



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
CRA BOARD MEETING

17-0838

TO: CRA Chairman & Board of Commissioners
Fort Lauderdale Community Redevelopment Agency

FROM: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, Executive Director

DATE: July 11, 2017

TITLE: A Resolution of the Fort Lauderdale Community Redevelopment Agency in Support of and Authorizing the Submittal of an Application to the Broward County Board of County Commissioners for Grant Funding in the Amount of \$1.0 Million Through the Broward Redevelopment Program (BRP) for the NE 4th Avenue Complete Street Project from Sunrise Boulevard to NE 13th Street

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Board of Commissioners adopt a resolution authorizing a joint application from the City of Fort Lauderdale and the Fort Lauderdale Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) to Broward County for \$1.0 million through the Broward Redevelopment Program (BRP) for the NE 4th Avenue Complete Street Project from Sunrise Boulevard to NE 13th Street.

Background

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners has announced a funding opportunity for local governments and Community Redevelopment Agencies utilizing the Broward Redevelopment Program (BRP). The goal of the BRP is to provide funding for eligible projects in defined redevelopment areas and other areas which have demonstrated blighting conditions, higher unemployment rates, and lower property value growth than those of the municipality in which the project is located or the County. In addition to removal of blighting conditions, the BRP acknowledges economic development and job creation as important public purposes for funding consideration.

The first round of funding for the BRP occurred in 2013 and the City of Fort Lauderdale and Fort Lauderdale Community Redevelopment Agency was awarded a grant in the amount of \$1.5 million to fund the NE 13th Street Complete Street Project in the Central City Community Redevelopment Area. This project is nearing completion.

The second cycle of funding for the BRP was announced on April 1, 2015; the City did not submit a funding application. On June 13, 2017, Broward County announced a third funding cycle for the BRP program and applications are due August 2, 2017. A total of \$8.5 million is available for cities and CRAs to submit competitive applications. An eligible application for funding can include projects that involve property acquisition,

public improvements, affordable housing, accreditation for child care facilities, and interior build-out for economic development.

The maximum funding for this performance based reimbursement grant that can be awarded to any municipality is \$1 million. The BRP application requires an official form of support of the application from the City Commission and the CRA. For many cities that have CRA districts, the CRA Board and the City Commission are not one and the same. The BRP requires a Resolution by the municipality/CRA declaring the application and projects as beneficial use of public dollars and supports economic development opportunities which will have positive impacts in the community. A project selected for funding must be completed within three years of an executed inter-local agreement with Broward County.

On behalf of the City of Fort Lauderdale and CRA, staff will submit an application for BRP funding for the NE 4th Avenue Complete Street Project. A copy of the draft BRP application is attached as Exhibit 1. A map of the project area is attached as Exhibit 2. NE 4th Avenue and NE 13th Street are the major neighborhood business corridors within the area. They are a part of the City's Multimodal Connectivity Map as well as a part of the redevelopment vision for the area identified in the adopted Central City CRA Community Redevelopment Plan.

Upon completion, the NE 4th Avenue Complete Street Project will encourage pedestrian activity and make it easier to visit area businesses as well as travel through the area by foot or on a bicycle. The project is expected to improve safety, lower transportation costs, promote economic development, increase property values, foster a green environment, and encourage a healthier community by encouraging walking and biking.

The area proposed for the complete street project is along NE 4th Avenue from Sunrise Boulevard to NE 13th Street. The Central City CRA boundary ends at NE 13th Street and only areas that are declared to have blighting conditions described in Chapter 163, Part II, F.S., and Community Redevelopment Areas created pursuant to Chapter 163 Part III of the Florida Community Redevelopment Act that do not receive County Tax Increment Funds are eligible for BRP funding.

The Central City CRA Redevelopment Advisory Board passed a motion at a special meeting of its members held on June 28, 2017 requesting that city staff submit an application for BRP funding for the NE 4th Avenue Complete Street project. The total project cost is estimated at \$1,184,000 including engineering, design, and construction. The joint application for funding by the City of Fort Lauderdale and the Fort Lauderdale CRA will be requesting the maximum funding amount that may be awarded to a redevelopment program applicant of \$1 million.

A 15% match from non-county sources is required. There is \$3.5 million approved in federal and state funding for NE 4th Avenue improvements for approximately a two mile stretch in Fort Lauderdale and Wilton Manors funded by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The Fort

Lauderdale portion of the project from Sunrise Boulevard to the Middle River Bridge at the Wilton Manors city limits is approximately \$700,000 with another \$250,000 for design and \$250,000 for construction administration. Along the Fort Lauderdale section, the plan calls for a road diet that includes lane elimination and buffered bicycle lanes. Proposed improvements also include milling and resurfacing, new signing and marking, median modifications, construction of right turn lane at NE 13th Street, construction of bus/parent drop-off lane at Fort Lauderdale High School, intersection lighting improvements, and American with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramps.

The BRP funding will allow for construction, design, and construction administration/inspection of additional design enhancements to a portion of the project to include removing existing sidewalks, constructing wide sidewalks (9.5 feet wide) with tree grates, planting additional trees, decorative pedestrian level lighting along the east and west side of NE 4th Avenue, median landscaping, box wraps (3 traffic boxes), way finding signage, and gateway monument features with the required 15% match covered by the funding from Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Broward County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). On October 18, 2016, the City Commission passed Resolution 16-183 supporting a Complete Street Project along NE 4th Avenue from Sunrise to the Middle River Bridge including converting outside lanes to provide dedicated bicycle lanes between NE 11 Street and the Middle River Bridge (Exhibit 3). A resolution from the City Commission authorizing the submittal of this application for funding from the Broward Redevelopment Program is also on the City Commission Agenda as Item 17-0737.

Resource Impact

None

Strategic Connections:

This project helps implement the Central City Community Redevelopment Plan and the City's Multimodal Connectivity plan. This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018* initiative, included in the Infrastructure cylinder of Excellence, specifically advancing:

- Goal 1: Be a pedestrian friendly multi-modal City.
- Objective 2: Integrate transportation land use and planning to create a walkable and bikeable community
- Strategic Initiative 4: Develop bike amenities
- Strategic Initiative 6: Develop and implement The Connectivity Master Plan to improve accessibility.
- Strategic Initiative 8: Complete Streets
- Objective 3: Improve pedestrian, bicyclist and vehicular safety.
- Strategic Initiative 1: Improve traffic calming mechanisms to increase safety through environmental design.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are Connected*.

Related CAM

17- 0837

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – BRP Program Application (Draft)

Exhibit 2 – Map of Project Area

Exhibit 3 – Resolution No 16-183

Exhibit 4 – Resolution

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Executive Director: Donald Morris, AICP, Beach CRA Manager