



CITY OF DORAL COUNCIL MEETING MEMORANDUM

ITEM TITLE:

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE 2025 TRANSIT PLAN STUDY UPDATE; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

Approval.

BRIEF HISTORY:

The City of Doral continuously reviews the Doral Transit System to recommend improvements and keep up with passenger needs. On February 1, 2008, the City of Doral launched a two-year pilot program to provide public transportation via a local circulator, giving way for the Doral Transit System (DTS). Since the inception of the Doral Transit System, the City has grown from one (1) route being serviced by one (1) trolley bus Monday to Saturday to four (4) routes serviced by sixteen (16) trolleys seven (7) days a week. The Public Works Department (PWD) has expanded each trolley route organically as the City grew.

At the August 2018 City Council meeting, the Mayor and City Councilmembers adopted Resolution No. 18-133, (approved 5-0) providing a Work Order for Gannett Fleming Inc. for the provision of professional transportation planning services to perform the Doral Trolley/SMART Plan Coordination Study. Except for the FIU Trolley Route, it was understood that the existing three (3) trolley routes could have better alignments, stops, and connections that further improve mobility within and outside of the City boundaries and improve connectivity to existing and proposed high traffic generators. The Doral Trolley/SMART Plan Coordination Study reviewed and recommended possible improvements such as transit hubs, shorter routes, and future connection opportunities with the transit service provided by Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works, including potential future SMART Plan corridors (East-West Corridor, Flagler Corridor, NW Miami-Dade Express, Florida's Turnpike Express) as well as the County's Better Bus Project.

At the November 2019 Council Meeting, the Mayor and Councilmembers adopted Resolution No. 19-296 (approved 4-0, 1 absent) adopting the Doral Trolley/SMART Plan Coordination Study and selecting the Hub and Spoke as the preferred alternative. However, shortly thereafter, due to the COVID Pandemic, the Study's proposed improvements were placed on hold. This was largely in part due to the unknown financial impacts associated with COVID

Pandemic, since the Doral Transit System is largely funded through the People's Transportation Trust Surtax Fund.

As the Doral Trolley System ridership steadily increased back to pre-pandemic volumes and there was a need to once again revisit the proposed improvements to the City's Trolley System. At the June 14, 2024, Council Meeting, the Mayor and Councilmembers adopted Resolution No. 24-154 (approved 5-0) providing a Work Order for Gannett Fleming Inc. to conduct an update to the Doral Trolley/SMART Plan Coordination Study.

This study evaluated the future of the Doral Transit System (DTS) in light of regional and local changes. Building on the Doral Trolley SMART Plan Coordination Study, which introduced the Hub and-Spoke concept, the analysis considers the impacts of Miami-Dade County's Better Bus Network (BBN), launched in November 2023, along with the City of Doral's continued growth in housing, employment, and medical facilities. It identifies service gaps created by countywide route modifications and refines the DTS to maintain and enhance accessibility.

The Study key recommendations include:

- Restructuring Route 1 into two distinct routes (Route 1A and Route 1B),
- Expanding coverage in underserved areas by providing some minor realignments to existing Routes 2, 3, and 4,
- A new Health Route (Route 5) connecting the Palmetto Metrorail Station with Downtown Doral, extending further to serve major medical facilities like UHealth Doral Medical Center and Jackson West Medical Center
- Proposed distributed small-scale mobility hubs to strengthen regional connectivity
- Developed a New Doral conceptual standard transit shelter to serve as a Mobility Hub
- Proposed Trolley Stop Amenity upgrades at 120 locations including New Doral standard shelters, trash receptacles, bike racks, ADA upgrades, and improved signage combined with proposed mid-block crossings for improved stop accessibility
- Moving forward, procuring gasoline Hometown Trolley vehicles, instead of diesel to reduce service disruptions
- In the long term, phase in electric vehicles to the Trolley fleet and install charging infrastructure
- Evaluate and develop in-house operations/storage facility

The estimated costs associated with these recommendations range as follows:

- Fleet Replacement (depending on the number of vehicles to reduce headways): \$8.1M - \$22.00M
- Mobility Hubs (4 locations): \$1.6M - \$2.4 M
- Shelters (120 locations): \$6.0M - \$8.4M
- Pedestrian Mod-Block Crossing (10 locations): \$1.5M - \$2.0M
- Other Infrastructure Improvements: \$1.0M – \$2.0M
- Charging Infrastructure (depending on the number of chargers): \$0.24M - \$3.52M
- Operations/Storage Facility: \$10.0M - \$15.0M
- Branding & Wayfinding: \$0.25M - \$0.50M
- Total Estimate: \$28.8M - \$52.4M

The implementation of these recommendations will be phased in as approved by the Mayor and City Councilmembers and as funding becomes available.

The PWD respectfully requests that the Mayor and the City Councilmembers adopt the Doral Trolley Study Update to ensure the DTS remains efficient, resilient, and responsive to the community's evolving mobility needs.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION: (IF APPLICABLE)

Date:	Resolution/Ordinance No.	Comments
11/19/2019	19-296	Approved
6/14/2024	24-254	Approved

FINANCIAL INFORMATION: (IF APPLICABLE)

No.	Amount	Account No.	Source of Funds
1.	\$28.8M - \$52.4M	101.80005.500341 101.80005.500633 101.80005.500641 101.80005.500650 106.80005.500341 106.80005.500641	CONTRACTUAL SERVICES-ENGINEER IMPRV-STREETS CAPITAL OUTLAY - VEHICLES CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS CONTRACTUAL SERVICES-ENGINEER CAPITAL OUTLAY - VEHICLES
2.			
Total:			

Fiscal Impact Statement: The proposed item may have a total fiscal impact on futures expenditures that may range between \$28.8M - \$52.4M. The implementation of these recommendations will be phased in as approved by the Mayor and City Councilmembers and as funding becomes available.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This item follows the Transportation strategic initiative of the City's Strategic Plan as it supports the expansion and improvement of the City's Trolley Service.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- A. Draft Resolution
- B. Doral Transit Study Update