



LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

LTC No: 26-034

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission
FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*
DATE: February 5, 2026
SUBJECT: **Fiscal Year 2026 Congressional Directed Funding for City Priorities**

The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to provide the City Commission with an update regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations bill, a \$1.2 trillion minibus signed by President Donald Trump, which includes congressionally-directed funding for two (2) key City priorities. Through the Community Project Funding process, federal earmarks have been awarded for both the Las Olas Corridor Improvements and the Fort Lauderdale Public Safety Training and Professional Development Complex.

Background

The federal Community Project Funding (CPF) process is how cities, counties, nonprofits, and other local entities ask their members of Congress to request one-time, targeted federal dollars (earmarks) for specific local projects. Local sponsors submit project proposals to their U.S. Representative or Senator, showing a clear public benefit, a federal funding “match” to an existing program, community support, a realistic budget, and the ability to complete the project.

The submission process opens in early March and April of each year. Each member of Congress can submit only a limited number of requests – typically up to fifteen (15) per year – to the House or Senate Appropriations Committees. The Appropriations Committees then decide which projects to fund and at what level, and any selected projects are written into the annual federal spending bills that must pass both chambers of Congress and be signed by the President before the funds can be awarded.

Las Olas Corridor Improvement Project

Sponsored by Congressman Jared Moskowitz (D-23), the Las Olas Corridor Improvement project has been funded at \$1.2 million. This investment will support Phase I of the Las Olas Safety Improvements, helping transform Las Olas Boulevard into a safer, more accessible “complete street” that serves pedestrians, cyclists, transit users, and drivers. The corridor draws roughly five (5) million visitors each year and anchors a downtown that generates tens of billions in annual economic output and significant property tax revenue, as well as hosting signature events such as the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show. Improvements funded by this earmark will upgrade

outdated infrastructure, enhance streetscape, landscaping, and lighting, and improve ADA access and overall safety, supporting local businesses and sustaining the corridor's role as a major economic engine for our community.

Public Safety Training and Professional Development Complex Project

Sponsored by Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-25), the Public Safety Training and Professional Development Complex has been funded at \$1 million. This project will create Fort Lauderdale's first comprehensive, state-of-the-art training facility for police, fire, and other first responders in the tri-county region. The complex is intended to provide "one-stop" academy, firearms, driving, tactical, and classroom training for both new recruits and experienced personnel, addressing the current shortage of adequate regional training space and reducing the need to rent outside facilities. By improving training capacity and realism, this project will help ensure a highly skilled cadre of first responders prepared for a wide range of natural and manmade emergencies, strengthen public safety in a high-risk UASI-designated urban area, and potentially generate revenue as neighboring agencies utilize the facility.

Next steps

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) administers funding for these projects. HUD administrators will reach out to the appropriate City representative in the next six (6) to twelve (12) weeks to obtain prerequisite account and other information, so that Fort Lauderdale can draw down these dollars.

These federal investments represent a strong commitment to Fort Lauderdale's mobility, economic vitality, and public safety. We are grateful to our congressional delegation and federal partners for their advocacy and support in securing these critical funds for our residents, businesses, and visitors.

For additional information, please contact Daphnee Sainvil, Intergovernmental Affairs Manager at 954-299-7806, dsainvil@fortlauderdale.gov.

c: Shari McCartney, City Attorney
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