



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
CONFERENCE MEETING

#13-0546

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

FROM: Lee Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: May 21, 2013

TITLE: Downtown Fort Lauderdale Walkability Study

The Transportation and Mobility Department was created to focus on both regional and citywide transportation planning, traffic engineering and policy coordination. This focused and dedicated approach to multimodal transportation options are clearly in-line with the community's wishes expressed during the recent Visioning process.

Fort Lauderdale's 2035 Vision process generated 376 ideas related to developing a fully connected multimodal city, by far the community's number one priority. There was a strong call for better connections to parks and open spaces, investing in other modes of transportation, and simply making the City **safe and walkable**.

At the February 5, 2013 City Commission conference meeting, Mr. Jeff Speck presented his recommendations for **"Universal Actions"** and **"Just Do It"** from the Downtown Fort Lauderdale Walkability Study. These recommendations of short, mid and long range improvements will help in increasing walkability in Downtown. Mr. Speck believed focus should be placed on areas where a limited investment can have the most impact.

Staff has been working on Mr. Speck's recommendations and has outlined the progress and successes. The **"Universal Actions"** included:

1. Optimize Downtown Meter Rates – We have partnered with Streetline for a pilot study of sensors in the ground that are tied to the meters. These sensors send information to the back office software that informs both the Parking Enforcement Specialist of violations; and the Customer the availability of the parking spaces. This information also provides us with utilization of the meters so we can optimize the rate structure. We have also begun a new pilot program in our Orchid lot which is located on the north side of City Hall. These meters are solar powered, accept credit cards as well as coins, and provide us with utilization

information. This information is extremely valuable as we transition our city to support a mass transportation system.

2. Commitment to Shade Trees – We are in agreement and working closely with our partnering agencies and City departments. The Complete Street guideline that was adopted by the Broward MPO outlines this through the streetscape designs. Dollars are scheduled in the Five (5) year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for streetscape improvements to Broward Boulevard, Andrews Avenue and NE/SE 3rd Avenue.
3. Prohibit Street Abandonments – This was agreed by Commission last summer. Special circumstances would be viewed on an individual case.
4. Insist on 10' to 8' Maximums on Street Designs – We are in complete agreement with this recommendation. The Complete Street Guideline also recommends the 10' width to create traffic calming. We have been working closely with FDOT to have A1A redesigned with 10' traffic lanes.
5. Rationalize Transit Diagram – We are working closely with our Regional partners on the transit network. The Wave is the first segment of a regional streetcar network.
6. Put Bikes Wherever They Fit – We agree; working with the Parks & Recreation Department, we have planned for 23 bike racks to be strategically placed on the barrier island. As we receive the manufactured racks, they are being installed. We are now focusing our efforts to the Downtown core and shopping districts. It is our goal to have bike racks available throughout the City by the end of this year. This summer we will bring back to the Commission the recommendation and strategic plan for bicycle facilities for the City that will give our cyclists a path on our roads.

A “**Just Do It**” list has been divided into low, medium and high projects. The low being projects we have already completed, or are in process, to high projects having obstacles. We have outlined each project as well as the progress and estimated dollars to accomplish the improvements. This is provided in Exhibit 1. This study also assisted staff in prioritizing projects as part of the Multimodal Connectivity Map project to be presented to City Commission this summer.

The implementation of these short term projects is one of the beginning steps in improving public safety and moving our pedestrians more seamlessly and easily through a safe transportation system where the pedestrian is first.

Resource Impact:

There is no resource impact at this time.

Related CAM:

13-0164, 2-05-13 Conference Presentation

5-21-2013

#13-0546

Attachments:

EX 1 "Just Do It" Project List

EX 2 Downtown Fort Lauderdale Walkability Study Final Report

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