

MEMORANDUM

July 12, 2018

TO: City Commission

THRU: Greg Harrison, City Manager
Brian Donovan, Assistant City Manager

FROM: Horacio Danovich, CIP Manager



Issue

Staff is seeking City Commission approval of a Conceptual Plan prepared by EDSA, Inc. ("EDSA") with assistance of other professionals for proposed improvements to the intersection of Atlantic Boulevard and Dixie Highway. Staff is also seeking authorization from the City Commission to proceed with procurement of a qualified professional to start final design of said improvements.

Recommendation

Staff recommends Approval.

Background

EDSA prepared a presentation (see Exhibit "A"). The presentation is geared to educate the public about alternatives, predictions, opportunities, pitfalls, etc. EDSA will conduct the presentation and address questions. At the end of the presentation and discussion, staff will be seeking City Commission approval and acceptance of the plans prepared by EDSA for improvements to the intersection of Atlantic Boulevard and Dixie Highway.

EDSA was retained to evaluate the intersection and to prepare a set of conceptual plans that would allow the City to visualize viable alternatives to improve pedestrian connectivity and accessibility to Downtown Pompano and create an inviting environment that would entice private investment and redevelopment.

EDSA was required to collect data and conduct a traffic analysis. Although preliminary in nature, EDSA's analysis used existing right-of-way information, available utilities and survey data, aerial photos, etc. In addition, EDSA was required to attend and make

presentations to the public. Presentations were made in October 2017 (E. Pat Larkins Center), April 2018 (Cultural Center), June 2018 (EDC, Commission Chambers Conference Room), and July 2018 (NWCRA Advisory Committee, special workshop). Each presentation was duly advertised. The goal of said presentations was to engage the public and merchants and gather input. The idea was to learn about their concerns, and understand what they can live with and what they can't live without.

Considering the unknowns and understanding the plans are conceptual (not final), staff gathered the following issues, which the public at large seemed most concerned about:

- 1) Traffic congestion.
- 2) Added delays to and from possible destinations.
- 3) Product quality (i.e., subpar trees and landscape selection).
- 4) What lane(s) elimination would do to designated evacuation routes.
- 5) Possible removal and/or relocation of turn lanes, particularly existing ones that service active businesses.
- 6) Impact(s) to residential areas caused by cut-through traffic.
- 7) Turning radiuses and other constraints to buses, trucks, and emergency vehicles.
- 8) Added truck traffic on MLK Boulevard seeking to avoid Atlantic Boulevard's congested traffic.
- 9) Future maintenance of proposed improvements.
- 10) Lack of connectivity for bicycle lanes once the new ones are installed.

The above list isn't comprehensive as EDSA's team has identified other constraints (i.e., impacts to FEC right-of-way, inability to control decisions made by other permitting agencies, Brightline fast train service and future passenger rail frequency impacting traffic even more, recent train accidents, etc.).

Notwithstanding, EDSA and staff believe the vision can become a reality. The ultimate price is making Downtown a true and desirable destination. To that end, EDSA's presentation will allow the City Commission to see first hand what the future may hold. Items that Commission should be aware of include staff and design team's inability to promise an outcome. For example, members of the public asked staff to promise that certain turn lane(s) or median access and U-turns will not be removed. Unfortunately, existing conditions were constructed under a different, outdated set of rules and standards. Newer regulations and revised codes, updated safety standards and so forth, coupled with adopted guidelines by other regulating bodies, make it virtually impossible for staff and the design team to guarantee approvals. Nevertheless, EDSA and the team acknowledged those conditions and included them on the plans. Once final design efforts are pursued, staff will work with other government agencies and seek support for our vision.

In the meantime, it is staff's desire and recommendation to use the renderings as backup material in the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant (BUILD) grant application. If approved, the grant could

result in as much as \$13 million in funds to construct improvements on Atlantic Boulevard from NW 6th Avenue to Cypress Road and Dixie Highway from McNab Road to Sample Road.

As stated above, staff recommends approval.