



## LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

**LTC No: 26-125**

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission  
**FROM:** Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*  
**DATE:** April 28, 2026  
**SUBJECT:** **New River Crossing Project – Regional Infrastructure Accelerator  
Phase 2 Grant Award - \$650,000**

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The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to inform the City Commission that the United States Department of Transportation Build America Bureau (USDOT) via the Regional Infrastructure Accelerator (RIA) program has awarded the City of Fort Lauderdale with a second grant, in the amount of \$650,000, for the New River Crossing project.

### **Regional Infrastructure Accelerator - Phase 1 Grant Award**

On May 30, 2023, the City of Fort Lauderdale submitted a proposal to USDOT for grant funding through the RIA program for technical assistance for the New River Crossing project. The grant application requested \$2,500,000 to further analyze economic development, environmental impacts, equity and public benefits, long term financing, quality of life, property impacts, railway safety, traffic and congestion, and real estate valuations associated with the New River Crossing alternatives.

On August 24, 2023, the City was notified that the application was reviewed and that \$974,000 was available for potential award.

On March 5, 2024, the City Commission approved Resolution No. 24-51 (Attachment 1) accepting \$974,000 from USDOT for Phase 1 for the New River Crossing Study (CAM #24-0057). BDO USA, P.C. (BDO) and Taft Infrastructure Advisors, LLC (Taft) were engaged as the City's consultants to perform the scope of work.

Phase 1 has been completed, with BDO and Taft delivering all five (5) grant deliverables within the twenty-four (24)-month agreement period, including analyses of economic development, environmental review, equity and public benefit, property impacts, and traffic. The deliverables provided the framework for the next phase of the study.

## **Regional Infrastructure Accelerator - Phase 2 Grant Award**

In June 2025, the City submitted a RIA grant application for Phase 2 to USDOT in the amount of \$2,000,000 to continue advancing the New River Crossing project.

On April 23, 2026, the City received notification from Congressman Moskowitz's office that USDOT has awarded the City \$650,000 for the New River Crossing Study Phase 2. Consistent with the feedback received through the industry review meetings, Phase 2 will build on the work completed in Phase 1 and is anticipated to include tasks such as preliminary design, cost-benefit analysis, geotechnical testing, innovative financing analysis, and continued environmental review in support of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Within the context of recent City Commission discussions, the City will continue to partner with FDOT, Broward County, Florida East Coast Railway (FEC), and other stakeholders in evaluating and advancing New River Crossing alternatives.

Given that the awarded amount is less than the original request, City staff will work with USDOT to refine the scope of work to align with available funding and existing project considerations. Additionally, City staff will prepare a scope of work for consulting services and return to the City Commission for approval of the grant agreement and associated consulting services agreement.

Tangentially, on April 30, 2026, Transportation and Mobility (TAM) Director Milos Majstorovic, P.E., will be attending the Build America Bureau's Public-Private Partnerships (P3s) Forum, titled "Scaling Up Innovative Approaches for Accelerated Delivery". The forum is an all-day event taking place at the USDOT headquarters in Washington D.C. This event explores actionable solutions to accelerate and address America's infrastructure challenges. This forum aims to advance innovative financing and delivery approaches, reduce barriers, and identify strategic opportunities.

Staff will continue to provide updates as they become available. For additional information, please contact Milos Majstorovic, P.E., Transportation and Mobility Director at (954) 828-5216, or [mmajstorovic@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:mmajstorovic@fortlauderdale.gov).

Attachment:

1. Resolution No. 24-51

c: Shari McCartney, City Attorney  
David R. Soloman, City Clerk  
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor  
City Manager's Office  
Department Directors

RESOLUTION NO. 24-51

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, APPROVING A GRANT AGREEMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FOR THE REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE ACCELERATOR DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITH THE NEW RIVER CROSSING PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$974,000; DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE GRANT AGREEMENT AND ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY OR INCIDENTAL TO ACCEPTANCE OF SUCH GRANT FUNDING ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, on May 30, 2023, the City of Fort Lauderdale ("City") submitted a proposal to the United States Department of Transportation ("USDOT") for grant funding through the Regional Infrastructure Accelerator (RIA) Demonstration Program for technical assistance with the New River Crossing Project; and

WHEREAS, on August 24, 2023, the City was notified that the City's application for grant funds was reviewed and that \$974,000 was available for a potential award; and

WHEREAS, on October 13, 2023, the USDOT formally announced that the City was selected as one of 14 awardees to receive grant funds; and

WHEREAS, in November 2023, City staff attended a one-day summit to learn more about the RIA program and expectations for utilization of grant funds awarded; and

WHEREAS, the grant does not require matching funds on behalf of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Lauderdale is required to enter into the Regional Infrastructure Accelerator Cooperative Agreement ("Grant Agreement") with the USDOT to accept and receive the grant funds; and

WHEREAS, the Grant Agreement provides grant funds to complete specific Performance Measures which include, Economic Development, Environmental Review, Equity and Public Benefit Assessment, Property Impacts, and Traffic and Congestion; and

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WHEREAS, the City Commission finds that approving the Grant Agreement, authorizing the execution of the Grant Agreement, and acceptance of the grant funds is in the best interest of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA THAT:

SECTION 1. That the Grant Agreement with the United States Department of Transportation for the Regional Infrastructure Accelerator Demonstration Program for Technical Assistance with the New River Crossing Project, in the amount of \$974,000 is hereby approved.

SECTION 2. That the City Manager is authorized to execute the Grant Agreement, and any and all documents necessary or incidental thereto and accept the grant funds on behalf of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida.


SECTION 3. That the Office of the City Attorney shall review and approve as to form all documents prior to their execution by City officials.

SECTION 4. That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon adoption.

ADOPTED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

  
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Mayor  
DEAN J. TRANTALIS

ATTEST:

  
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City Clerk  
DAVID R. SOLOMAN

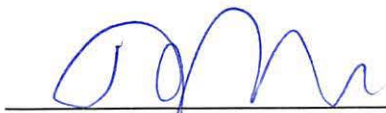
Dean J. Trantalis      Yea

John C. Herbst      Yea

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
AND CORRECTNESS:

Steven Glassman      Yea

Pamela Beasley-Pittman      Yea

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney  
THOMAS J. ANSBRO

Warren Sturman      Yea