



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

#23-0174

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

FROM: Greg Chavarria, City Manager

DATE: February 21, 2023

TITLE: Resolution Supporting the Submission of a Grant Application to the United States Department of Transportation for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program to Construct the Western and the Colee Hammock portion of the Eastern Corridor of the Las Olas Boulevard Mobility Project - **(Commission District 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission approve a resolution supporting the submission of a grant application to the United States Department of Transportation for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program in the amount of \$38,500,000 to construct the western and the Colee Hammock portion of the eastern corridor of the Las Olas Boulevard Mobility Project.

Background

At the June 15, 2021, meeting, the City Commission accepted the Las Olas Boulevard Vision Plan – Western Corridor (Commission Agenda Memo 21-0627, Resolution No. 21-120) and Eastern Corridor (Commission Agenda Memo 21-0617, Resolution No. 21-119).

On June 21, 2022, the City Commission provided direction to advance the project from conceptual plans to design for the Downtown, Shoppes, and Colee Hammock character areas. The City issued solicitation RFQ 12739-1031 on January 17, 2023, for design services for the western corridor of Las Olas Boulevard from South Andrews Avenue to Southeast 12th Avenue, as well as a portion of the eastern corridor from Southeast 12th Avenue to Southeast 17th Avenue. The estimated design cost of the project is approximately \$3,000,000 which was allocated in the FY23 budget.

The City is pursuing grant funding to assist with the construction of the western corridor of the project, which was estimated in 2021 to be approximately \$25,000,000 and the Colee Hammock portion of the eastern corridor, which was estimated in 2021 to be approximately \$13,500,000 (not including the bridges). The total estimated cost of \$38,500,000 does not include any cost escalation over the last few years. The grant

requires a 20% match in the amount of \$7,700,000. Given the existing Capital Investment Plan funding allocations of \$7,000,000 and after deducting the design cost, an additional \$4,000,000 will need to be identified for the local match.

The FY 2023 Appropriations Act added \$800,000,000 in funding to the RAISE 2023 competition (on top of the existing \$1.5 billion). While the maximum award under the \$1.5 billion funding is \$25,000,000, the FY 2023 Appropriations Act allows for maximum grant awards of \$45,000,000. The City's submission will include the western corridor and the Colee Hammock portion of the eastern corridor for consideration as part of the FY23 Appropriations Act. Should it not be awarded, the western corridor will then be competing for RAISE 2023 funding up to \$25,000,000 which would not include the Colee Hammock portion. This approach will give the United States Department of Transportation more flexibility when evaluating applications and making awards.

The grant application period is open through February 28, 2023. The City procured the services of Bell Tower Consulting Group to perform grant writing services. The application is still being developed and should be ready for submission on or before the February 28, 2023, deadline. The grant's period of performance will be from the date of the award to September 30, 2032. If awarded, the funds must be obligated by September 30, 2027, and spent by September 30, 2032. This is a reimbursable grant.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action, however, if the grant is awarded, there will be a fiscal impact of \$7,700,000 for the required 20% match.

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 roads, sidewalks, and trails to prioritize a safer, more walkable and bikeable community

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 Neighborhood Enhancement Focus Area
- The Urban Design Element
- Goal 4: Enhance the existing built environment and elements unique to Fort Lauderdale, including waterways, bridges, tunnels and other traversable features

Attachments

Exhibit 1 - Las Olas Boulevard Vision Plan – Western Corridor

Exhibit 2 - Las Olas Boulevard Vision Plan – Eastern Corridor

Exhibit 3 - Resolution

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

Department Director: Ben Rogers, Transportation and Mobility