

# Broward Commuter Rail Newsletter Update



Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study  
Financial Management #: 417031-5-22-01  
Efficient Transportation Decision Making #: 14474

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The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Four and Broward County have been evaluating various alternatives for implementing commuter rail along the Florida East Coast (FEC) Railway from Aventura in Miami-Dade County to Deerfield Beach in Broward County. This evaluation is a direct result of a previous study known as the 'Coastal Link' that evaluated 85 miles of commuter rail in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties. Recent efforts on the Broward County project, Broward Commuter Rail (BCR), include station screening along the corridor, ridership and operations modeling, traffic analysis for east-west roadways, analysis of various alternatives for passenger rail to cross the New River, cost estimating, and numerous stakeholder and public meetings. The FEC corridor is a shared-use corridor with freight trains and intercity passenger trains. Florida East Coast Railway, LLC owns the FEC Railway right-of-way and operates the freight rail service in the corridor. Brightline operates intercity passenger trains via a passenger easement in the corridor. The proposed commuter rail service will share tracks with freight and Brightline.

Miami-Dade County is also studying the implementation of commuter rail service in the FEC corridor from Downtown Miami to a proposed station that will also serve Brightline in Aventura, known as the Northeast Corridor. The Northeast Corridor is in the Project Development phase with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) making it eligible to compete for federal funds.

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, the Broward County Commission adopted a locally preferred alternative (LPA) for Broward Commuter Rail South (BCR South) to extend commuter rail service on the FEC Railway corridor from the planned passenger station in the City of Aventura north to the City of Fort Lauderdale, a distance of 11.5 miles. Stations are recommended in the City of Hollywood, Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, and Broward Health Medical Center. The Broward County Commission directed staff to pursue grant funding from federal and state government sources to support the project, and to coordinate with the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and other organizations as appropriate in seeking such grant funding. Broward County is also taking steps with the City of Fort Lauderdale to arrange for a joint assessment focusing on alternatives for crossing the New River. Reaching a consensus on a preferred alternative will be an important step to enable potential future commuter rail service in the northern part of Broward county, and eventually beyond to Palm Beach county.

### Florida Department of Transportation Mission Statement

The Department will provide a safe transportation system that ensures the mobility of people and goods, enhances economic prosperity, and preserves the quality of our environment and communities.

## STATIONS

Commuter rail stations are similar to Tri-Rail and SunRail stations and typically include:

- Platform (~500 feet long)
- Canopy
- 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

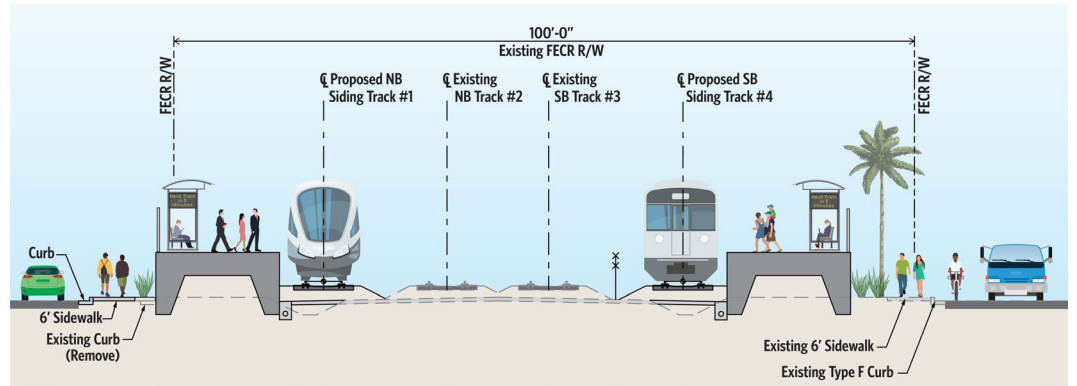
Pedestrian access bridges are not anticipated but will be evaluated.

BCR South stations are recommended at:

- Hollywood
- Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport
- Broward Health Medical Center



Example Station Platform Typical Section

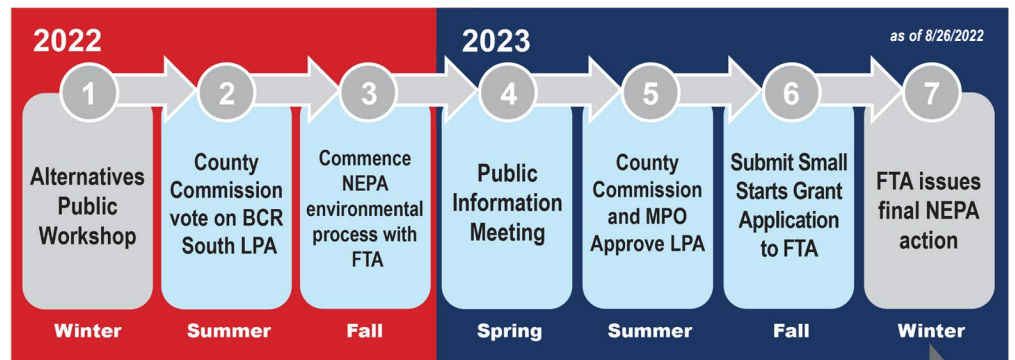


The Broward Health Medical Center station provides access to downtown Fort Lauderdale, the Broward County Convention Center, Port Everglades, and the Beaches.

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT / SCHEDULE

The project has had extensive public participation since inception and that engagement will continue throughout the PD&E Study. Previous public and stakeholder meetings have focused on a crossing of the New River and while coordination will continue, the focus of the study is the BCR South project limits from Aventura to the Broward Health Medical Center. A Public Information Meeting is anticipated to be held in the Spring of 2023 to present the LPA and the associated benefits and impacts to the public and to receive input. In the Summer of 2023, the Broward County Commission will vote to approve the LPA which includes the authorization of local funding for construction and the Broward MPO will adopt the project for construction, which is anticipated to begin in 2025. In addition to the Public Information Meeting, stakeholder meetings will be held with the Cities of Hallandale Beach, Hollywood, Dania Beach, and Fort Lauderdale and other stakeholders to refine the recommended stations.

The schedule graphic to the right shows the major milestone activities for the remainder of the project. If you are interested in having the project team present to your business or homeowner group, please contact the Project Manager at the information shown below.



### Community Outreach

A continuous community outreach process is integrated into every step of the project to ensure that the corridor residents, businesses, the traveling public, and other interested parties have meaningful participation in the process.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Project Website:**

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Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, disability, or family status.