



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
CONFERENCE MEETING

#15-0006

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

FROM: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: January 6, 2015

TITLE: Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Application

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide Commission with an overview of the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant opportunities including endorsement of projects to submit funding consideration.

The annual Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant round for 2015 will be released very soon. TAP funding can be used for construction of pedestrian and bicycle facilities; infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility; community improvement activities and environmental mitigation; recreational trail program projects; safe routes to school projects. This year's grant deadline has not yet been released but notification has been given that the deadline may be accelerated from typically March to as early as early February.

The minimum TAP project application amount is \$250,000 with a maximum of \$1 million. Projects and programs awarded/programmed for this cycle will be funded in FY 2018/19 for construction. Due to this limited overall funding availability, the program is extremely competitive. Applications will be ranked based on scoring criteria which has included in the past such things as providing safe routes for non-drivers, high benefit of the project relative to the size of the community, promoting safety and security, documented project support, supporting a high density land use, and benefiting underserved populations. It is anticipated that these criteria will have minimal changes. The full explanation of the criteria from last year's grant cycle is included in Exhibit 1 for reference.

The City is permitted to submit two applications to the MPO, with only one being eligible for funding if both are ranked high enough and meet FDOT eligibility criteria. Staff has proposed two potential projects for Commission review, with the first being the second project that was ranked but not funded last cycle. The selected projects are listed as existing projects in the Connecting the Blocks Program and meet our objectives of advancing the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale* vision and advancing the Complete Streets Policy.

The following four projects are submitted for your review:

- Bayview Drive (Sunrise Boulevard to Commercial Boulevard) - for bike and pedestrian enhancements as seen in Exhibit 2. (\$1 million request)
- Cordova Road (SE 17th Street to SE 15th Street) – complete streets improvements including traffic calming, pedestrian enhancements and bicycle facilities as seen in Exhibit 3. (\$1 million request)

Staff recommends that these projects move forward for submittal to the MPO for the TAP Grant Program based on the ranking of the projects in the Connecting the Blocks Program, the ability to meet the TAP scoring criteria by providing a safe route for non-motorized means such as pedestrians and bicycles to promote alternative transportation options for our neighbors and visitors.

A City Commission resolution of support is required and will be presented at the January 21, 2015 Commission Meeting.

Resource Impact:

There is no resource impact with this item until FY19 when the project funding will be awarded to cover non-eligible costs. Non-eligible costs include contingency, maintenance of traffic, and mobilization during construction.

Strategic Connections

This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018 Initiative*, included within the **Infrastructure Cylinder of Excellence**, specifically advancing:

Goal 1: Be a pedestrian friendly, multi-modal City.

Objective 1: Improve transportation options and reduce congestion by working with agency partners.

Objective 2: Integrate transportation land use and planning to create a walkable and bikeable community.

Initiative 4: Develop bike amenities.

Initiative 6: Develop and implement the Connectivity Master Plan to improve accessibility.

Objective 3: Improve pedestrian, bicyclist, and vehicular safety.

Initiative 1: Implement traffic calming mechanisms to increase safety through environmental design.

Attachments:

Exhibit 1 TAP 2014 Ranking Criteria

Exhibit 2 Bayview Drive Draft Scope of Work

Exhibit 3 Cordova Road Draft Scope of Work

Prepared by: Karen Mendrala, Principal Planner

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