August 25, 2016

Secretary Anthony Foxx  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590  

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am writing to express the support of the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for the Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Plan, unanimously adopted by the Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The SMART Plan identifies six rapid transit corridors and an express bus network that directly support the mobility of our future population and employment growth.

The Miami-Dade BCC commends the Miami-Dade MPO Governing Board for their leadership and unity in prioritizing a mass transit plan for the citizens of Miami-Dade County. For the first time in decades, Miami-Dade MPO has amended the Long Range Transportation Plan to fully fund all six transit corridors to initiate project development for a comprehensive transit system. This comprehensive approach to our transportation system has placed us on a path of success to address congestion and transportation needs.

On behalf of the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners, we stand unified with the Miami-Dade MPO to support and encourage all our transportation partners to continue working collaboratively, to identify and prioritize capital improvement funds for the development of the six rapid transit corridors and express bus networks.

Respectfully yours,

Chairman Jean Monestime  
Miami Dade Board of County Commissioners
RESOLUTION NO. R-523-16

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE STRATEGIC MIAMI AREA RAPID TRANSIT PLAN AS APPROVED BY THE MIAMI-DADE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

WHEREAS, in 2002, the electors of Miami-Dade County approved the imposition of a one-half percent surtax with the purpose of improving, among other things, mass transit within the County through the People’s Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the People’s Transportation Plan includes rapid transit corridors to be developed throughout Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Planning Organization through its Transit Solutions Committee received and considered input from transportation partner agencies, elected officials, and the public at large in order to designate six rapid transit corridors as a high priority; and

WHEREAS, on February 16, 2016, the Metropolitan Planning Organization Governing Board unanimously adopted Resolution #06-16 and approved a policy to set as highest priority for the community the advancement of rapid transit corridors and transit supportive projects in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2016, the Metropolitan Planning Organization reviewed and unanimously endorsed the attached Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (“SMART”) Plan; and

WHEREAS, on May 12, 2016, the Citizens’ Independent Transportation Trust expressed its support for the SMART Plan and for the use of Charter County Transportation Surtax funds for the necessary project development and environment studies; and
WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners supports the development of these vital rapid transit corridors to provide a much needed transportation alternative and to provide relief from traffic congestion for Miami-Dade County’s residents and visitors,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board endorses the Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit Plan as attached and as approved by the Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Chairman Jean Monestime. It was offered by Commissioner Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rebeca Sosa and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Jean Monestime, Chairman       aye
Esteban L. Bovo, Jr. Vice Chairman aye
Bruno A. Barreiro               aye
Jose "Pepe" Diaz                aye
Sally A. Heyman                 aye
Dennis C. Moss                  aye
Sen. Javier D. Souto            aye
Juan C. Zapata                  aye
Daniella Levine Cava            aye
Audrey M. Edmonson              aye
Barbara J. Jordan               aye
Rebeca Sosa                     aye
Xavier L. Suarez                aye
The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 7th day of June, 2016. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this Resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY ITS BOARD OF COUNTYCOMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

Christopher Agrippa
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as to form and legal sufficiency. 

Bruce Libhaber