



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

FROM: Lee Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: April 16, 2013

TITLE: Motion to approve Downtown Transit Circulator (Wave Streetcar) Project
Interlocal Partnership Agreement and amend the FY 2013 Community
Investment Plan (CIP) and Budget

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission approve the Interlocal Partnership Agreement (ILA) for the purposes of design, construction and operation of the Wave Streetcar project and amend the FY 2013 Community Investment Plan (CIP) and Budget by amending the appropriate accounts in the amount of \$1,100,000 to facilitate funding of the Downtown Transit Circulator (Wave Streetcar) Project.

Background

The Wave is a 2.7 mile electric streetcar system that will serve as a local circulator in Downtown Fort Lauderdale. The system will have 10 solar powered stations and will feature real time information, informational kiosks displaying destinations/attractions in the Downtown, as well as upcoming community events. There will be streetscape improvements around the stations including pedestrian crosswalks, shade trees, lighting, and improved sidewalks. A traffic signalization package is also part of the Wave project which will help maintain headways of 7.5 minutes during peak periods and 10 minutes during off peak periods. Total capital cost of the project is an estimated at \$142.6 million with \$2.5 million (with escalation) in estimated annual operating cost.

On April 1, 2008, under Resolution 08-71, the City Commission endorsed the Downtown Transit Circulator (Wave Streetcar) project (**Exhibit 1**). The City Commission recommended a preferred route, identified the City's funding level and endorsed the Special Assessment process for additional funding.

In order to move forward with the design, construction and operation of the project, the City must enter into an Interlocal Partnership Agreement (**Exhibit 2**) with the following project partners for implementation: Downtown Development Authority (DDA), South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA), Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Broward County (BC).

Since 2008, a Wave Project Management Team comprised of members of the partner agencies, including the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), has been meeting on a bi-weekly basis to work on the project. This team is led by the DDA with the SFRTA serving as the project implementers to design and construct the system. BCT will own and operate the system and the City, MPO and FDOT are capital contributors. Collectively the team has received approval of the Environmental Assessment/Alternatives Analysis (EA/AA) and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the project. Essentially, these Federal approvals give the project environmental clearance and authorization to proceed into design.

In June 2012 The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) awarded a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) IV grant in the amount of \$18,000,000 to SFRTA for the project. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has allocated State New Starts local matching funds up to 25% of the project capital cost.

The TIGER grant only funds 1.4 miles of the planned 2.7 mile system. Therefore, in August of 2012, SFRTA, on behalf of the partnership, submitted an application for \$49.69 million for the remainder of the Federal dollars through the Federal Small Starts program to FTA. Since that time the Federal Government passed the new MAP-21 legislation changing the application process and, therefore, the team needs to resubmit the Small Starts application under the new criteria. Please note that \$13.96 million of the \$20.59 million identified in the chart below will be assessed in the event only 1.4 miles of the project is constructed.

Wave Streetcar Project Finance Plan			
Funding Partner	Capital	Operating	Comments
City of Fort Lauderdale	\$10.50M		Cash/Land
Special Assessment	\$20.59M		Begin Nov. 2013 (*DRAC & SRAC)
FDOT	\$35.65M		Local Match
FTA	\$67.71M		TIGER & Small Starts Grants
Broward MPO	\$ 8.14M		
Broward County		\$2.5M/Ann.	
Total	\$142.59M		

*DRAC & SRAC refer to the City of Fort Lauderdale Downtown and South Regional Activity Centers

As part of the agreement, the City will provide staff support for the project as follows:

City staff will continue to be part of the Wave Project Management Team and will participate in recurring project meetings. Staff will serve on the Technical Advisory Group, which will serve as the technical expert for the City through delivery of the project.

City staff will work with the DDA on the establishment and approval of a local assessment process and will ultimately issue the approximately \$20.59 million debt needed.

City staff will assist the SFRTA by expediting City permit reviews and approvals and provide assistance as it relates to utilities and right-of-way issues, to the extent legally permitted. City staff will also coordinate project messaging with the partners to ensure a unified message and assist the DDA in outreach to the Downtown community through meetings and development and distribution of marketing materials.

A bi-lateral agreement will be entered into between the City, as a funding party, and the SFRTA, as the party responsible for design and construction of the system. This agreement will outline the procedure for cash and land transfer to the SFRTA. Additionally, SFRTA has written a letter (**Exhibit 3**) clarifying certain issues that pertain to the timing and amount of bonds to be issued by the City and when those funds are to be transferred to SFRTA.

Resource Impact

\$9.4 million in cash and/or land donation (pursuant to City Resolution 08-71) is due on June 30, 2014.

Approximately \$20.59 million in Special Assessment funds levied over a 25 year period in the Downtown and South Regional Activity Centers is due on 12/31/13 (**see Exhibit 3**). However only \$13.96 million of the \$20.59 million will be assessed in the event only 1.4 miles of the project is constructed.

There is a fiscal impact to the City in the amount of \$1,100,000 within three month of signing this agreement.

Appropriate From:

FUND	SUB FUND	FUND NAME	INDEX #	INDEX NAME	SUB OBJECT#	SUBOBJECT NAME	AMOUNT
332	01	Gas Tax	FD332	N/A	N/A	N/A	685,133.28
461	01	Parking System	FD461.01	Parking System - Operations	9922	Reserve for Replacement/Improvement	414,866.72
Total							1,100,000.00

Appropriate To:

FUND	SUB FUND	FUND NAME	INDEX #	INDEX NAME	SUB OBJECT#	SUBOBJECT NAME	AMOUNT
001	01	General Fund	TAM040101	Transportation Planning	4299	Other Contributions	1,100,000.00
Total							1,100,000.00

Related CAMs:

#12-2601 12-12-2012 O-B Walk-on Item 4-01-2008 resulting in Resolution 08-71

Attachments:

Exhibit 1 – Resolution 08-71

Exhibit 2 – Interlocal Partnership Agreement

Exhibit 3 – Letter from SFRTA

Prepared by: Renee Cross, Principal Transportation Planner

Department Director: Diana Alarcon, Transportation and Mobility