAUDERDALE STATION RENDERING

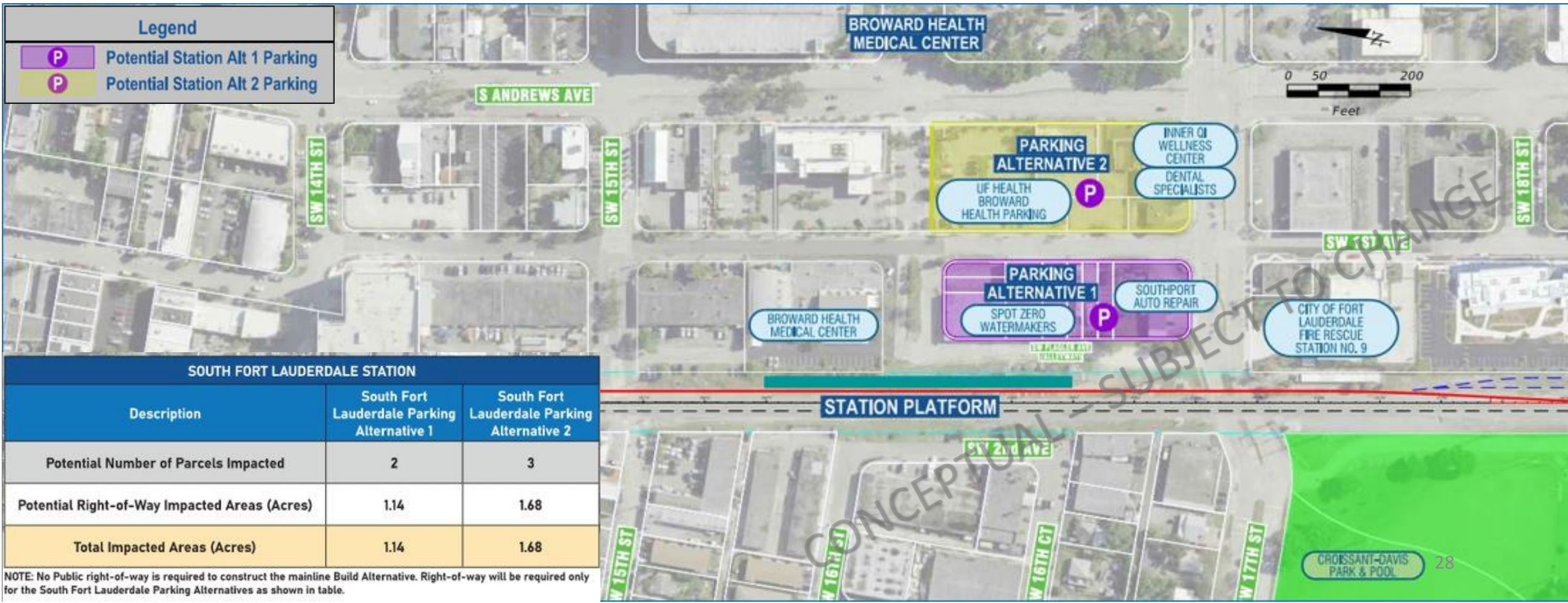


SOUTH FT. LAUDERDALE STATION RENDERING: STREET LEVEL VIEW



SOUTH FT LAUDERDALE STATION IMPACTS

- **Potential Right of Way** – Acquisition of property of the area needed to construct, secure, and operate the Broward Commuter Rail South
- **Potential Easement** – Purchase of rights to construct, operate and maintain the Broward Commuter Rail South above the property, that will allow the property owner to use the area below the structure overhang



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS



Social Environment

Social Resources
Economic
Land Use Changes
Mobility
Aesthetic Effects
Relocation



Natural Environment

Wetlands
Protected Species
Essential Fish Habitat
Water Resources
Floodplains
Special Designations



Physical Environment

Farmlands
Noise
Air Quality
Contamination



Cultural Environment

Historic Resources
Archaeological Resources
Involves Coordination with
the State Historic
Preservation Officer
Recreational Section
4(f)(Parks and Preserves)

TRAFFIC ANALYSIS APPROACH

Roadway Traffic Analysis Locations

- East-West At-Grade Railroad Crossings at 25 locations
- Proposed Station Areas

Evaluation of Existing, No-Build, and Build Alternatives

- The PD&E Study is analyzing 7 crossings based on location, number of lanes, traffic volumes, proximity to a BCR Station, and proximity of adjacent intersections
- These 7 crossings will represent the operations of the 25 locations
- Three crossings were selected for a detailed microsimulation analysis to evaluate overlapping train events

Step-By-Step 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 Trains



TRAFFIC ANALYSIS – PRELIMINARY RESULTS

- Total roadway closure time at each railroad crossing will be less than 90 seconds per single BCR South train crossing (advanced warning time + crossing time + clearance time)
- On average, 3 to 5 BCR South trains will traverse each crossing during the AM and PM peak hours on a typical weekday
- BCR South 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
- The preliminary analysis indicates that the queues generated by a BCR South commuter train crossing will generally clear prior to the next train crossing



RAIL NOISE AND VIBRATION

Noise and Vibration Analyses are being performed in accordance with Federal Transit Administration and FDOT Guidelines.

Determine Potential Noise and Vibration Impacts for:

- New Commuter Rail Service along FEC Corridor
- Proposed Stations

Evaluate Sensitive Sites such as Residences, Schools, Libraries, Parks, and Places of Worship

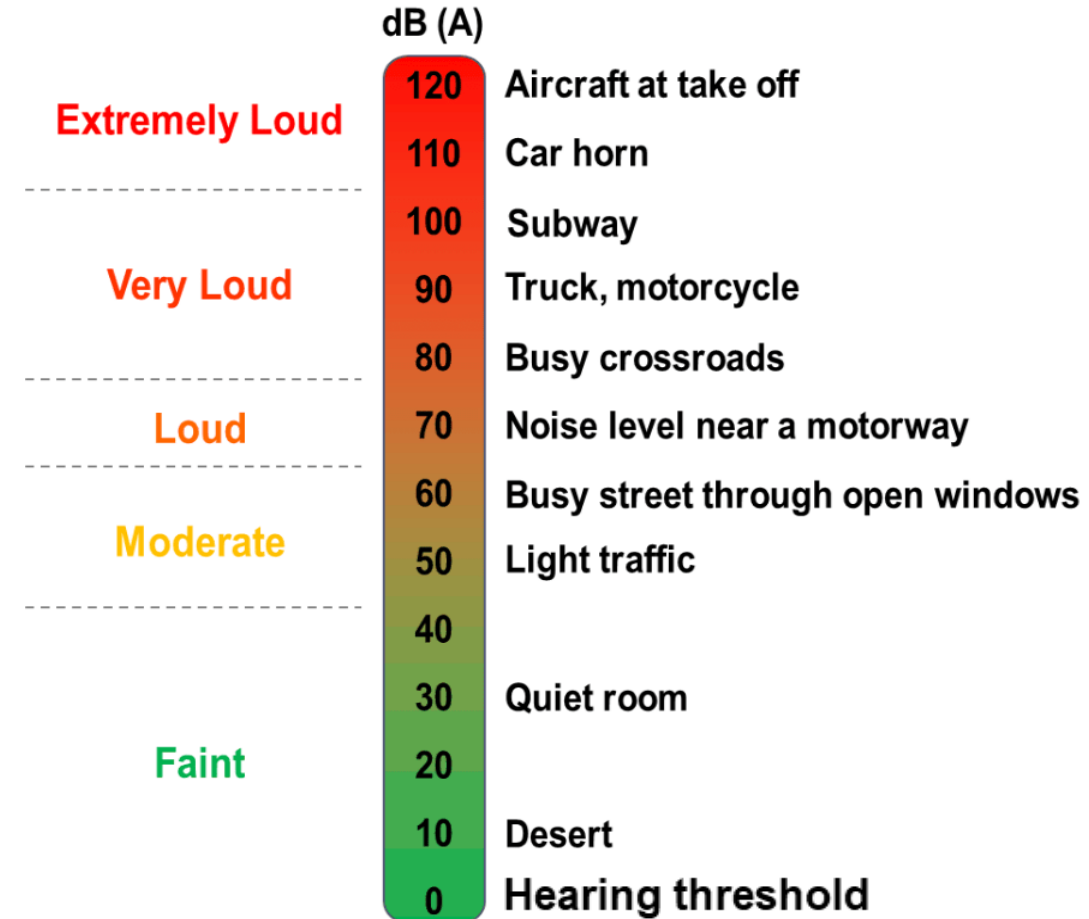
Determine Existing Noise Levels and Sources

- Perform Short-term Monitoring

Predict Future Project Noise and Vibration Levels and Assess Impacts

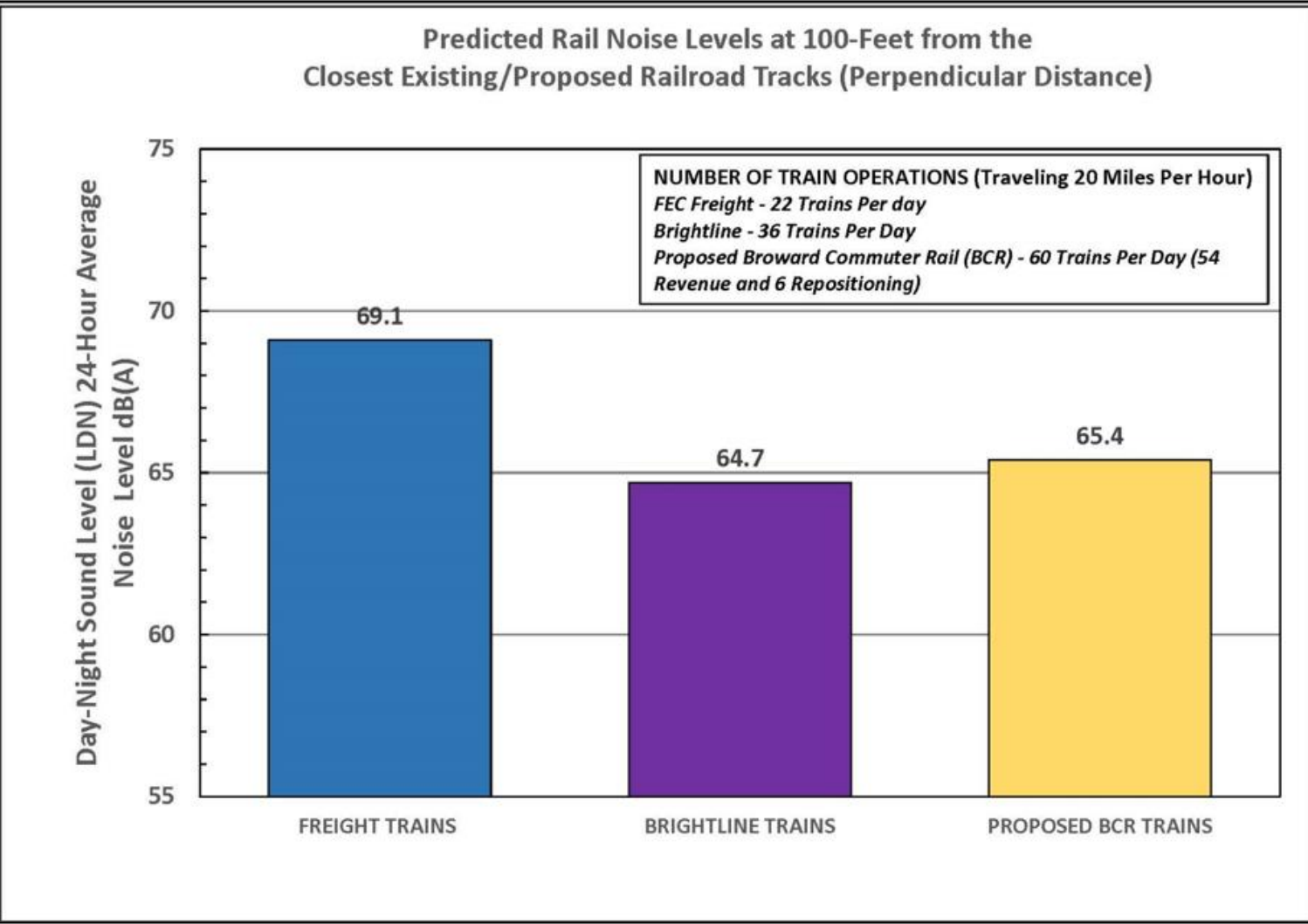
Evaluate Abatement Options at Potentially Impacted Sites

- Specialized Track Support Systems
- Vehicle and Wheel Treatments
- Noise Barriers



RAIL NOISE ANALYSIS

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



RIDERSHIP

Projections are being developed based on:

- FTA STOPS model for Current Year (2023) and Design Year 2045
- Projected future population & employment approved in the MPO 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Preliminary forecasts compare favorably to other commuter rail systems in Florida – (Combined ridership from Downtown Miami to S. Ft Lauderdale estimated to be around 20,000 to 24,000 daily trips in 2045)

Ridership is expected to grow as development occurs and population density increases

Function of stations and train frequency – balance between access and travel time



PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATE

Build – BCR South Estimated Costs :

- Capital Cost¹ is \$317M
- Operations & Maintenance Cost² is \$15M
- Access Fee³ is TBD

No Build Estimated Costs:

- No Estimated Capital Cost¹
- Operations & Maintenance Cost² includes increased roadway and transit costs
- No Access Fee

¹Capital Cost includes construction, stations, vehicles, potential right-of-way, yards, and parking costs.

²O&M costs are per year and are not calculated in the total cost. There are no differences among the BCR South parking alternatives.

³Access Fee is a negotiated fee to allow commuter trains on the Brightline passenger easement on the FEC corridor.

FUNDING APPROACH

BCR South:

- **Accepted into Project Development with FTA as Small Starts Project**
- **Project Capital Costs must be below \$400M. The current YOE Estimated Cost is \$317M**
- **Maximum Small Grant Agreement is just under \$150M**
- **No Engineering phase is required for the Small Starts Grant Agreement (SSGA)**

NE Corridor:

- Accepted into Project Development with FTA as New Starts Project
- Project Capital Costs are estimated at approx. \$538M and anticipate the New Starts Grant to cover 49% of costs
- Expected to complete Project Development Phase in Spring 2024
- Project must go through an Engineering Phase for final approvals of the Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA)

HIALEAH RAIL YARD

Owned by FDOT

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

Proposed for Commuter Rail Use

- Storing and Maintaining Trains
- Planned improvements are under study by the Northeast Corridor



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 – **TONIGHT'S MEETING**
- Public Hearing – Spring 2024

- 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

as of 11/28/2023

2022

County Commission vote on BCR South LPA / Acceptance into FTA Project Development

2023

Commence NEPA environmental process with FTA

Winter

Submit Small Starts Rating Application to FTA

Summer

Community and Stakeholder Coordination Meetings

Fall

BCR South Public Information Meeting

Fall/Winter

2024

Submit Environmental Documents to FTA

Winter

BCR South Public Hearing

Spring

FTA issues final NEPA action

Summer

Submit Small Starts Grant Application*

Summer

WE ARE HERE

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.

**It is anticipated that federal funding and construction could begin as early as 2025 with a successful grant submission.*

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT - COMMENT OPTIONS

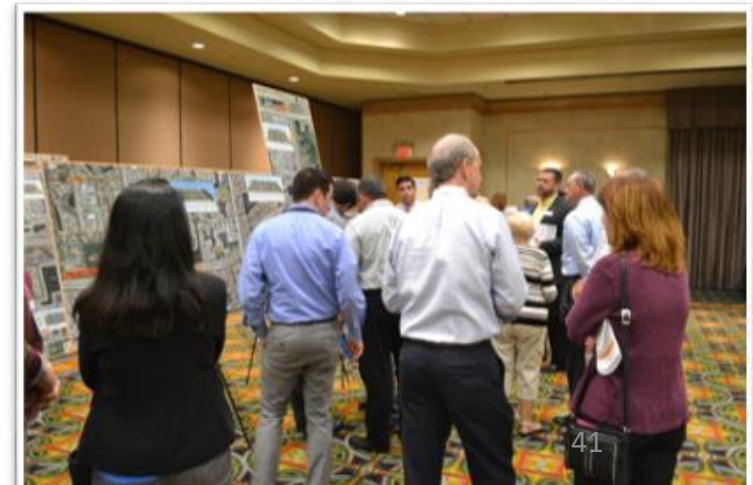
- 1) Place a completed comment form in the comment box provided here tonight
- 2) Email your comments to:
BCRSouth@broward.org
- 3) Mail your comments to :
ATTN: Phil Schwab
Florida Department of Transportation District Four
3400 West Commercial Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309
- 4) Submit comments on project website:
www.browardcommuterrailstudy.com



FOR MORE INFORMATION

1. Review exhibits on display tonight
2. Discuss the study with project personnel
3. Visit the project website: www.browardcommuterrailstudy.com
4. Email questions to: BCRSouth@broward.org
5. Visit the social media platforms:

 @ MyFDOT_SEFL  MyFDOTSEFL



PROJECT WEBSITE

- Project Website

www.browardcommuterrailstudy.com

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Broward Commuter Rail (BCR) South Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study website. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for OFFICES, MAPS & DATA, CONTACT, ABOUT, and PROJECTS. The main banner features a blue background with a city skyline and a train, with the text "BROWARD COMMUTER RAIL (BCR) SOUTH PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT (PD&E) STUDY". Below the banner, the title "BROWARD COMMUTER RAIL (BCR) SOUTH" is displayed in red, followed by "Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study" and the phone number "FM#: 417031-5-22-01". A "PROJECT UPDATE" section contains text about the project's acceptance into the Project Development (PD) phase. A contact box for Steven C. Braun, District 4 Secretary, provides an address, phone, and fax number, along with an "E-Mail Us" link.

The screenshot shows the "Post-LPA Decision Documents" page. The navigation menu includes OFFICES, MAPS & DATA, CONTACT, ABOUT, PROJECTS, RESOURCES, and NEWSROOM. A "CAREERS" button is visible. The page title is "Post-LPA Decision Documents". Below the title, there is a section for "FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS" with a table of documents. The table has two columns: "Documents" and "Date". The only entry is "FAQs (Under Construction)" with a date of "Coming soon". Below this is a "NEWSLETTERS" section with another table of documents. The table has two columns: "Documents" and "Date". There are two entries: "BCR South Newsletter #2 (PDF)" dated "November 2023" and "BCR South Newsletter #1 (PDF)" dated "September 2022". At the bottom, there is an "EXHIBITS" section with a table of documents. The table has two columns: "Documents" and "Date". There is one entry: "Public Information Meeting Exhibits" dated "November 2023".



CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Florida Department of
Transportation (FDOT)

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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



BE RAIL SMART



Live to Tell and
Don't Tempt Fate

BE ALERT.
BE PREPARED.
**BE READY
TO STOP.**



OPERATION
S.T.R.I.D.E.



Statewide Traffic and Railroad Initiative Using Dynamic Envelopes





Broward Commuter Rail South

Virtual Public Information Meeting Presentation December 6, 2023



Public Involvement - Comment Options

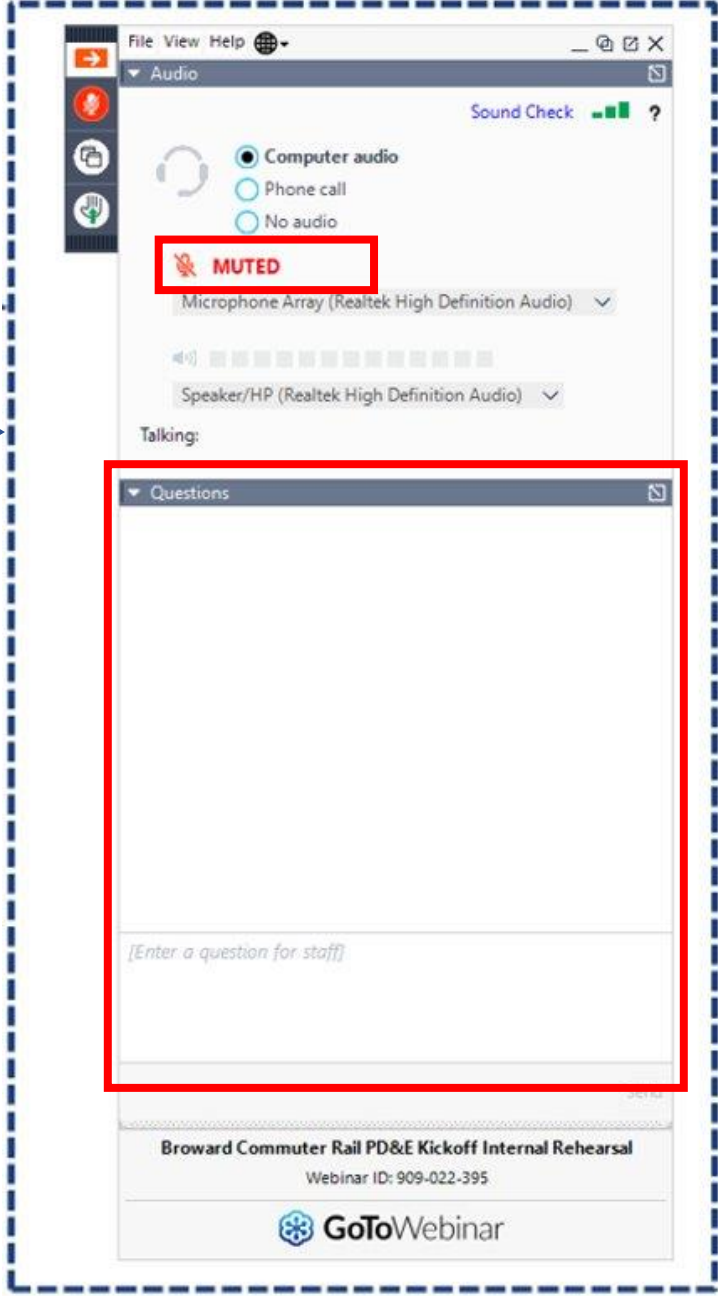
1. Comment during this Public Information Meeting using the GoToWebinar Questions tool or by clicking the Raise Hand button
2. Email your comments to: BCRSouth@broward.org
3. Mail your comments to :
Florida Department of Transportation
3400 West Commercial Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309
Attn: Phil Schwab, P.E.
4. Submit comments on project website:
www.browardcommuterrailstudy.com



Question & Answer Session - Panelists

- 1. Jie Bian – Broward County Transit Project Manager**
- 2. Phil Schwab – FDOT Project Manager**
- 3. Mike Ciscar – Consultant PD&E Project Manager**

GoToWebinar Information



1 (800) 887-5551

Public Involvement - Comment Options



CONTACT INFORMATION

**BCR South
Related Questions**

BCRSouth@broward.org

**PREMO
Related Questions**

PREMO@broward.org