



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

**#13-0998**

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

**FROM:** Lee Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

**DATE:** August 20, 2013

**TITLE:** NW 7<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Connector Project Update II

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Staff is requesting direction from the City Commission as to the issuance of the attached draft Termination Letter (Exhibit 1) for the NW 7<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Connector project to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) by August 31, 2013.

City staff will coordinate with the MPO to create a complete street project and work toward having it funded through the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan.

On August 5, 2013, the Transportation and Mobility Department held a public meeting at Carter Park to provide an update on the NW 7<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Connector Project. Staff delivered the attached presentation (Exhibit 2), which included a brief history of the project, a current project status, and details regarding future transportation infrastructure improvements along these roadway corridors, including Complete Streets projects. A summary of the neighbor feedback (Exhibit 3) received at the August 5, 2013 public meeting is attached.

**Resource Impact**

The City received funds in the amount of \$720,036.49 from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to cover 60% of the engineering drawings to connect NW 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue to NW 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The environmental evaluation through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process determined that the remediation cost and total construction cost, including ROW acquisition, does not justify the advancement of the project. If the project is terminated the City may be required to repay the \$720,036.49 in preliminary engineering funds received to date; however, it is our understanding that FHWA has a longstanding practice of not mandating repayment of such funds when project termination is directly related to the compliance with another law, such as NEPA. Staff has requested that FDOT consider this FHWA practice in this

instance.

Related CAMs:

#13-0874 NW 7<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Connector Project Update  
#13-0200 3/5/13 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant Application and  
7/9<sup>th</sup> Connector Project Update

Attachments:

EX 1 Draft Letter to FDOT  
EX 2 August 5th Public Meeting PowerPoint Presentation  
EX 3 Neighbor Feedback- August 5, 2013 Public Meeting

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Department Director: Diana Alarcon, Transportation and Mobility