

Mobility Advancement Program Independent Transportation Surtax Oversight Board

August 24, 2020

Bertha Henry, Broward County Administrator
115 South Andrews Avenue, Suite 409
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
[delivered via email]

Dear Ms. Henry:

On behalf of the Independent Transportation Surtax Oversight Board (Oversight Board), I am writing to advise you, as required under Article V, Section 31 ½-75(i)(1)(d), Broward County Code of Ordinances, that the Oversight Board held a Budget Workshop August 13th and the morning of August 14th and convened a regular meeting later that morning to take action on the FY 2021 proposed projects and expenditures, as well as the first Five-Year Plan.

Pursuant to Article V, Section 31½-75(i)(1)(a), of the Broward County Code of Ordinances, the Oversight Board approved as eligible per §212.055(1)(d), F.S.:

- \$53,048,701 for **Public Works** projects in FY 2021. The request did not include any operational support from the surtax and advanced thirty-one (31) projects that had been scheduled for later years of the 30-Year Program in an effort to further stimulate the economy by creating jobs and direct economic benefit to our local businesses.
- \$157,200,000 for **Broward County Transit**, of which \$452.M is for operating expenses and \$112M is for capital. The capital investment represents a \$195.5M decrease over what had originally been anticipated in the original 2018 surtax plan approved by voters and is directly correlated to impacts of Covid 19 on the system. \$784,020 in operational requests **not included** in the Recommended Budget were also approved as eligible.
- \$43,800,000 in **municipal investments** of which \$26.3M is recommended for capital projects, while \$17.5M is slated for Community Shuttle operating, capital and expected expansion services.
- \$2,944,310 in **Planning and Support Services**, including: \$328,140 for a new Program Management arm of the surtax program; \$166,320 for Innovation and Mobility Planning, and; \$978,050 for Mobility Advancement Program Administration/Oversight Board Support Services which were **not included** in the County's FY 2021 Recommended Budget published July 15, 2020.

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Funded by Penny For Transportation

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Recommendations

Pursuant to Article V, Section 31 ½-75(i)(1)(a), the Oversight Board is providing the following recommendations for the Board of County Commissioners' consideration.

1. That all requests not included in the FY 2021 Recommended Budget be included and approved by the County Commission to ensure adequate support services and operational coverage for the surtax program.
2. The Oversight Board met on August 13-14, 2020 to participate in a workshop and regular meeting about the FY 2021 proposals, as well as the first surtax Five-Year Plan, which includes County and Municipal surtax-funded projects and expenditures. The Oversight Board came to a consensus that its transmittal correspondence, deeming the FY 2021 requests eligible under Florida Statute, should also include a recommendation that the County Administrator includes robust levels of funding, adequate to properly communicate the surtax Program's positive impacts and future plans. In FY 2019 and FY 2020, the Oversight Board approved funding in the amounts of \$62,500 each year for initial "standing up" of surtax communications efforts. To date, none of the funding has been spent. During its meeting of August 14th, 2020, Oversight Board members expressed concerns that the Program remains behind in its communications, marketing, branding, and general outreach efforts, through no fault of MAP Administration.
3. The Oversight Board hopes the County Commission will provide ample funding for outreach and engagement activities in the FY 2021 budget. The Oversight Board is not making this request in relation to any particular contractor or contract, but for the purposes of communicating the planning, design and progress afforded to the citizens of Broward County via the surtax program.

We look forward to the County Commission's discussion at the Surtax Budget Workshop on August 27, 2020. Several Oversight Board members indicated they will be listening in and available to participate in any discussion of these recommendations or those that accompanied our June, Cycle 1, FY 2020 transmittal correspondence.

Sincerely,



Alan Hooper, Chair

C: Independent Oversight Board

