



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

#21-0837

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

FROM: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: January 5, 2022

TITLE: Resolution Accepting the LauderTrail Master Plan - **(Commission
Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission accept the LauderTrail Master Plan.

Background

In May 2018, the City Commission requested that a Working Group be established to lead the idea of a pedestrian/bicycle trail. The LauderTrail Working Group was established for a two-year period beginning August 1, 2018 and charged with advancing the concept of creating a citywide trail system. The Working Group met regularly and completed many of the initial objectives including the creation of a mission and vision statements, identifying key destinations, as well as a preferred route connection. The Working Group sunset on August 1, 2020, but the project remained a high Commission priority.

After receiving approval from the Parks, Recreation, and Beaches Board, the City Commission approved a resolution (CAM 21-0015) which allocated \$5,000,000 from the Parks Bond for the LauderTrail initiative. A related Commission Agenda Memo for a budget amendment to transfer the funds was also completed on January 5, 2021 (CAM 21-0044).

In March 2021, the City of Fort Lauderdale selected the PATH Foundation, a non-profit organization that specializes in trail planning, design and implementation, to lead the development of the LauderTrail Master Plan. The Master Plan public involvement consisted of an advisory panel consisting of local stakeholders, multiple virtual public meetings led by Vice Mayor Moraitis and Commissioner Sorensen, coordination with local, regional, and state government agencies, and discussions with local developers.

The PATH Foundation completed the Master Plan which memorializes the existing conditions of Fort Lauderdale's multi-modal network and has identified proposed routes and implementation recommendations to create a city-wide trail system. The Master Plan includes the proposed route, branding, cost estimates, conceptual design elements, best practices, and recommendations for funding and implementing a successful trail system.

On August 23, 2021, the City conducted a public meeting and shared the initial Master Plan findings with 150 attendees. The public meeting included a dialogue segment for neighbors to receive answers to their questions, as well as comment cards for attendees to provide feedback on the trail.

On October 5, 2021, City Staff and the PATH Foundation provided an update at the Commission Conference meeting. The master plan draft was shared with the Commission in November by way of Commission Memorandum 21-108.

The Master Plan identifies a cost estimate of over \$90,000,000 for the entire trail system for design and construction. The cost estimates are based on material and labor pricing and does not include costs associated with property acquisition or easements. The PATH Foundation, through their experience with other trails, noted that there is a need to create a not-for-profit “Friends Group” to assist with fundraising efforts with private donations, philanthropic contributions, and other funding sources.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact to associated with this action.

Strategic Connections

This item is a *2021 Top Commission Priority*, advancing the Infrastructure initiative.

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

- The Infrastructure Focus Area
- Goal 2: Being a multi-modal and pedestrian friendly community.
- Objective: Improve transportation options and reduce congestion by working with partners
- Objective: Improve roads, sidewalks, and trails to prioritize a safer, more walkable and bikeable community

This Item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035* Vision Plan: We are connected.

This item supports the *Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040* Comprehensive Plan specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure Focus Area
- The Transportation & Mobility Element
- Goal 1: Ensure the equitable development of a Complete Network for transportation that prioritizes Safety and emphasizes multimodal mobility and accessibility.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – LauderTrail Master Plan

Exhibit 2 – Resolution

Prepared by: Kristin Thompson, Program Manager, Transportation and Mobility

Department Director: Ben Rogers, Transportation and Mobility