



SWFRPC Resolution #2022-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL URGING THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO EXPEDITE THE PROCESS FOR ADVANCING THE CONCEPT OF A NEW FREIGHT RAIL ROUTE ALONG U.S. HIGHWAY 27 MULTIMODAL CORRIDOR BETWEEN PORTMIAMI AND THE I-4 CORRIDOR

WHEREAS, U.S. Highway 27 has long been identified by the Florida Department of Transportation and several regional transportation planning organizations and providers as an important future corridor between Miami and Orlando critical for improving Florida's global competitiveness, economic development and multimodal mobility opportunities, and safety; and

WHEREAS, advancing the project would provide several important regional benefits, including:

1. Reducing freight traffic through the population centers of the coast between Ft. Pierce and Miami; 2) Freeing up capacity on the FEC for commuter passenger trains; 3) Diverting truck traffic from U.S. Highway 27, I-95, and the Turnpike; 4) Supporting economic development and job creation for the distressed communities along the south, east, and west sides of Lake Okeechobee; and 5) Providing transportation without triggering sprawl.

WHEREAS, the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council wish to urge the Florida Department of Transportation to expedite the process for transforming U.S. Highway 27 into a new multimodal corridor, including a new freight rail line between PortMiami and the I-4 corridor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, that:

The Council request that the Florida Department of Transportation expedite the process to advance the concept, leading to inclusion of scheduled funding to undertake a Project Development and Environment study and construction for the U.S. Highway 27 Multimodal Corridor which, at a minimum, should examine an alternate freight rail project between PortMiami and the I-4 Corridor.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

DULY ADOPTED this 17th day of March, 2022.

Attest:

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

SEAL

Margaret Wuerstle, Executive Director

Don McCormick, Chair