



# THE FUTURE OF TRANSPORTATION IN YOUR CITY

by Allyson Black and Natalie Crowley

**F**or decades, the City of Palm Beach Gardens has anticipated the construction of a Tri-Rail station within the vicinity of PGA Boulevard. In 2009, the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC) conducted a Transit Oriented Design (TOD) Workshop for a proposed Tri-Rail station located in the area of PGA Boulevard and Florida East Coast (FEC) Railway Corridor. The focus of the workshop was to analyze and make recommendations for a future transit station. However, since 2009 many changes have occurred in the area, including new developments and the advancement of future passenger travel along the FEC Corridor by Brightline (All Aboard Florida). At this time, the City is in the beginning stages of a process that will design a Tri-Rail Station incorporating new transportation opportunities that don't currently exist for the public.

To fund the design of the station and the area surrounding this location, the City applied for grant funding through the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority. The grant is geared toward supporting economic development, ridership, multimodal connectivity and accessibility, increasing transit access for pedestrians and bicycles, and reviewing land use patterns near transit stations.

Through this \$120,000 grant, the City desires to review the recommendations of studies that were performed as a result of the workshop, provide any necessary updates based on recent trends, and most importantly, provide the public another opportunity to provide input in the planning process for a Tri-Rail station. The study will assist recommendations to be included in a Mobility Plan for future implementation for all modes of transportation. The City would like to review current market opportunities and conditions to address a final design of a Master Plan for a Station Area and the immediate surrounding area.

The project area for the Palm Beach Gardens Station Area TOD Master Plan is focused on, but not limited to, that area around the intersection of PGA Boulevard and the FEC railroad, extending a half-mile in all directions. This area is generally bound by Kyo-to Gardens Drive to the north, Burns Road to the south, Military Trail to the west, and Campus Drive to the east.

## THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PALM BEACH GARDENS STATION AREA TOD MASTER PLAN INCLUDE:

- The creation of a physical master plan for the anticipated Tri-Rail Coastal Link Station.
- A review of the land use and development regulations in order to accommodate the station.
- Provide a Market Overview.
- Coordination with all relevant governmental agencies.
- Palm Tran will still be a main mobility service for users of the future Tri-Rail station.

## GRANT FUNDING TIMELINE



**Feb 2017:** City applied for South Florida Transit Oriented Development Grant



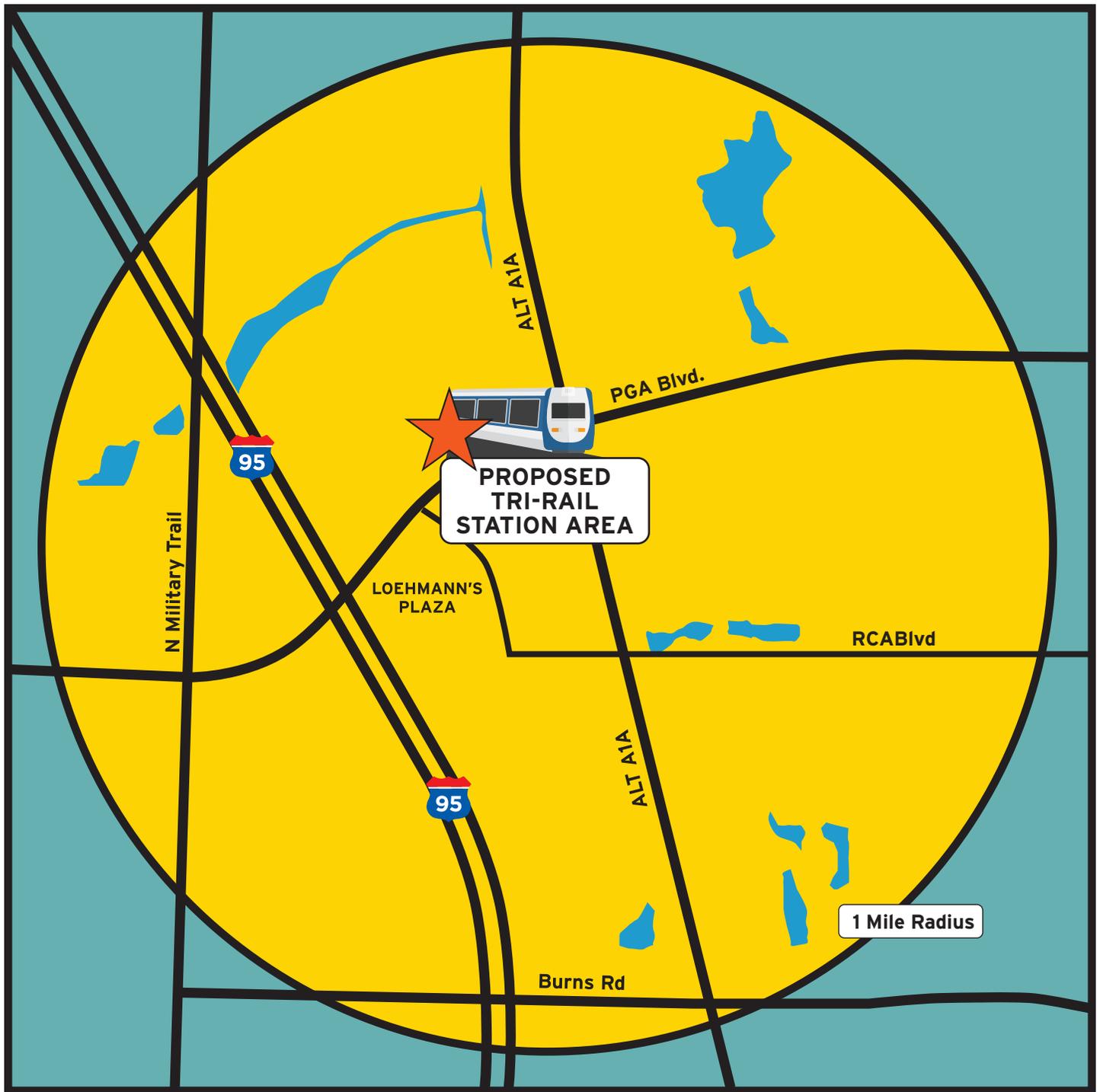
**March 2017:** City Planning and Zoning Department submitted grant request for design of the Station Area Master Plan



**April 2017:** City received recommendation of \$120,000 in Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council funding for the Station Area Master Plan



**July 2017:** City Council approved Resolution for Interlocal Agreement with TCRPC for grant funding



**PUBLIC PARTICIPTION**

Thursday October 19, 2017

In order to address the unique characteristics in the PGA Boulevard Station Area and to provide the public an opportunity to engage in this process, a public design workshop will be held for City residents on Thursday, October 19, 2017 at 6pm in the City’s EOC training center located at City Hall at 10500 N. Military Trail, PBG. A

separate a session will be held earlier that morning for key stakeholders in the business community.

The workshops will include an opening presentation, and “table sessions” where residents will work with facilitators to generate ideas and provide input and feedback into the City’s TOD Master Plan.

