

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** September 20, 2022

**TO:** Pompano Beach City Commission

**FROM:** Brian Donovan, Assistant City Manager

**SUBJECT:** Supporting the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Federal Railroad Administration's Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program

After the conception of Brightline, which brought an additional thirty-two trains per day to the Florida East Coast Railway (FEC), a number of quiet zones were instituted along the entire twenty-six miles of the rail corridor. Since the quiet zone's implementation, Brightline has partnered with cities (including Pompano Beach) to fund additional investments in safety equipment along the FEC corridor. For example, several years ago the City and Brightline were able to leverage funding through a CRISI grant (Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements) to make safety improvements to Railroad crossings. Some of the improvements included delineators, special pavement markings, exit gates and active signs.

Recently, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has focused in on the number of deadly accidents still occurring at railroad crossings. During the summer of 2022, FRA staff held a series of workshops where they stressed the importance of increased safety along the railroad corridor and at the grade crossings. The FRA staff stated they have begun the process of potentially challenging and removing the quiet zones currently in place.

In response, the Broward MPO is working with cities in Broward County to ensure quiet zones remain by developing a safety action plan. The safety plan is two pronged and includes public outreach, an education campaign and proposed additional infrastructure at grade crossings to fully harden the corridor.

The Broward MPO and Brightline plan on applying for funding for a Railroad Crossing Elimination Program Grant (RCEP) to fund the proposed safety upgrades at the crossings. To meet the criteria of the grant, a 20% local (non-federal) match is required. Below is a table with the cost breakdown for Pompano Beach, and attached is a draft letter of commitment the MPO is asking the City to sign.

If awarded, it is estimated the 20% match would equate to \$542,478. The Commitment letter is due back to the MPO by October 4, 2022.

Description	Total	20% Share
NE 6th St	\$ 938,358.00	\$ 187,671.60
DR. MLK Blvd, NE 3rd St, Hammondville Rd	\$ 1,005,093.00	\$ 201,018.60
MP 333.31 SW 2nd St	\$ 768,937.00	\$ 153,787.40
		<b><u>\$542,477.60</u></b>