



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

FROM: Greg Chavarria, City Manager

DATE: September 19, 2023

TITLE: Resolution Supporting the Submission of a Grant Application to the Toyota Mobility Foundation to Participate in the Challenge for Innovation Solutions to Overcome Mobility Barriers within the City- **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission adopt a resolution supporting the submission of a grant application to the Toyota Mobility Foundation in the amount of \$3,000,000 for an opportunity to receive innovation funding to address local mobility issues and access capacity for underserved areas.

Background

The Toyota Mobility Foundation issued an open call to cities to apply for grant funding to overcome mobility barriers. The program application requests that cities provide transportation challenges and, if awarded, the Toyota Mobility Foundation will provide resources (innovators) to identify solutions and as well as funding for implementation. The grantor will review the applications and then shortlist ten applications for further consideration. The ten selected applications will be required to send two participants to Dallas, Texas to a workshop in November 2023, to further define the challenge and receive any necessary support and training. The reviewers will select the top three (3) applications for award. The selected three cities will receive a \$100,000 stipend to host the innovators, however the funding for implementation will not flow through the city.

The grant application deadline is September 18, 2023. The grant requires that applicants provide evidence that a senior decision maker is involved with the grant application but does not require a specific City Commission action. The grantor confirmed that a letter from the City Manager meets the grant requirements and that if the City wanted to provide a formal resolution of support that it could be submitted after the application deadline. The proposed action is being requested to strengthen the City's application package.

The City of Fort Lauderdale's application will focus on improving its transit network throughout the City to connect people with a safe, secure, and reliable level of transit

accessibility to get to places, jobs, and other opportunities. The LauderGO! Community Shuttle service provides transportation options for local neighborhoods and connects with regional Broward County Transit routes to provide access to jobs, social services, schools, and other advancement opportunities. There are currently areas within the City that have been identified as transportation access disadvantaged by the United States Department of Transportation. These areas are communities and places where residents spend more, and longer time, to access jobs, social services, goods, and other basic life needs. The residents must walk more than quarter mile to access the nearest transportation connection.

The City of Fort Lauderdale is requesting consideration from the Toyota Mobility Challenge to mitigate the challenges associated with areas not served by transit service, also known as “transit deserts”. These transit deserts have substantial impacts on mobility and quality of life given the South Florida climate of extreme temperatures and heavy rainfall.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Strategic Connections

This item is a *2022 Top Commission Priority*, advancing the Transportation and Traffic initiative.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024 Strategic Plan*, specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure Focus Area
- Goal 2: Build a multi-modal and pedestrian friendly community.
- Objective: Improve transportation options and reduce congestion by working with partners

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 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

Prepared by: Gail Jagessar, Grants and Special Projects Coordinator, Transportation and Mobility

Department Director: Ben Rogers, Transportation and Mobility