



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

#17-0410

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

FROM: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: May 16, 2017

TITLE: Resolution in Support of the Florida Department of Transportation
Managing the Design and Construction of the Las Olas Boulevard
Complete Streets Project

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission adopt a resolution in support of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) managing the design and construction of the Las Olas Boulevard Complete Streets Project.

Background

The City received funding from the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for two projects along Las Olas Boulevard between Andrews Avenue and SE 11 Avenue. The projects were funded by separate funding programs and for different annual cycles. The MPO combined the two projects to improve delivery and to minimize the impact from multiple construction projects. The combined scope includes Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades, adding bicycle facilities (“sharrows”) along a parallel facility north and south of Las Olas Boulevard, installing in-ground LED lighting to the midblock crossing locations, lighting upgrades, and improvements to the pedestrian environment.

FDOT, as the MPO’s contractor, will be managing the project on behalf of the City and requires final direction on the preferred cross-section before moving forward with procurement of a design contractor. On March 21, 2017, several property owners on Las Olas Boulevard provided a proposal of desired cross-sections to the City Commission for consideration. The Commission provided direction for staff to hold a meeting to review the possible proposals with the public prior to finalizing direction. A public meeting was held on May 4, 2017 to review the potential cross-sections and obtain feedback.

There were approximately 150 participants at the meeting. There was a general presentation explaining the background of the project and the purpose of the meeting. The participants were asked to visit one of five stations to review the design concepts, ask any questions and provide feedback.

A total of 77 written comments were received during the meeting which included 37 comments of general support, 27 comments of support with specific design recommendations, 7 not in support of the project, and 6 with comments neither for nor against. A number of comments regarding elements that need to be considered during design included: ensuring that there is adequate tree canopy placed in the sidewalk, using a uniform design of materials for a consistent theme, including stormwater drainage infrastructure improvements, including dedicated bike lanes, ensuring that sidewalk dining does not encroach into the public portion of the sidewalk, replacing the signal mast arms with pedestal signals, and to minimize the loss of parking.

The project is scheduled to go out to bid for a design engineer when the funding becomes available on July 1, 2017. FDOT anticipates having a design consultant ready to begin work by February 2018. Once preliminary design plans have been developed, additional public and staff input will occur.

Resource Impact

The City has been awarded \$2.8 million in design and construction funds which will be managed by FDOT which includes the installation of ADA ramp funding, in-ground LED cross-walks for the mid-block locations, and bicycle facilities. The gap in funding will be identified once the preliminary plans for the final scope are developed. Property owners have indicated commitment to contribute to the gap in funding. Separate agreements will be presented to the Commission to address the management of contributions from private entities and the City through existing programmed projects.

Strategic Connection

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

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

Attachments

Exhibit 1 - Proposed Las Olas Cross-section

Exhibit 2 - Resolution

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