



## TPA STEERING COMMITTEE FOR TRI-RAIL EXTENSION TO NORTHERN PALM BEACH COUNTY

### MEETING SUMMARY

**November 27, 2017**

North County Courthouse, Suite 2601  
3188 PGA Boulevard  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

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*PDF versions of the agenda, backup material and presentations as well as audio recordings are available for review at [www.PalmBeachTPA.org/Meeting](http://www.PalmBeachTPA.org/Meeting)*

### **Elect a Committee Chair**

Motion to Elect Commissioner Hal Valeche to serve as the Steering Committee Chair by Mayor Wodraska, seconded by Commissioner James, and carried unanimously.

### **Project Overview**

Ms. Valerie Neilson reviewed the following:

- Status of Northern Layover Facility in Mangonia Park – an overnight parking lot for trains. This TPA priority project creates capacity and improves efficiency. Final design and construction scheduled for 2018-2020.
- Status of Northwood Crossover in West Palm Beach – a new connection between the South Florida Rail Corridor (SFRC) and the FEC Railway around 25<sup>th</sup> Street with construction in 2018-2019.
- Committee purpose: Develop a viable capital and operations/maintenance funding strategy for the project, as well as define the access fee and conditions to use the private Florida East Coast (FEC) rail corridor. Conclude by July 2018 to hold existing PD&E funding in place for FY 2020.
- Tri-Rail Coastal Link memorandum of understanding signed between agency partners.
- Potential station locations in West Palm Beach, Riviera Beach, Lake Park, Palm Beach Gardens, and Jupiter along with each station's strengths, opportunities, weaknesses and barriers.

The committee discussed project funding status and sources.

Mr. Larry Merritt (FDOT) noted that federal, state, and/or local funding could be used for the project. He noted that if federal funding was the main source than ridership will be critical, as it will drive the competitiveness.

The Committee discussed the following:

- The need to tailor the desired outcome based on funding availability, and utilization of FTA funds for art within the station.
- Local municipal sentiments related to Brightline services and potential Tri-Rail services.

**Next Steps**

The TPA will provide a consultant for future meetings to present supporting data and analysis and to facilitate discussion. Specifically, the TPA consultant will present:

- Estimated capital costs for the project
- Summary of capital funding sources available
- Estimated operations and maintenance cost for the service and each station
- Summary of how SFRTA funds their existing operations and maintenance expenses
- Summary of O&M funding sources, including special assessment district funding and examples from other projects within the region

TPA staff noted the next meeting would occur in late January/early February.

**Steering Committee Members in Attendance:**

Mayor Maria Marino, City of Palm Beach Gardens  
Commissioner Keith James, City of West Palm Beach  
Commissioner Hal Valeche, Palm Beach County  
Mayor Michael O'Rourke, Town of Lake Park – Advisory Member  
Mayor Todd Wodraska, Town of Jupiter – Advisory Member

**Others in Attendance**

Larry Merritt, Florida Department of Transportation  
Sarah Peters, Palm Beach Post  
Malissa Booth, Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency  
Valerie Neilson, Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency  
Margarita Pierce, Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency  
Nick Uhren, Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency  
Tony Catalina, South Florida Regional Transportation Authority