



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
CONFERENCE MEETING

#19-1223

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

FROM: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: December 17, 2019

TITLE: Tunnel Top Park Update - **(Commission District 4)**

Following public engagement for Tunnel Top Plaza in April 2019, City and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) officials met to discuss the opportunity to extend the plaza from the 60-foot design to a requested 130-foot design. FDOT leadership supported this request which initiated a new structural analysis to be completed by their consultant, Gannett Fleming. The structural analysis was completed in early November 2019.

The engineering team met with State Historic Preservation Office staff to present the project and gain initial feedback in late October. A public meeting and business owners meeting were held in the City of Fort Lauderdale on Monday, November 25, 2019 at the Historic Stranahan House to present the larger plaza concept and gather feedback on the proposed aesthetics for the larger plaza and what opportunities exist to connect the Tunnel Top Plaza to the New River and Laura Ward Plaza. Staff also presented the revised concept to the City's Historic Preservation Board on December 2, 2019 at the Historic Stranahan House to present the larger plaza concept and gather feedback on the proposed aesthetics for the larger plaza and what opportunities exist to connect Tunnel Top Plaza to the New River and Laura Ward Plaza. The three meetings with neighbors received overwhelming support for the overall larger concept of the extension, and the larger concept to connect Laura Ward Plaza. The public concerns centered around increasing overall shade through use of larger shade trees and an improved shade structure, better access and visual design elements connecting the public to the Stranahan House, and interest in future public artwork within the Plaza.

This presentation has been revised to incorporate public comment from three recent meetings. The design team will present the findings of the structural analysis to evaluate the 130-foot extension, provide a summary of the findings from the public engagement workshops, and provide an overview of the revised plaza concept and estimated costs. FDOT is moving into final engineering design in January 2020, therefore Commission direction is requested for final comments on the Plaza design concept and acceptance of the estimated construction cost. When presented in 2018, the original 60-foot tunnel extension was estimated at approximately \$3.7M. The expanded scope to implement a

117-foot extension, remodeling of the entire Laura Ward Plaza, remodeling of the ventilation tower, and tunnel upgrades needed to support the longer tunnel are estimated at \$12-\$15M.

Attachment

Exhibit 1- Tunnel Top Park Presentation

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