



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#14-0431

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

FROM: Lee Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: August 19, 2014

TITLE: Resolution to Adopt *Connecting the Blocks: Creating Options for Moving People*

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission adopt a resolution to support *Connecting the Blocks – Creating Options for Moving People* (EX 1).

Background

Connecting the Blocks: Creating Options for Moving People is a multi-year comprehensive strategic program developed to implement the *We Are Connected* goal of the City's long-term community vision *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale*. This is not a funding plan, but rather a game plan to secure outside funding, leverage city dollars and strategically invest in our City. The goal is to create a community where we move seamlessly and easily through a safe transportation network where the pedestrian is first. Achieving this goal will require a multimodal, connected community where the vehicle is not the only choice, where everyone can walk, bike and use transit to get to many destinations.

The *Connecting the Blocks* program catalogs needed bicycle, pedestrian, roadway and transit infrastructure projects and have been developed through phases over the last two years. On May 15, 2012 the Transportation and Mobility staff presented the concept and a draft multimodal connectivity map to the City Commission. After receiving City Commission consensus on the initial concept and map, staff conducted an inventory of the existing conditions and reached out the neighborhoods to receive input as to where they would like the system to circulate through their respective communities. The inventory of needs was then compared to the City's Complete Streets Manual to determine needed infrastructure, and planning level cost estimates based upon industry standards were prepared for each project.

An update on program development and next steps was provided at the December 17, 2013 City Commission Conference meeting. City Commission provided consensus at

that meeting on the methodology and prioritization criteria weighting. Staff prioritized the projects and developed five-year timeframes for implementation out to 2035 (EX 2).

These steps have led to the development of a comprehensive, strategic and ambitious long-term program that includes maps, design components, planning level cost estimates, and existing and potential funding sources. *Connecting the Blocks* will serve as a guiding document for City infrastructure investments through the annual Community Investment Program (CIP) and will inform other funding streams including the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Long Range Transportation Plan. City staff will continue to actively pursue grants and partnerships to implement this work plan including with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Broward County. Implementation will not be possible without our partners in the development community as well. This work plan will provide private developers the details of needed improvements to be included in development projects thereby contributing towards achieving the community's vision.

Once *Connecting the Blocks: Creating Options for Moving People* has been adopted by the City Commission, staff will coordinate implementation of the program through:

- Development of outreach materials to share the branding and goals of the Program with the Community.
- Coordination with other City programs including, utilities, landscaping, sidewalk repair and road repaving initiatives to leverage implementation opportunities and provide more efficient use of maintenance and construction funds.
- Development of a sidewalk implementation plan for the neighborhood-level sidewalk connections.
- Amendments to the Transportation Element of the City's Comprehensive Plan and Unified Land Development Regulations to incorporate the improvements outlined in *Connecting the Blocks*.
- Amendments to the Development Review Committee's process to include this program.

Connecting the Blocks will be updated and reprioritized biannually at a minimum to maintain relevance through integrating newly identified infrastructure needs and funding resources.

Resource Impact:

No resource impact at this time. This is the adoption of the comprehensive multi-year plan. Individual projects and funding will be presented to City Commission for appropriate action. Total unfunded costs are estimated at approximately \$500 million.

Strategic Connection

This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018* initiative, included within the **Infrastructure Cylinder of Excellence**, specifically advancing:

1. This item helps advance the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale* vision of **Being Connected**, where neighbors can move seamlessly and easily through a safe transportation system where the pedestrian is first.
2. This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018 Initiative*, included within the **Infrastructure Cylinder of Excellence**, specifically advancing:

Goal 1: Be a pedestrian friendly, multi-modal city.

Objective 1: Improve transportation options and reduce congestion by working with agency partners.

Objective 2: Integrate transportation land use and planning to create a walkable and bikeable community.

Initiative 4: Develop bike amenities.

Initiative 6: Develop and implement the Connectivity Master Plan to improve accessibility.

Objective 3: Improve pedestrian, bicyclist, and vehicular safety.

Initiative 1: Implement traffic calming mechanisms to increase safety through environmental design.

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

Attachment:

Exhibit 1 – Connecting the Blocks Program & Maps

Exhibit 2 - Resolution Adopting *Connecting the Blocks – Creating Options for Moving People*

Prepared by: Karen Mendrala, Livability Planner

Department Director: Diana Alarcon, Transportation and Mobility