

RESOLUTION 2019 - 15

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LAKE WALES, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING SUNRAIL, CENTRAL FLORIDA'S FIRST PASSENGER RAIL PROJECT.

WHEREAS, alternative forms of transportation must be provided at the local, regional and state level to provide a sustainable future for the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, travel demand in Central Florida is growing and expected to rapidly increase in the coming decades; and

WHEREAS, there is currently a lack of transportation alternatives for commuters in Polk Counties in Central Florida; and

WHEREAS, following more than a decade of planning, SunRail, Central Florida's first passenger rail line, was unanimously approved by the governing bodies of Orange, Osceola, Seminole, and Volusia Counties, and the City of Orlando ("Local Government Partners"); and

WHEREAS, the 61.5 mile commuter rail project from Volusia County to Osceola County provides a transportation alternative for 15 percent of the state's population and direct connections with two of the region's largest employers; and

WHEREAS, the expansion of SunRail to Polk County will provide the residents of Lake Wales and other Polk County communities an alternative transportation mode for accessing the employment, retail and entertainment venues of Central Florida; and

WHEREAS, an economic impact analysis of future transit-oriented development plans along the 61.5 mile system shows such development within a half-mile radius of the station stops is expected to directly account for an additional 38,310 permanent jobs in Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Volusia Counties; and

WHEREAS, implementation of the extension of SunRail will result in overall social and environmental benefits, improve the quality of life in the Polk County, stimulate economic growth, create new employment opportunities, and serve as a positive growth management catalyst; and

WHEREAS, SunRail will greatly benefit all of the citizens of and visitors in the region, and is needed in order to relieve traffic congestion in the 1-4 corridor; and

WHEREAS, SunRail serves as the backbone for a larger transit plan for the region and provides a foundation for new passenger rail projects throughout the state's urban areas; and

WHEREAS, SunRail represents a strong partnership between the local, state, and federal governments; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Commission of the City of Lake Wales, Florida that:

SECTION 1. The City of Lake Wales supports the design, construction, and

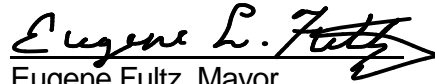
implementation of the extension of the SunRail Project in the Central Florida area to Polk County; and

SECTION 2. The City of Lake Wales requests the Florida Legislature and Governor continue to work in cooperation with citizens and local governments throughout Central Florida to finalize the project; and

SECTION 3. That this resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City of Lake Wales Commission this 20th day of August, 2019.

City of Lake Wales


Eugene Fultz, Mayor

Attest: Jennifer Nanek, City Clerk