

Broward County Board of County Commissioners

Broward Commuter Rail Update
FDOT District 4

January 12, 2021

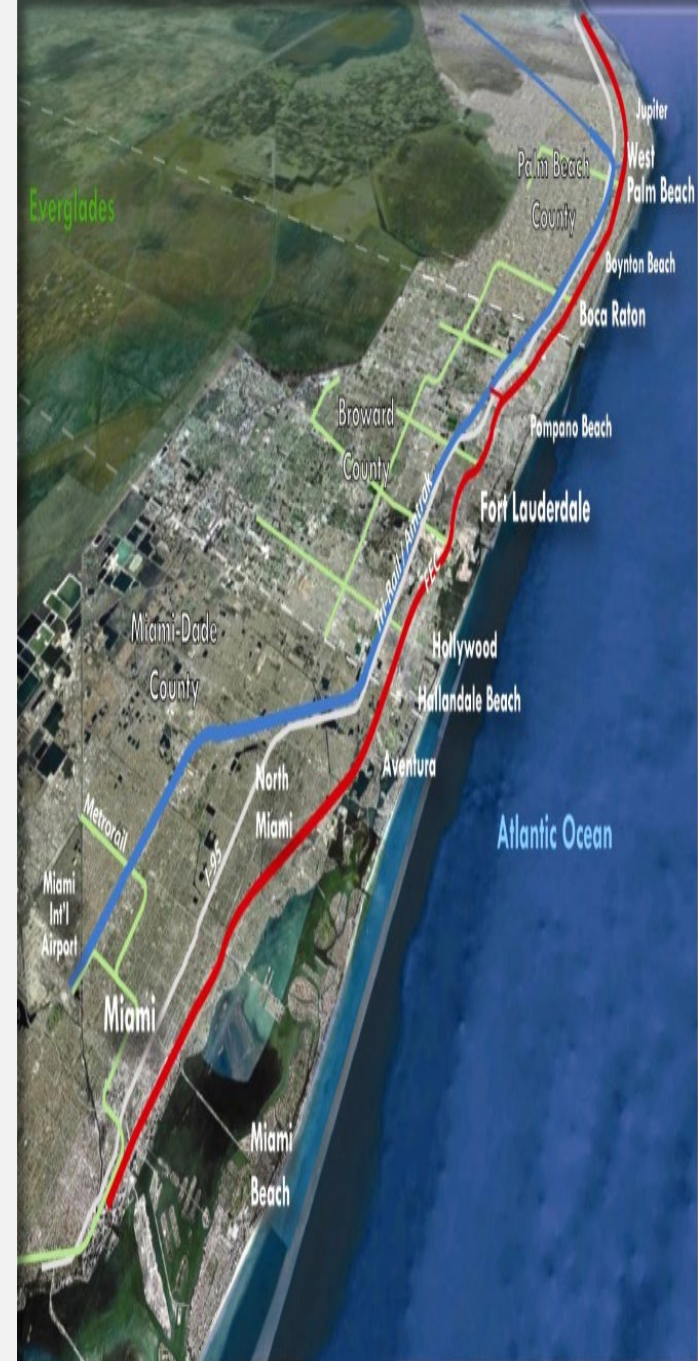


Today's Agenda

- » **Importance of Commuter Rail and History of the Corridor**
- » **Miami-Dade Northeast Corridor**
- » **New River Crossing Feasibility Study**
- » **Eligibility for Federal Funding**
- » **Broward Commuter Rail - Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study**
- » **MOU and Next Steps**

Why Commuter Rail is Important

- » **FEC is Florida's densest urban corridor with Broward at the center**
 - 2 million people in the corridor from Miami to Jupiter
 - Density will exceed 13,000 people per square mile by 2040
 - Sustainability, regional connectivity, economic development
- » **The region's economic core**
 - Over 1 million jobs in the corridor
 - 3 CBDs, 3 international airports, 3 seaports and 27 downtowns
 - Extensive rail, truck, and marine freight
- » **The region's transportation core**
 - 3 million daily auto trips in the corridor comprise 1/5th of region's travel
 - Highways are beyond capacity



History of the Corridor

» 2018:

- Brightline starts revenue service from Miami to West Palm Beach
- Miami-Dade begins negotiating track access
- Broward passes penny surtax
- Phased project implementation based on local funding share by county

» 2019:

- FDOT conducts New River Crossing Feasibility Study

» 2020:

- Miami-Dade County Resolutions for ongoing track access negotiations
- Broward continues dialogue with Brightline and FDOT
- ***Broward and FDOT draft MOU to advance commuter rail project***



Miami-Dade Northeast Corridor

- » **Commuter rail on FEC tracks from Miami to Aventura**
 - Downtown Miami station jointly funded as public-private partnership
 - Negotiating track access as a 90-year lease with annual payments for 30 years
 - Operator to be determined
 - Construction and O&M agreements pending
- » **Project development ongoing**
 - Selection of stations with cities and stakeholders' participation and funding
 - ½ cent surtax available for local capital match and O&M funding



New River Crossing Feasibility Study

New River Crossing Feasibility Study completed in 2019 for Florida Legislature

» Stakeholder and Agency Coordination

- Broward County and Broward MPO
- Marine Industry Association
- Marine Advisory Board
- City of Fort Lauderdale and DDA
- US Coast Guard, Brightline, FECR

» Constraints

- Maintain maritime, passenger and freight rail operations
- Existing bascule bridge and tracks to remain in service
- Accommodate east-west premium transit at second level
- Connect to Brightline station downtown



» Identified 4 alternatives for consideration in PD&E, potential funding sources and next steps

New River Crossing Feasibility Study

One alternative to be selected during upcoming PD&E



21-foot low-level bascule



56-foot mid-level bascule

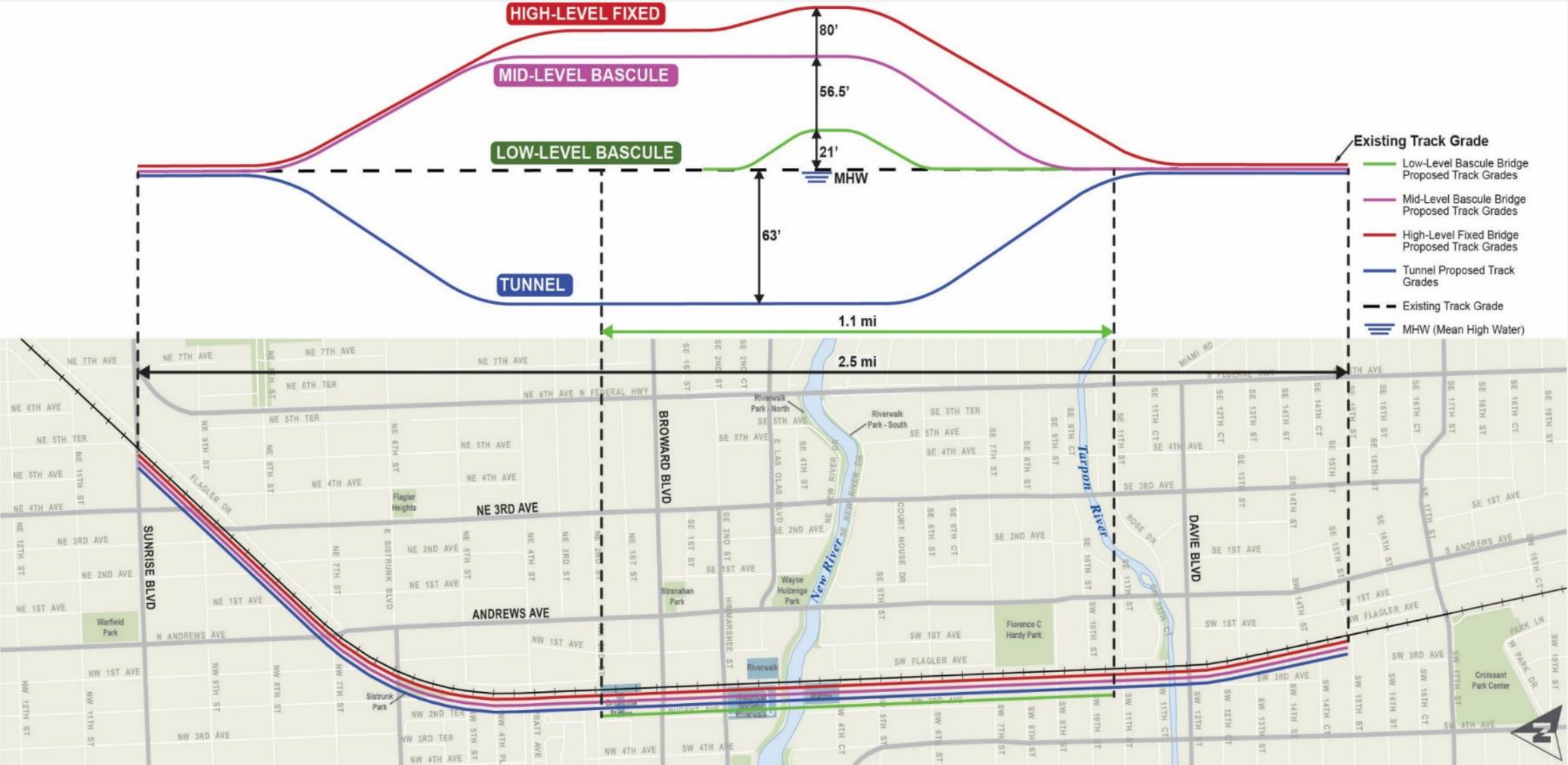


80-foot high-level fixed bridge



Tunnel beneath New River

New River Crossing Feasibility Study



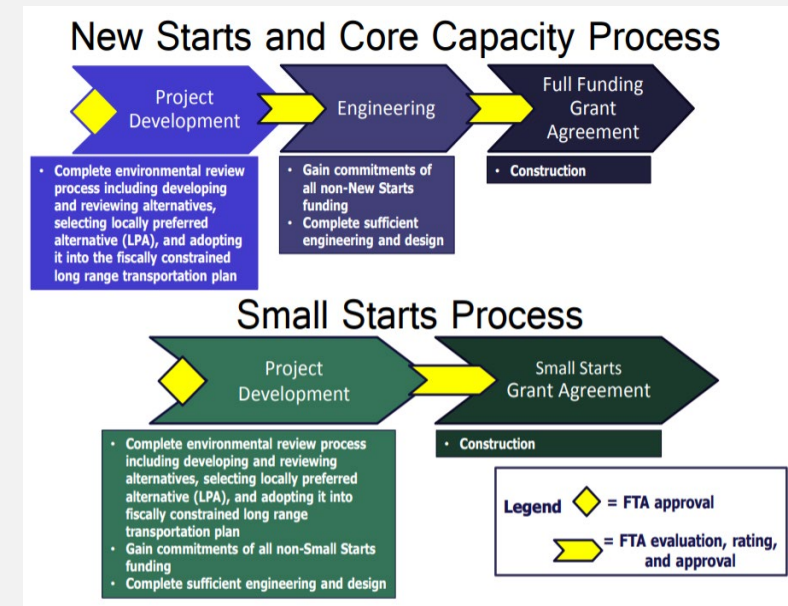
Maintain eligibility for Federal Funds

» Apply for federal grants and loans for design, construction and O&M

- Must follow all NEPA and federal rules to remain eligible
- Shorter process but each grant must be secured independently
- Grants are typically smaller than FTA capital improvements grants
- Loans are also available

» Enter the FTA Capital Improvement Grant (CIG) process

- New Starts has 3 phases – Project Development, Engineering and Full Funding Grant Agreement
 - *Longer process with stringent requirements; projects above \$300 million*
 - *Must complete Project Development within 2 years of entry*
- Small Starts has 2 phases - Project Development and Small Starts Grant Agreement
 - *For projects less than \$300 million and requesting a grant less than \$100 million*



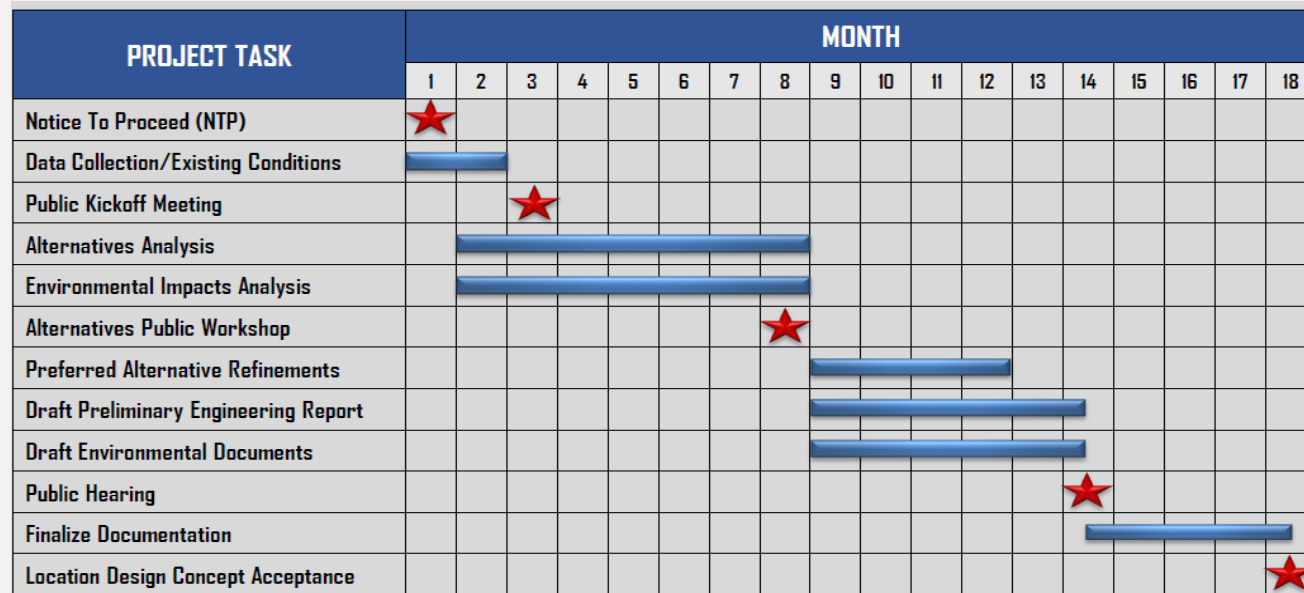
Broward Commuter Rail PD&E Milestones

- Project Scope, study limits and logical termini (FDOT/County)
- Stakeholder Support - Letters and/or Resolutions of Support (County)
- FTA and USCG Meetings & Determination of NEPA Class of Action (FDOT/County)
- PD&E Study Schedule, Agency & Public Kickoff Meetings (FDOT/County)
- MPO Board, Stakeholder Meetings and Presentations (County/FDOT)
- Track Access Agreement to construct, operate and maintain commuter rail service (County/FDOT)
- Draft and Final Financial Analysis and Funding Plan (County/FDOT)
- Alternatives Public Workshop (FDOT/County)
- Submittal of draft environmental document to the FTA and distribution to the public (FDOT)
- Public Hearing on the draft environmental document (FDOT/County)
- Issuance of the final environmental action (FDOT)

Broward Commuter Rail PD&E Schedule

» **PD&E will be conducted by FDOT**

- Assumes Categorical Exclusion Type 2
- Requires advance coordination with FTA and USCG
- FDOT will streamline the approximately 18-month schedule wherever possible
- Timeframe includes federal reviews and public hearing
- Elevated class of action or entry into FTA CIG process may result in a longer schedule



Broward Commuter Rail PD&E Study

- » **Broward County has been an active participant from the start**
 - County coordinating with Brightline and FDOT
 - Downtown Brightline station was in service prior to COVID-19
 - ***Broward County and FDOT to execute MOU for PD&E in Broward***
 - *Includes FLL Airport station; other stations to be evaluated with local participation*
 - *Penny surtax funds available as local match to obtain state and federal funds*

- » **FDOT has funds and consultant under contract for PD&E Study**
 - Environmental Analysis of Commuter Rail on FEC railroad
 - Aventura to Deerfield Beach including Pompano Crossover
 - Includes continued evaluation of the crossing at the New River

- » **Broward County responsibilities for PD&E**
 - Stakeholder support
 - Financial plan
 - Identify local share of capital costs and annual O&M funds
 - Track access, construction and O&M agreements



MOU and Next Steps



» Broward County

- Execute MOU and establish Project Executive Committee
- Responsibilities per MOU
 - *Coordination with FDOT, SFRTA, Brightline, Grupo Mexico, FECR, cities and other stakeholders to gain stakeholder support*
 - *Financial plan including local match for capital cost and O&M*
 - *Agreements for track access, construction and O&M*

» FDOT

- Execute MOU and establish Project Executive Committee
- Responsibilities per MOU
 - *Coordination with Broward County, FTA and USCG*
 - *PD&E from Aventura to Deerfield Beach including New River Crossing*
 - *Public Involvement during PD&E*
 - *Coordinate with other transit initiatives*
 - *Establish project delivery method in coordination with Broward County*



Questions?

Florida
Operation
Lifesaver

