



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
CONFERENCE MEETING

#18-0894

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

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

DATE: September 4, 2018

TITLE: Discussion on the NE 4th Avenue Lane Elimination

The NE 4th Avenue project is located along State Road 811/NE 4th Avenue between Sunrise Boulevard and NE 26th Street, within Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) right of way. In 2009, Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (BMPO) adopted their Mobility Program to include infrastructure projects to improve transit and access to transit routes. This project was specifically identified for investment in bicycle infrastructure improvements to connect people between Fort Lauderdale and Wilton Manors to improve transit mobility. Through this adoption of the program by the BMPO Board in 2009, this project and the entire BMPO Mobility Program was prioritized and funded within the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. After adoption, engineering design was programmed within the FDOT Work Program in 2016 and construction for 2018.

In order to incorporate bike lanes into this corridor to meet the funding requirements, staff partnered with FDOT to evaluate options of removal of the large oak trees verses the removal of the outside vehicular lane to accommodate the design. Multiple public meetings were held to understand our neighbor's willingness to support this project and its alternatives. Neighbors did not want to remove any trees along this corridor, but requested FDOT to support the traffic study to evaluate the removal of vehicular lanes. The City then initiated the traffic study to complete the FDOT Lane Elimination Program which requires a multitude of elements to be considered before review and approval is completed by FDOT's Central Office in Tallahassee. City staff worked closely with FDOT to provide thorough analysis of the existing and future year traffic analysis (2015 and 2035 respectively). Public outreach included three meetings in Wilton Manors, eight meetings in Fort Lauderdale, three MPO meetings, one joint public project workshop with over 100 neighbors, two Commission meetings in Wilton Manors and two Commission meetings in Fort Lauderdale. Each public outreach opportunity had neighbors on both sides, in favor and against the lane elimination, but the majority of the voices were in favor of moving the project forward to include the lane repurposing. The construction project limits are between Sunrise Boulevard and NE 26th Street. The lane repurposing limits are between NE 11th Street and NE 26th Street.

In 2016, both Wilton Manors and Fort Lauderdale City Commissions provided the required resolutions to FDOT to proceed with design of the corridor to include the repurposing of the outside vehicular lanes to bike lanes while preserving the tree canopy along NE 4th Avenue. FDOT provided the approval letter in February 2017 for the lane repurposing to proceed.

The 15-month design process led by FDOT staff was modified to incorporate design changes to address traffic concerns at key areas, such as:

1. No lane repurposing will take place between Sunrise Boulevard and NE 11th Street. Bike lanes will be provided in this area by the future developer.
2. New Northbound Right-Turn Lane onto NE 13th Street.
3. Extended Northbound Left-Turn Lane onto NE 13th Street.
4. New Northbound Right-Turn Lane at NE 16th Street.
5. New dedicated drop-off/pick-up lane adjacent to Fort Lauderdale High School.

The design was completed in early 2018. The scope includes the repaving of NE 4th Avenue to include restriping with buffered bike lanes, minor widening to accommodate new right turn lanes, and new LED roadway lighting. The construction contract was bid by FDOT on June 18, 2018 and awarded to Roadway Construction, LLC. Construction started on August 13, 2018 starting at the south limit with roadway widening for capacity improvements. Construction improvements in front of Fort Lauderdale High School will be coordinated with the school, to take place during school breaks. Currently, the construction is estimated to take approximately one-year to complete the Fort Lauderdale section of this project.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – NE 4th Avenue Improvement Project Presentation

Exhibit 2 – City Commission Meeting Minutes from 10/18/2016 (Item R-7)

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