



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
CRA BOARD MEETING

#15-0517

TO: CRA Chairman & Board of Directors
Fort Lauderdale Community Redevelopment Agency

FROM: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, Executive Director

DATE: May 5, 2015

TITLE: Broward Redevelopment Program Application

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Community Redevelopment Agency Board of Directors adopt a resolution authorizing submission of an application to the Broward Redevelopment Program (BRP) for street enhancements on NE 5th Terrace from NE 13th Street to Sunrise Boulevard, declaring the project as a beneficial use of public dollars, supporting economic development opportunities, and positively impacting the community.

Background

On March 17, 2015, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners approved a second round of funding for the BRP. The announcement provides a funding opportunity for local governments and Community Redevelopment Agencies to obtain funding through the BRP. The goal of the BRP is to provide funding for eligible projects in defined redevelopment areas with demonstrated blighting conditions, higher unemployment rates, and lower property value growth than those of the municipality as a whole.

The first round of funding for the BRP occurred in 2013 and the City of Fort Lauderdale/Fort Lauderdale Community Redevelopment Agency was awarded a grant in the amount of \$1.5 million to fund the NE 13th Street Complete Street Project in the Central City Community Redevelopment Area. The second round of funding includes a total of \$5 million for cities in Broward County.

An eligible application can include projects involving property acquisition, public improvements, and interior build-out for economic development. The maximum funding for a municipality for this performance based reimbursement grant is \$1 million. The BRP requires a resolution by the municipality and CRA declaring the application and project as a beneficial use of public dollars, supporting economic development opportunities, and positively impacting the community. Applications are due on May 13, 2015. A project selected for funding must be completed within three years of an executed inter-local agreement with Broward County.

On behalf of the Fort Lauderdale Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), staff will

submit an application to the BRP requesting funding for street enhancements on NE 5th Terrace from NE 13th Street to Sunrise Boulevard. The identified improvements support the redevelopment vision for the area and provide a firm foundation for recommended zoning amendments approved by the Central City Redevelopment Advisory Board. Upon completion, the identified improvements will encourage pedestrian and bicycle activity and make it easier to visit area businesses or travel through the area by foot or on a bicycle. The project is expected to improve safety, lower transportation costs, promote economic development, increase property values, foster a green environment and encourage a healthier community by encouraging walking and biking.

The Central City Redevelopment Board passed a motion at the April 1, 2015 meeting requesting city staff submit an application to the BRP funding a complete streets project on NE 4th Avenue. However, staff decided not to pursue this option since a street enhancement project is already scheduled on NE 4th Ave. The project is programmed in the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) work program through the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization's Mobility Plan. The proposed project will add pedestrian improvements and bicycle lanes from Sunrise Blvd to NE 20th Street. FDOT will solicit a design concept in July of 2015 and \$3.8 million is programmed for construction in 2018. No local match is required because the roadway is a state road. The Central City Redevelopment Board has been notified of the change in projects for this grant application.

Since NE 4th Ave is already programed for enhancements, staff reevaluated options and determined a street enhancement project on NE 5th Terrace helped tie together existing and programmed infrastructure enhancements on Old Dixie Hwy and NE 13th Street. The total project cost is estimated at \$1.1 million including engineering, design, and construction. The joint application for funding by the City of Fort Lauderdale and the Fort Lauderdale CRA is for the maximum funding amount awarded to a redevelopment program.

The granting program requires a non-county match, which may include monetary or an in-kind match, but no specific amount is identified in the BRP program information. However, the application indicates a score of zero will be received in the "Contribution from non-County Sources" criteria if there is a minimal non-County contribution. Since the Central City CRA does not receive County tax increment funds it is eligible for participation in the BRP. However, the Central City CRA does not have a sufficient revenue stream to support a local match. Staff recommends a local funding match for the BRP application in the amount of \$100,000 from the general fund.

A resolution authorizing submittal of an application for funding through the BRP Program will be considered by the City Commission on May 5, 2015.

Resource Impact

The City will provide a \$100,000 match from the General Fund.

ACCOUNT NUMBER	INDEX NAME (Program)	OBJECT CODE/ SUB-OBJECT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Object Code)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Object Code)	PURCHASE AMOUNT
FD001-9129	General Fund Grant Match		\$100,000	\$1,000,000	\$100,000
			PURCHASE TOTAL ►		\$100,000

Strategic Connections:

This project helps implement the Central City Community Redevelopment Plan. This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018* initiative, included in the Infrastructure cylinder of Excellence, specifically advancing:

- Goal 1: Be a pedestrian friendly multi-modal City.
 - Objective 2: Integrate transportation land use and planning to create a walkable and bikeable community
 - Strategic Initiative 4: Develop bike amenities
 - Strategic Initiative 6: Develop and implement The Connectivity Master Plan to improve accessibility.
 - Strategic Initiative 8: Complete Streets
 - Objective 3: Improve pedestrian, bicyclist and vehicular safety.
 - Strategic Initiative 1: Improve traffic calming mechanisms to increase safety through environmental design.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are Connected*.

Related CAM: 15-0518

Attachments:

Exhibit 1 – BRP Program Application (Draft)

Exhibit 2 – Map of Project Area

Exhibit 3 – Conceptual Design for NE 5th Terrace Street Enhancement Project

Exhibit 4 – Resolution

Prepared by: Bob Wojcik, AICP

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