



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#26-0225

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

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: March 3, 2026

TITLE: Resolution Delegating the City Manager the Authority to Submit a Grant Application to the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) for a Grant of up to \$2,967,364 for the Replacement and Construction of the Riverwalk North Seawall – **(Commission District 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application for grant funding in the amount of \$2,967,364 to the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND). This grant requires a City funding match of 50%, which is funded through the adopted 2026 – 2030 Community Investment Plan (P11722- Riverwalk Seawall Partial Restoration Northside).

Background

The Riverwalk North seawall and attached concrete catwalk have been determined to be structurally deficient due to advanced concrete deterioration, per the Florida Department of Transportation Bridge Management Inventory System. Significant spalling has occurred beneath the catwalk, resulting in exposed reinforcing steel (rebar). The loss of adequate concrete cover has compromised corrosion protection, leading to reinforcement rust, expansion, and additional cracking and spalling of the structure. If left unaddressed, these conditions could lead to progressive structural failure of the catwalk, creating a potential public safety hazard.

As such, the City has programmed a project for the replacement of approximately 510 linear feet of seawall along the New River, located between Andrews Avenue and the Florida East Coast Railway (FEC) corridor. The improvements include the construction of a new floating dock and fixed dock with steel access ramps to support commercial and recreational uses, including water taxi operations. Additional project elements include a living seawall installation to promote environmental resilience and habitat enhancement along the riverfront.

On December 5, 2023, the City Commission approved a Consultant Services Agreement (CSA No. 12716-626) with HBC Engineering Co. in the amount of \$682,534.41 for

professional engineering services associated with the project (CAM #23-0852). The approved scope includes:

- Design of a new seawall landward of the existing structure; Removal of existing piles, pile-supported walkway, and seawall;
- Replacement of the seawall cap top slab beneath the South Andrews Avenue Bridge;
- Installation of a floating dock;
- Upgrades to dock utilities;
- New electrical and water service connections;
- Installation of shore power pedestals; and
- New water and salt resistant pier lighting.

Upon completion, the seawall cap will be constructed at a 5.0-foot North American Vertical Datum (NAVD) elevation in compliance with City of Fort Lauderdale Ordinance No. C-16-13, which incorporates sea level rise criteria.

A Notice to Proceed was issued on April 9, 2024, establishing December 5, 2024, as the original final completion date. Subsequent delays were encountered due to Florida Power & Light (FPL) requirements and stakeholder-requested scope modifications.

- Change Order No. 1 (August 29, 2024) – corrected a conflict between the agreement and Task Order No. 1
- Change Order No. 2 (November 13, 2024) - added thirty (30) calendar days;
- Change Order No. 3 (January 2, 2025) - added forty-five (45) calendar days; and
- Change Order No. 4 (March 10, 2025) - added 120 calendar days to accommodate the addition of a pump-out station as requested by the Marine Facilities Division with the Parks and Recreation Department. This element of the project was subsequently removed.

Due to the cumulative impact of stakeholder-requested modifications and additional permitting and coordination requirements, a retroactive agreement was requested to extend the final completion date from June 18, 2025, to February 23, 2026, representing an additional 250 calendar days. This extension was necessary to complete the scope modifications, including:

- Relocation of the floating dock to the west end of the project area;
- Raising all pedestrian areas and the 911 Monument to match the new seawall elevation;
- Revisions to permit applications and supporting documentation;
- Updates to benthic reports;
- Completion of a supplemental topographic survey and utility test holes; and
- Incorporation of an approximately 120-linear-foot living seawall segment behind the floating dock.

To offset total project costs, the City pursued available grant funding opportunities. FIND administers the Waterway Assistance Program (WAP) and provides funding assistance to local governments within the district to provide public access to the district's waterways. The City Commission approved applying for this grant on March 18, 2025 (CAM #25-0345).

In October 2025, the City received notification of a FIND grant award in an amount of up to \$1,032,636, which requires a fifty percent (50%) local match. The City initially applied for \$4,000,000 in grant funding; however, the awarded amount was reduced due to the absence of all required environmental permits by the deadline. The awarded FIND funds will be used for a portion of the upland construction phase, including construction of the elevated paver brick walkway, installation of hand railings, and associated landscaping improvements.

Subsequently, City staff has obtained two (2) of the three (3) required permits and anticipate receiving the last permit in the next sixty (60) days. The Broward County Environmental Resource License was approved on October 3, 2025. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection permit was approved on December 23, 2025. The United States Army Corps of Engineers permit is pending. City staff continue to advance the project while coordinating with regulatory agencies to obtain the remaining permit.

Upon receipt of all required permits, the project will proceed to construction bidding. To address the remaining funding gap, the City is reapplying for WAP funding in the amount of \$2,967,364 during the 2026 application cycle pending City Commission approval of this item. The grant application is due by March 30, 2026, with submission of all remaining permits required by September 21, 2026.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with submitting the grant application. If awarded, the grant agreement will be brought back to the City Commission for execution and appropriation.

Strategic Connections

This item is a *2026 Commission Priority*, advancing the Public Enjoyment of Waterways initiative.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029 Strategic Plan*, specifically advancing:

- Infrastructure and Resilience
- Goal 3: Be a Sustainable and Resilient Community
- Objective: Proactively maintain our water, wastewater, stormwater, road, and bridge infrastructure

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

This item supports the Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan specifically advancing:

- The Neighborhood Enhancement Focus Area
- The Urban Design Area
- Goal 4: Enhance the existing built environment and elements unique to Fort Lauderdale, including waterways, bridges, tunnels and other traversable features.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Grant Pre-application Form

Exhibit 2 – Grant Application Form

Exhibit 3 – Resolution

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