



## **Resolution**

**Resolution supporting a mass transit rail corridor from Orlando International Airport to the Orange County Convention Center adjacent to the 528 and Taft-Vineland Road as it will best serve our community and opposing a mass transit rail corridor from the Orlando International Airport direct to Walt Disney World along SR 417.**

**Whereas,** The International Drive Resort Area Chamber of Commerce represents the I-Drive Corridor which includes more than 35 attractions, 130 hotels, 900 retail outlets, 350 restaurants, and the world class Orange County Convention Center, the gold standard in convention centers;

**Whereas,** world class theme parks including SeaWorld, Aquatica, Discovery Cove, Universal Studios Florida, Universal's Island of Adventure, Universal's Volcano Bay, and other major attractions such as ICON Park, Mango's, Fun Spot, Andretti Indoor Karting and Games, Pointe Orlando and Topgolf Orlando are located in this premier tourism destination;

**Whereas,** the residential population in the I-Drive corridor exceeds 20,000 residents and is one of the fastest growing resident populations in the southwest region of Orange County with new residential developments and forward-thinking initiatives like Universal's Housing for Tomorrow;

**Whereas,** I-Drive businesses have created more than 75,000 jobs and generate more than 10 percent of Orange County Tax Base;

**Whereas,** the International Drive Resort Area Chamber of Commerce has been planning on a mass transportation system from I-Drive to the Orlando International Airport for over 25 Years;

**Whereas,** the International Drive Resort Area Chamber of Commerce is committed to funding in support of a mass transportation system to service the 75,000 employees, 20,000 residents and millions of visitors each year;

**Whereas,** the Orange County Convention Center is Orange County's largest investment and, to remain competitive, has an intermodal station included its long-range plan to service a connection from the Orlando International Airport;

**Whereas,** the Orange County Convention Center's Client Advisory Board lists transportation to the Orlando International Airport as its number one concern;

**Whereas,** Orange County leaders have a moment in time to support infrastructure that connects the Orlando International Airport to Miami and Tampa and includes the Orange County Convention Center;

**Whereas,** the Taft-Vineland Route accomplishes the above and has been approved twice by federal and state rail and transportation regulators. And such a route can be used by SunRail to expand its service to the International Drive Resort Area and beyond - adding vital component to the region's overall transportation plans.

**Whereas,** Brightline's preferred route that uses public right-of-way could impede a future rail system to the Orange County Convention Center;

**Whereas,** I-Drive businesses have invested, and continue to invest, billions of dollars in the economic development of the I-Drive corridor;

**Whereas,** the International Drive Resort Area hosts millions of visitors every year and needs a mass transportation system to connect to the Orlando International Airport; and

**Whereas,** Brightline is lobbying to use federal taxpayer dollars to support their system in the future, therefore potentially competing with local governments on regional transportation needs; now therefore, be it

**Now, Therefore be it Resolved,** that the International Drive Resort Area Chamber of Commerce is unified in supporting that any rail infrastructure built in Orange County must connect to the Orange County Convention Center and ensure the connectivity to SunRail for the benefit of our employees, residents and guests and our community.

**Approved and adopted by the Board of Directors of the International Drive Resort Area Chamber of Commerce this 1st day of October 2021.**

**Signature:**

*Maria Triscari*

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**President/CEO**

**International Drive Resort Area Chamber of Commerce**