




CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#23-1156

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

FROM: Greg Chavarria, City Manager 
Greg Chavarria (Nov 21, 2023 19:08 EST)

DATE: November 21, 2023

TITLE: **WALK ON** - Resolution Waiving the Formal Competitive Solicitation and Selection Processes Pursuant to Division 2., Procurement, of Article V. of Chapter 2 of the City of Fort Lauderdale Procurement Ordinance, for Consulting Services with BDO USA LLP. for the New River Crossing project - **(Commission District 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission adopt a resolution waiving the formal competitive solicitation and selection processes pursuant to Division 2., Procurement, of Article V. of Chapter 2 of the City of Fort Lauderdale Procurement Ordinance for Consulting Services with BDO USA LLP.; and authorize the negotiation and execution of the agreement by the City Manager.

Background

In 2019, Legislative Specific Appropriation Bill 1939 directed the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to provide a develop a proposal to provide a crossing solution that meets the reasonable needs of navigational traffic, freight trains and passenger transit for the New River. The FDOT feasibility study identified four crossing alternatives which included three bridge alternatives and one tunnel alternative.

As a future New River crossing will have impacts on downtown Fort Lauderdale, the City Commission approved Resolution 22-20 on January 5, 2022, which urged the Florida Department of Transportation to consider the tunnel as the future of commuter rail service in the City of Fort Lauderdale. In addition, the City of Fort Lauderdale and Broward County agreed to conduct a joint study for the rail infrastructure alternatives of the New River. On February 7, 2023, the City Commission approved an Interlocal Agreement with Broward County for the joint study.

On October 18, 2023, the City procured the services of BDO USA, LLP. to advance the tunnel consideration. Specifically, BDO USA, LLP. was tasked with defining the project, identifying federal funding opportunities, and developing an action plan for the project.

The associated scope will serve as the baseline for future funding opportunities but requires additional resources in order to meet federal funding minimum requirements.

At the November 21, 2023, City Commission Conference Meeting, the City Commission learned of the pending federal funding deadlines and determined that it is in the best interest of the City to waive the procurement rules to expedite the timeline and provide ample time for the City to develop funding applications prior to the funding deadlines.

Resource Impact

The fiscal impact associated with waiving the procurement rules is unknown at this time.

Strategic Connections

This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Internal Support Focus Area
- Goal 8: Build a leading government organization that manages all resources wisely and sustainably.
- Objective: Maintain financial integrity through sound budgeting practices, prudent fiscal management, cost effective operations, and long-term financial planning

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

Attachment

Exhibit 1 –Resolution

Prepared by: Ben Rogers, Director, Transportation and Mobility

Department Directors: Ben Rogers, Transportation and Mobility