

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA PASSENGER RAIL EVALUATION

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Prepared for the SEFTC

July 23, 2012

**Findings and
Recommendations**

EVALUATION OVERVIEW

- ▶ Requested by SEFTC at its January 2012 meeting
- ▶ Multiple goals of the evaluation:
 - To objectively identify the similarities & differences between the proposals
 - To identify a collaborative protocol ~ involving all stakeholder agencies ~ to advance regional passenger rail development
 - To educate decision makers to enable more informed decisions regarding passenger rail

EVALUATION OVERVIEW

- ▶ SEFTC has indicated the region needs a single, common, jointly supported approach to be successful in advancing passenger rail development
- ▶ Evaluation identifies a range of structural changes among agency relationships & activities
- ▶ Intent is for the region to develop a passenger rail plan with greater collaboration, inter-agency participation, transparency, and efficiency.

REGIONAL PROGRESS THUS FAR

- ▶ SF ECC Steering Committee meetings re-started February 2012; FDOT has committed to regular schedule
- ▶ Technical Workgroup meetings on various topics (e.g., Pompano crossover, Miami station location)
- ▶ SF ECC presentations to RTTAC Modeling Subcommittee re: demographics

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Re-establish SFEEC Steering Committee Meetings with Regular Schedule & Advisory Committee Protocol

✓ *Steering Committee meetings re-started February 2012; FDOT commitment to continue*

- ❑ Meetings should occur at least bi-monthly
- ❑ Committee membership should be specified to clearly communicate agency participation
- ❑ Agendas materials should be provided to committee prior to meetings for review & better informed discussion during meetings

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

2. Establish Regular Project Updates by SFECC to Various Agencies

□ Suggested groups & schedule:

SEFTC: Quarterly Updates

MPOs: Quarterly Updates

SFRTA: Quarterly Updates

RPCs: Semi-Annual Updates

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3. Coordinate SFECCE Modeling with RTTAC Modeling Subcommittee
 - ✓ *FDOT initiated inter-agency review of demographics & assumptions in Spring 2012*
 - ❑ SFECCE should collaborate regarding validity of data, assumptions & projections
 - ❑ SFECCE project team should present all background data to RTTAC Modeling Subcommittee at least twice per year:
 - demographic data
 - ridership projections
 - modeling assumptions & refinements

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4. Improve SFECCE Coordination with MPO Staff

- SFECCE project team should distribute all background data to MPO staff for review prior to utilization in SFECCE modeling, including:
 - demographic data
 - transit assumptions
 - ridership projections
 - modeling assumptions

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5. Presentation of LPA as “Unified Voice” among FDOT & SFRTA
 - ❑ SFEECC project team should work with the SFRTA to develop “unified” LPA for MPO approval
 - ❑ Materials & presentations should be presented by FDOT with SFRTA involvement

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5. Presentation of LPA as “Unified Voice” among FDOT & SFRTA
 - ❑ SFEECC alternatives should anticipate SFRTA as operator & utilize Tri-Rail equipment
 - ❑ FDOT & SFRTA should collaboratively develop first-phase alternative integrating best components of Fast Start proposal (with SFRTA operations & Tri-Rail equipment)
 - ✓ *FDOT & SFRTA working together to test Fast Start proposal, identify strongest aspects & integrate into alternatives*

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6. Continued Coordination & Oversight by MPOs, Represented by SEFTC
 - ❑ SEFTC should act as regional oversight entity
 - ❑ Both FDOT & SFRTA should participate on SEFTC as non-voting members for rail issues
 - ❑ Quarterly SEFTC updates should include discussion of joint participation by FDOT & SFRTA (and other regional transportation stakeholder agencies) in the advancement of passenger rail development in the region

SUMMARY & NEXT STEPS

- ✓ *Report approved unanimously by RTTAC (July 11, 2012) for presentation to SEFTC with concurrence by FDOT & SFRTA members*
- ✓ *Additional comments received from agencies integrated into evaluation report*
- ❑ Discussion by SEFTC
- ❑ Formal transmittal of SEFTC recommendation to FDOT & SFRTA
- ❑ Progress update at October 2012 SEFTC meeting

Questions & Comments