



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

#18-1122

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

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

DATE: October 23, 2018

TITLE: Motion to Approve a Gopher Tortoise Donor Agreement with Wiregrass Ecological Associates, LLC to Relocate Gopher Tortoises Associated with the West Perimeter Loop Road Project at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission authorize the City Manager to enter into a Gopher Tortoise Donor Agreement with Wiregrass Ecological Associates, LLC to relocate gopher tortoises associated with the West Perimeter Loop Road Project at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport.

Background

Currently, vehicles and aircraft on the west side of the Airport have to cross Runway 9 in order to relocate aircraft/equipment to the areas north of the runway. These crossings affect the tower operations, airfield traffic, and increase the possibility of runway incursions. An asphalt perimeter road will be constructed along the western end of Runway 9 to minimize these crossings and to enhance the safety of Airport operations (Exhibit 1).

Part of the process of constructing the loop road involves the relocation of gopher tortoises from the work area to a recipient donor site located in the Florida panhandle prior to any work beginning. The relocation effort and associated cost will be performed by the Airport's engineering consultant, HDR Engineering, Inc. as part of the Task Order #2 for construction administration and inspection. HDR will transport the tortoises to the donor site and prepare the appropriate documentation to submit to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

The Agreement is between the recipient donor site and the City to allow for the relocation of the gopher tortoises (Exhibit 2).

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Strategic Connections

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

- Goal 7: Be a well-positioned City within the global economic and tourism markets of the South Florida region, leveraging our airports, port, and rail connections.
- Objective 4: Deliver best-in-class regional general aviation airport amenities and services to domestic and international.
- Initiative 1: Examine the highest and best use of airport property to stimulate economic development and create jobs.

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

Attachments

Exhibit 1 - Gopher Tortoise Survey of Project Site

Exhibit 2 - Gopher Tortoise Donor Agreement

Prepared by: Rufus A. James, Transportation and Mobility

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