

RESOLUTION NO. 16-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CLEARWATER, FLORIDA, REQUESTING THAT THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION PRIORITIZE FUNDS TO UPDATE THE EVALUATION OF TRANSIT ALTERNATIVES STUDY FROM 2010 TO ADDRESS THE NEED FOR ENHANCED MULTIMODAL ACCESS TO CLEARWATER BEACH AND TO IDENTIFY PUBLIC AND/OR PRIVATE SOURCES THAT WILL FULFILL THE LOCAL FUNDING SOURCE REQUIREMENTS TO RECEIVE FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Clearwater Beach is a major destination for tourists, seasonal residents and college and high students during spring break; and,

WHEREAS, demand for access to Clearwater Beach extends beyond the tourist/spring break time period and is becoming more of a year round issue; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Clearwater believes there is a need for enhanced multimodal access to Clearwater Beach; and,

WHEREAS, in 2010 the Metropolitan Planning Organization completed a Downtown Clearwater to Clearwater Beach Evaluation of Transit Alternatives Study; and,

WHEREAS, the Evaluation of Transit Alternatives Study recommended Bus Rapid Transit as the Locally Preferred Alternative for providing enhanced transit service between Downtown Clearwater and Clearwater Beach; and,

WHEREAS, the study assumed the project would be funded through a combination of federal, state and local funds; and,

WHEREAS, the receipt of federal and state funds is contingent upon having local funding sources for both capital and operating expenses; and,

WHEREAS, in 2010 the study recommendations were not advanced due to the lack of a dedicated source of local funding; and,

WHEREAS, there is a need to update the 2010 study data; and,

WHEREAS, the MPO and the Pinellas Planning Council Board (the Board) has identified beach access as a priority emphasis area; and,

WHEREAS, the MPO Board is responsible for establishing project priorities for the expenditure of federal transportation funds; and

WHEREAS, implementation of multimodal access improvements between Downtown Clearwater and Clearwater Beach is a high priority of the City; and,

WHEREAS, in addition to the Downtown Clearwater to Clearwater Beach transit alternatives, the City would like to work with the MPO and its partners including the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority, Hillsborough Area Regional Transit, the Florida Department of Transportation and the private sector on other multi-modal access projects including the planned SR60 Express Bus Service from Tampa International Airport to Clearwater Beach, the Regional Premium Transit Study for Pinellas Hillsborough and Pasco Counties, and on private sector initiatives that may include elevated, cable-propelled transit, waterborne transportation and additional surface transportation solutions; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF CLEARWATER, FLORIDA:

Section 1. That the City of Clearwater hereby requests that the MPO prioritize funding to update the Evaluation of Transit Alternatives Study to meet the requirements for federal and state funds and advance a preferred alternative into subsequent phases of project development and implementation as quickly as practicable.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2016.

George N. Cretekos
Mayor

Approved as to form:

Attest:

Pamela K. Akin
City Attorney

Rosemarie Call
City Clerk