



TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Lee Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: April 16, 2013

TITLE: Introduce Ordinance on first reading for Mass Transportation Systems
Assessments

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission approve an Ordinance on first reading establishing procedures and standards for the imposition of assessments for the funding of mass transportation systems.

Background

This Ordinance will provide a process for the imposition of assessments to fund mass transportation systems. The adoption of these procedures is necessary to allow a special assessment to be imposed by the City to fund a portion of the capital costs for the Wave Streetcar project. This ordinance is not specific to the Wave project, but to all transportation related assessments. It creates a procedure or process in which the City can exercise its home rule authority for imposing assessments for transportation improvements. The procedure provided in the ordinance allows the City to adopt a resolution for the Wave assessment and to impose a similar assessment for transportation improvements in the future without the need to adopt a new ordinance.

The Wave Streetcar project is a modern electric streetcar system that will serve as a local circulator in Downtown Fort Lauderdale. It will have 10 stations with headways of 7.5/10 minutes (peak/off-peak). On April 1, 2008 under resolution 08-71, the City Commission endorsed the Downtown Transit Circulator (Wave Streetcar) project. It recommended a preferred route, identified the City's funding level, and endorsed the special assessment process for additional funding.

On December 18, 2012, the City Commission held a public hearing and passed a resolution to collect an assessment through the use of the uniform method of levy, collection and enforcement. (Exhibit 1)

On April 2, 2013, the City Commission was presented with an explanation of the assessment methodology, assessment rates and implementation procedures. The Fort

Lauderdale Downtown Development Authority (DDA) was asked to follow up on a few questions related to the assessment boundary and funding for future extensions. Attached is a letter from the DDA addressing these follow ups. (Exhibit 2)

Public hearings will be held on May 7, 2013 and June 4, 2013 and will provide public comment opportunities.

Over 150 public outreach meetings have been conducted to date since 2003. (Exhibit 5) Below is the public outreach meeting plan with additional opportunities to provide feedback in advance of the first public hearing on May 7th.

Neighborhoods that have 100% of their boundary within the assessment:

- Poinciana Park Civic Association Wednesday, April 10th at 6:00 p.m.
- Flagler Village Association Wednesday, April 17th 6:30 p.m.
- Downtown Civic Association Thursday, April 18th at 7:00 p.m.

Neighborhoods that do not have 100% of their boundary within the assessment will be invited to a future meeting (by April 30th). They include:

- Croissant Park
- Beverly Heights
- Victoria Park
- Tarpon River
- Sailboat Bend
- Progresso Village

Meetings will also be held with additional residential property owners, business groups and large non-residential property owners/institutions through April 30th. The second reading of this Ordinance will be on May 7, 2013.

Resource Impact

No impact at this time.

Related CAMs:

#13-0333 Wave Streetcar Project Special Assessment Overview

#12-2601 Public Hearing - Election of the Uniform Method of Collecting Non-Ad Valorem Special Assessment for the Downtown Transit Circulator (Wave Streetcar) Project

Attachments:

Exhibit 1: Resolution #12-241

Exhibit 2: Letter from DDA

Exhibit 3: Ordinance

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