



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#22-0881

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

FROM: Greg Chavarria, City Manager

DATE: September 22, 2022

TITLE: Resolution Supporting and Authorizing the Submittal of a Grant Application to the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Discretionary Grant Program of the United States Department of Transportation in Partnership with the Cities of Wilton Manors and Oakland Park - **(Commission Districts 1, 2 and 3)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission adopt a resolution supporting and authorizing the submittal of a grant application to the United States Department of Transportation Reconnecting Communities Pilot Discretionary Grant Program. The proposed grant application is in partnership with the cities of Wilton Manors and Oakland Park to complete a transportation planning study to remove barriers of access in relation to the future Broward Commuter Rail (BCR) station in Oakland Park.

Background

Under the new Federal Administration, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) was passed, which includes increases to existing transportation grant programs, as well as several new transportation funding programs. These programs have created new funding access to complete transportation projects at the local level with a focus on the priorities of Safety, Equity, Economic Strength, Climate and Sustainability, Transformation, and Organization Excellence. One of those programs is the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Discretionary Grant Program.

The purpose of the RCP is to reconnect communities by removing, retrofitting, or mitigating transportation facilities such as highways and rail lines that create barriers to community connectivity. The program provides grant funding for planning and capital construction to address infrastructure barriers, restore community connectivity, and improve peoples' lives. The variety of transformative solutions can include such things as trails, roadway redesigns, complete streets conversions, and pedestrian walkways.

The proposed grant application will be a partnership with the cities of Oakland Park and Wilton Manors to complete a transportation study that centers around multimodal access to the proposed new Broward Commuter Rail Station in Oakland Park. The BCR station location is planned near the intersection of Oakland Park Boulevard and the Florida East Coast Railway with the first and last mile connections to that station includes areas within

Fort Lauderdale. The study will identify transportation barriers to multimodal access that have been created and implementation strategies for removing barriers. The study's focus area will be between Interstate 95 to US1/Federal Highway, and from Sunrise Boulevard to Prospect Road with a focus on the main arterials, collectors, and rail lines that have created access barriers to safe connectivity.

The anticipated grant request of \$1,000,000 requires a 25% match that will be provided through state Toll Revenue Credits. The grant application is due on October 13, 2022. Awards are anticipated to be announced in early 2023.

The grant application and project management processes will be led by the City of Oakland Park.

Strategic Connections:

This item is a Top 2022 Commission Priority, advancing the *Transportation and Traffic initiative*.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024 Strategic Plan*, specifically *advancing*:

- Infrastructure Focus Area
- Goal 2 - Build a multi-modal and pedestrian friendly community.
- Objective - Improve roads, sidewalks, and trails to prioritize a safer, more walkable and bikeable community

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

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Project Area Map

Exhibit 2 – Resolution

Prepared by: Karen Warfel, Program Manager, Transportation and Mobility

Department Director: Ben Rogers, Transportation and Mobility