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The Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and its partners from Brightline held a ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion of quiet zone construction. Left to right: Commissioner Kevin Biederman (Hollywood), Commissioner Peter Hernandez (Hollywood), Vice Mayor Tom Green (Wilton Manors), Commissioner Michael Carn (Oakland Park), Patrick Goddard, Greg Stuart (obscured in photo), Mayor Josh Levy (Hollywood), Vice Mayor Traci Callari (Hollywood), Council Member Bryan Caetka (Davie), Commissioner Richard Blattner (Hollywood), and Commissioner Caryl Shuham (Hollywood).

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With the railway corridor safety upgrades complete, paperwork submitted to the proper governmental agencies, and the 21-day government review period over, the FEC/Brightline railway corridor throughout Broward County as of May 18th is officially a Quiet Zone.

The City of Hollywood hosted a ribbon cutting celebration at the Hollywood Shuffleboard Complex on May 20, 2019, to commemorate the success and completion of the project. City of Hollywood Mayor Josh Levy opened the celebration by thanking all the regional partners and most importantly, thanking the residents and stakeholders along the corridor for their patience and understanding.

The Quiet Zone project area includes the Cities of Deerfield Beach, Pompano Beach, Oakland Park, Wilton Manors, Fort Lauderdale, Dania Beach, Hollywood and Hallandale Beach. With a \$5 million-dollar investment and more than 5 years of effort by the Broward MPO and partners, construction began in 2016 and included 24 grade crossings, as well as pedestrian improvements.

“Our MPO Board, which includes all 31 cities in the county, voted to fund the Quiet Zone, which means 23 cities who would not benefit supported the 8 of us who would, that is trust,” remarked Richard Blattner, Broward MPO Chair and Commissioner for the City of Hollywood. “As we move forward, that trust will be even more important in linking our cities together. The Quiet Zone is here because we worked together to make the corridor safer,” Commissioner Blattner concluded.

With this investment in local economic vitality and quality of life benefits, train awareness and caution remain paramount. One of the many ways that Brightline has engaged in an aggressive safety outreach campaign has included asking the public to sign pledge cards, promising to stop for railway crossings. Each of the elected officials at the celebration/ribbon cutting, along with event attendees, took the pledge. “It is in the spirit of collaboration we implement this quiet zone in Broward County and I would like to thank the City of Hollywood with all our partners along the Florida East Coast Railway/Brightline corridor,” shared Brightline President Patrick Goddard. “It was encouraging to see so many elected officials lead by example, signing our rail safety pledge cards as we all commit to the highest standards of safety.”

Gregory Stuart, Executive Director for the Broward MPO, added during his remarks that “this ribbon cutting represents the end of one project and the start of something new in the region. The Quiet Zone is only the first step. The real estate development that can now occur along this corridor to meet the affordable housing needs of our society is going to be huge. Growth around transit means less cars on the road. It also means connecting our cities and neighborhoods. We look to transportation to solve a lot of problems, transportation provides access to jobs, healthcare and education. We are focused on the transportation system that is necessary to move us into the next century.”

For more information on the project, please visit:

<http://www.browardmpo.org/index.php/current-projects-studies/quiet-zones>

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Keep yourself and your family and friends safe by following Operation Lifesaver's top five rail safety tips:

- 1) Look and listen for a train as you approach all railroad crossings - obey all signs, warning lights and gates.
- 2) Trains are quieter and faster than you think - never try to beat a train.
- 3) Because of their size and weight, it can take a mile or more to stop a train.
- 4) Always expect a train on any track; avoid distractions when you approach a crossing.
- 5) Railroad property is private property. Walking on the tracks is illegal and dangerous.



The Brightline pledge card is available at www.gobrightline.com

The Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is a transportation policy-making board responsible for transportation planning and funding allocations. The Organization works with the public, planning organizations, government agencies, elected officials, and community groups to develop transportation plans in Broward.

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