



Florida Department of Transportation, District Four

BROWARD COMMUTER RAIL NEWSLETTER # 1

Summer 2021
Broward Commuter Rail
Project Development and Environment Study
Financial Management #:448942-1
Efficient Transportation Decision Making #14474



STAY INFORMED and GET INVOLVED

Thank you for your interest in the **Broward Commuter Rail Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study**. This newsletter will provide you with information about the study and the PD&E process. Please visit the study's website www.browardcommuterrailstudy.com throughout the study to receive updates and provide input.

ABOUT THE STUDY

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Four and Broward County are performing a PD&E Study for the Broward Commuter Rail (BCR) along the Florida East Coast (FEC) Railway from Aventura in Miami-Dade County to Deerfield Beach in Broward County.

FDOT and Broward County have executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to continue efforts to improve mobility in the region. The scope of the BCR Project PD&E is to develop and analyze alternatives for commuter rail service along the Florida East Coast (FEC) Railway corridor from Aventura to Deerfield Beach. The corridor is owned by Grupo Mexico, who operates the rail freight service in the corridor. Brightline operates inter-city rail in this corridor, and has a passenger service easement within the FEC corridor right of way. The study is being conducted in coordination with many parties that have an interest in the FEC corridor. Miami-Dade County is also studying the implementation of commuter rail service in the FEC corridor for the segment from Downtown Miami to a proposed station in Aventura, known as the Northeast Corridor.

The BCR is a 27-mile segment of this commuter rail service that will include the necessary rail, signaling, safety and communications improvements, and passenger stations and amenities connecting to existing and planned local and regional transit service. Six potential stations will be studied and evaluated within the study limits.

The BCR PD&E Study will include a new rail crossing at the New River for passenger service through Downtown Fort Lauderdale. The existing railroad bridge will remain in place for exclusive use by freight rail.



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.

WHAT IS A PD&E STUDY?

A 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. During this phase, FDOT performs preliminary engineering, evaluates the projects impacts to the social, cultural, natural, and physical environments, completes interagency coordination, and engages the public. Public involvement is a key aspect throughout the life of a project. The objectives of a PD&E Study is to support decisions concerning if, where, and what should be built to address the identified transportation needs.



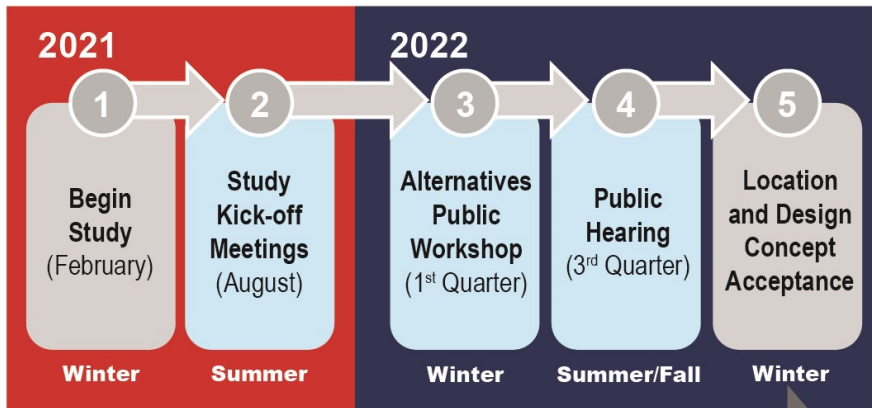
Why it's done:

- Evaluate project feasibility, alternatives and potential environmental impacts (natural, physical, social, and cultural)
- Comply with federal and state environmental laws
- Required to secure federal regulatory approval and funding

What it involves:

- Conducting preliminary engineering
- Evaluating options to enhance, avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential environmental impacts
- Coordinating with stakeholders, federal, state, and local agencies
- Engaging the public in evaluation of the alternatives project development
- Select a preferred alternative for the design phase once funding is identified

PD&E STUDY SCHEDULE



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.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

FDOT 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.

FDOT encourages the public to get involved throughout the study by providing comments, concerns, questions, and suggestions to the study team.

If you would like to obtain additional project information, be added to the mailing list, request information, arrange a meeting, or submit a written comment, please contact:

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