



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING**

#26-0120

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

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: February 3, 2026

TITLE: Resolution Supporting the Submission of a Grant Application to the United States Department of Transportation for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program for the Las Olas Boulevard Mobility, Western Corridor from Andrews Avenue to SE 17 Avenue - **(Commission District 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission approve a resolution supporting the submission of a grant application to the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program for the Las Olas Mobility, Western Corridor project in the amount of up to \$15,440,000.

Background

In 2017, the City initiated a comprehensive evaluation of transportation, landscaping, planning, and urban design needs along Las Olas Boulevard from Andrews Avenue to SR A1A. This effort, guided by the Las Olas Working Group, which included residents, business owners, and property owners, involved two and a half (2.5) years of stakeholder engagement and consensus-building. This culminated in the City Commission's endorsement of the Eastern and Western Corridor Conceptual Design Visions in June 2021.

The BUILD grant application focuses on the Western Corridor, from Andrews Avenue to SE 17 Avenue. The Western Corridor encompasses three (3) distinct segments:

- Downtown - Andrews Avenue to US 1;
- The Shops - US 1 to SE 12 Avenue; and
- Colee Hammock - SE 12 Avenue to SE 17 Avenue.

The City engaged WSP USA Inc. to develop engineering design, the design criteria package, and preliminary permitting. The consultant team collected existing conditions data and presented preliminary designs to stakeholders and the community.

On November 13, 2025, a public town hall was held at the Florida Atlantic University (FAU) Metro Lab to share concepts and gather feedback. Design alternatives were presented to the City Commission at its Conference Meeting on January 20, 2026 (CAM #26-0050). During the discussion, the City Commission provided support for Alternative 1 (without the median) for the Retail Shops segment of the project and requested implementation of wider sidewalks, permanent bulb-outs, enhanced pedestrian safety features, retention of on-street parking on both sides, and additional tree canopy.

The February 3, 2026, City Commission regular meeting agenda (CAM #26-0051) includes a resolution supporting the preferred conceptual design for the Western Corridor from Andrews Avenue to SE 17 Avenue to sixty percent (60%) design plans.

To fund construction efforts for the Western Corridor, City staff recommends applying for a BUILD grant in the amount of up to \$15,440,000. The maximum grant threshold is \$25,000,000 and a minimum 20% local match is required. The match will include \$1,000,000 in State Appropriation, \$1,000,000 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Capital Improvement Funding, and an additional \$1,860,000 City contribution, for a total project cost of \$19,300,000.

Funding for grant writing services were included in the FY 2026 Adopted Budget. City staff will be utilizing the project consultant (WSP) to assist with grant writing. The BUILD grant, formerly referred to as TIGER and RAISE, is one (1) of the USDOT's most competitive programs with fewer than ten percent (10%) of applicants awarded funds in 2025. WSP has helped clients secure more than \$1.5 billion for approximately one hundred (100) projects. Since 2008, WSP has helped clients secure over \$53.8 billion in federal grants and loans for 384 projects.

Based on the Notice of Funding Opportunity, selections are expected to be announced no later than June 28, 2026.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action. However, if the grant is awarded, there will be a fiscal impact of a minimum of \$1,860,000 for the required 20% local match.

Strategic Connections

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029 Strategic Plan*, specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure & Resilience Focus Area
- Goal 4: Facilitate an efficient, multimodal transportation network.

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

This item supports the Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure Enhancement Focus Area
- The Transportation and Mobility Element
- Goal 1: Ensure the equitable development of a Complete Network for transportation that prioritizes safety and emphasizes multimodal mobility and accessibility.

Attachment

Exhibit 1 – Resolution

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Department Director: Milos Majstorovic, PE, Transportation and Mobility