

Tri-Rail Coastal Link



Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization
Florida Department of Transportation
Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization
Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization
Southeast Florida Transportation Council
South Florida Regional Planning Council
South Florida Regional Transportation Authority
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council

April 30, 2014

Dr. Yvette G. Taylor, PhD.
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Federal Transit Administration-Region IV
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Subject: **Request to Enter into Project Development for the Tri-Rail Coastal Link (TRCL) Commuter Rail Transit Project**
Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade Counties, Florida
Financial Identification No: 417031-5-22-01, 417031-6-22-01,
417031-7-22-01

Dear Dr. Taylor:

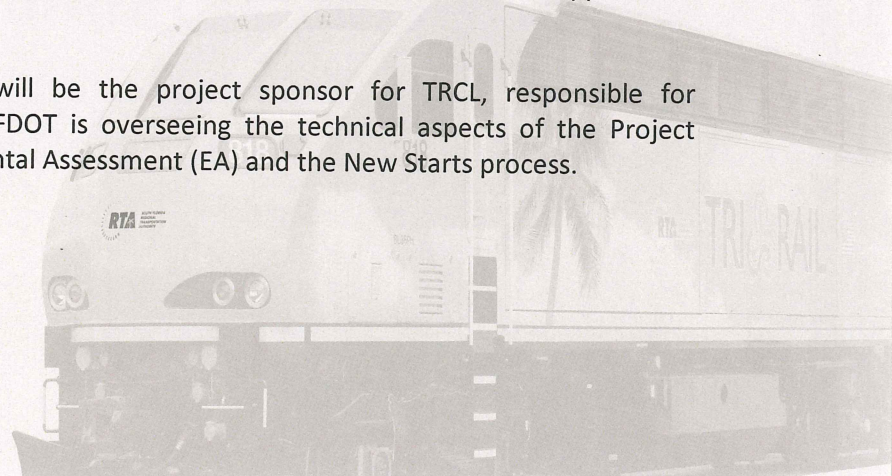
The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) are pleased to jointly submit the enclosed application package to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), on behalf of the Tri-Rail Coastal Link (TRCL) regional partnership, in support of the Request to Enter Project Development for the TRCL commuter rail project in accordance with the requirements of MAP-21.

The TRCL project is a planned expansion of the existing Tri-Rail commuter rail system onto an 85-mile segment of the Florida East Coast (FEC) Railway corridor in Southeast Florida, from the City of Jupiter in Palm Beach County to downtown Miami in Miami-Dade County. This potential New Starts project is planned to be fully integrated and complementary to the existing Tri-Rail commuter service, which operates on the South Florida Rail Corridor (SFRC). Extensive coordination has and continues to occur with the proposed All Aboard Florida (AAF) intercity passenger rail project, which also plans to run on the FEC Railway corridor and will have three common station locations with TRCL in the downtown areas of West Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale and Miami.

The TRCL regional partners, which includes: the Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs); South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils; SFRTA; and FDOT, took a major step forward by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in May 2013 outlining the roles and responsibilities and development process for the TRCL project. For your reference, it is included in the *Pre-Project Development Report* (Report) as an attachment to *Appendix 1: Public Involvement Program Report*.

Consistent with the signed MOU, SFRTA will be the project sponsor for TRCL, responsible for engineering, construction and operations. FDOT is overseeing the technical aspects of the Project Development phase, including the Environmental Assessment (EA) and the New Starts process.

Getting Southeast Florida to Work



Dr. Yvette G. Taylor
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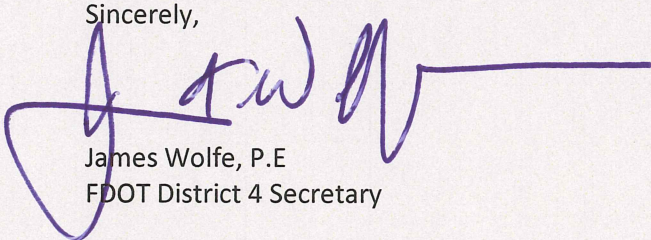
The enclosed application package includes information in accordance with FTA guidance on a Request to Enter Project Development. The table below lists the information contained in the enclosed Report and provides a quick reference to the corresponding chapters and/or sections. Various Appendices accompany the Report.

Information Type	Location
Project Overview/Project Sponsors	Sections 1.1, 1.2 and 7.4
Description of the Proposed Project	Section 4.7
Past, Ongoing and Planned Evaluations	Chapters 4, 5 and 8
Need for Transportation Improvements	Section 3.1
Existing Transit Services in the Corridor	Section 2.1
Previous Studies	Section 1.2
Funding Availability for Project Development	Section 10.2
Project Milestone Schedule	Section 10.1

FDOT and SFRTA appreciate the opportunity to submit this package for the Request to Enter into Project Development to FTA and are available to respond to any questions you or your staff may have at this time. Subject to FTA approval, we anticipate starting the Project Development Phase on June 30, 2014, and look forward to working with you and your staff to successfully complete Project Development and advance the TRCL project into the Engineering Phase.

Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact the FDOT Project Manager, Amie Goddeau, at (954) 777-4343.

Sincerely,



James Wolfe, P.E.
FDOT District 4 Secretary



Jack L. Stephens
SFRTA Executive Director

Enclosures:

- cc: Robyn Sinuefield, FTA HQ
- Elizabeth Day, FTA HQ
- Andres Ramirez, FTA, Region IV
- Ed Coven, FDOT Central Office
- Amie Goddeau, FDOT
- William Cross, SFRTA