



MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM # III.E

DATE: OCTOBER 18, 2013

TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: STAFF

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EXPANSION OF FIBER OPTIC CABLE FOR PUBLIC USE

Introduction

Fiber optic technology is a method of transmitting digital information from one place to another by sending pulses of light through an optical fiber. First developed in the 1970s, fiber optic communication systems have revolutionized the telecommunications industry and have played a major role in the advent of the Information Age. Today, fiber optic technology is a valid infrastructure component and catalyst to enhance job creation, workforce development, economic development, healthcare and education. It is a tool that not only connects regions, but also enables regions and their residents to compete in a global, changing economy. Southeast Florida does not currently have fiber optic infrastructure uniformly available for public use throughout the region.

Consistent with a widespread desire for connectivity throughout the region, representatives from Martin County have led the effort to expand broadband connectivity throughout the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership's Seven50 project area consisting of Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, St. Lucie and Indian River counties. The goal of this effort is to provide 288-strand fiber optic cable at the time work is performed on major regional infrastructure system. This will allow for the development of a complex fiber optic network, fundamental to ensure reliability, speed and strength in communications.

The first and most significant opportunity to expand broadband and connectivity in the region is with the Florida East Coast Industries' All Aboard Florida and South Florida Regional Transportation Authority Tri-Rail Coastal link. The Florida East Coast rail corridor is an ideal location for collocation of fiber technology infrastructure as it links most of the urban areas in Southeast Florida. Both projects are currently in the planning and environmental permitting stages of development. This is an appropriate time to plan for the installation of fiber optic cable along the Florida East Coast rail corridor.

Recommendation

Approve the Resolution to support installation along the Florida East Coast Rail Corridor fiber optic cable for public use and authorize transmittal to Florida East Coast Industries, the Florida Department of Transportation and all organizations involved in planning, permitting and use of the Florida East Coast rail corridor.

RESOLUTION # 13-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE INSTALLATION ALONG THE FLORIDA EAST COAST RAIL CORRIDOR FIBER OPTIC CABLE FOR PUBLIC USE.

WHEREAS, Fiber optic technology provides a high-speed broadband communication system that is a catalyst to enhance job creation, economic development, healthcare, and education; and

WHEREAS, Southeast Florida does not have fiber optic infrastructure uniformly available for public use throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Florida East Coast Industries' All Aboard Florida and South Florida Regional Transportation Authority's Tri-Rail Coastal Link projects on the Florida East Coast rail corridor provides significant opportunity to expand fiber optic infrastructure in the region; and

WHEREAS, fiber optic technology infrastructure could be installed in the Florida East Coast rail corridor in conjunction with planning and construction of the All Aboard Florida and Tri-Rail Coastal Link. project; and

WHEREAS, high-speed fiber optic infrastructure and connectivity are vital to creating vibrant connected communities, an educated workforce, alleviating poverty, strong educational systems, and a competitive and diverse economy that attracts and sustains a growing research and biotech industry;

WHEREAS, Martin County has led the effort to secure installation along the Florida East Coast Rail Corridor fiber optic cable for public use and has requested support from partner governments and agencies; and

WHEREAS, the installation of fiber optic cable is a critical project that is needed to improve the economy and communications capacity of Southeast Florida and an important component of the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership's Seven50 Southeast Florida Prosperity Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SOUTH FLORIDA AND TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS SUPPORTS THE INSTALLATION ALONG THE FLORIDA EAST COAST RAIL CORRIDOR FIBER OPTIC CABLE FOR PUBLIC USE.

DULY ADOPTED by the South Florida Regional Planning Council this 18th day of October 2013.

PAUL WALLACE, CHAIR