



MEMORANDUM

June 4, 2026

To: Mayor Jerry L. Demings
Commissioner Nicole Wilson, District 1
Commissioner Mayra Uribe, District 3
Commissioner Maribel Gomez Cordero, District 4
Commissioner Mike Scott, District 6

From: Vice Mayor Dr. Kelly Martinez Semrad, District 5 Commissioner 

Subject: Commissioner's Report Request for a BCC Discussion Item
Sunshine Transit Advancement Resolution (STAR) Ordinance

Purpose:

In response to the need for further investment in public transportation infrastructure, I would like to propose the codification of the citizen-led Sunshine Transit Advancement Resolution (STAR) Ordinance in Orange County. This initiative aims to establish a framework for Orange County to study, secure funding for, and develop countrywide rapid transit infrastructure for eight (8) high-volume transportation corridors. I am seeking Board feedback and direction to evaluate the STAR Ordinance, create a continuous district a half-mile from STAR-designated corridors that will collect money through Tax-Increment Financing (TIF) districts, and create a Citizen's Rapid Transit Trust Fund to be overseen by a citizen's oversight committee.

Background:

Today, Orange County faces a transportation crisis with high traffic volumes, increasingly long commutes, and rising costs of living. In response, community organizations in Orange County have come together with urgency to make a bold vision of fast, diverse and affordable transportation a reality for working families across our county. The resulting framework has been designated the STAR Plan, and has been modeled on Miami-Dade County's SMART Plan. The SMART Plan, from its board endorsement in 2016, has secured corridor studies, billions in funding and completion of rapid transit

VICE MAYOR DR. KELLY MARTINEZ SEMRAD, DISTRICT 5 COMMISSIONER
201 S. Rosalind Avenue, 5th Floor • Orlando, Florida 32801
Reply To: P.O. Box 1393 • Orlando, Florida 32801
Office: (407) 836-7304 • Fax: (407) 836-5879



projects in Miami-Dade County, with the first BRT project launching in 2025. STAR is an effort to emulate and adapt Miami-Dade's comprehensive and proactive vision for rapid transit in Orange County. Incorporating the STAR plan into Orange County can provide a comprehensive approach to not only serving the transportation needs of our residents and tourist populations, but also generate greater, more equitable economic returns and safeguard our environment from continued sprawl and carbon emissions.

Proposal:

Evaluate the STAR Ordinance which, if codified, would do as follows:

1. Establish eight (8) STAR Corridors (Colonial, Semoran, Sunshine, Orange Blossom, International, Silver Star, Kirkman, and SunRail) as priority for rapid transit expansion in Orange County.
2. Create a continuous district a half-mile from STAR corridors that will collect money through Tax-Increment Financing (TIF) and be zoned to prepare for transit investments.
3. Create a Citizen's Rapid Transit Trust Fund to be overseen by a citizen's oversight committee.

Benefits:

- Create an affordable, fast, and integrated rapid transit network that leverages rail and bus rapid transit to cater to the needs of Orange County's working families and diverse communities.
- Give Orange County residents access to opportunity, housing, and jobs, all while lowering traffic congestion and carbon emissions countywide.
- Establish a countywide framework to study, secure funding for, and develop rapid transit for the eight (8) high-volume transportation corridors.
- Incentivize development in Orange County's urban corridors rather than in rural and natural lands.

Next Steps:

- Schedule a Discussion Agenda item to evaluate the proposal and receive staff guidance, ensuring legal compliance with state laws.

VICE MAYOR DR. KELLY MARTINEZ SEMRAD, DISTRICT 5 COMMISSIONER
201 S. Rosalind Avenue, 5th Floor • Orlando, Florida 32801
Reply To: P.O. Box 1393 • Orlando, Florida 32801
Office: (407) 836-7304 • Fax: (407) 836-5879



- Conduct town hall meetings, surveys, and other stakeholder engagement to gauge community interest and address concerns.
- Draft STAR Ordinance language for future public hearings.

Conclusion:

The STAR Ordinance would establish a framework for Orange County to study, secure funding for, and develop countrywide rapid transit for eight (8) high-volume transportation corridors. It would lay the foundation for sustainable mutli-stream funding sources for rapid transit, all while beginning to seed projects and transportation improvements.

Our citizens have expressed support for multimodal transportation solutions that include trains, buses, pedestrian and bicyclist infrastructure. With rising costs and commute times, it's critical we take a multifaceted approach to funding rapid transit.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Kelly Martinez Semrad, Commissioner District 5

/s/

Cc: Roseann Harrington
County Administrator Byron Brooks
County Attorney Jeff Newton
Cheryl Gillespie