

RESOLUTION NO. 19-09

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CLEARWATER, FLORIDA APPROVING AN AGREEMENT, AS ATTACHED IN EXHIBIT A, BETWEEN THE CITY OF CLEARWATER (THE CITY) AND FORWARD PINELLAS ACCEPTING A COMPLETE STREETS CONCEPT PLANNING GRANT TO DEVELOP A CONCEPT AND DESIGN PLAN FOR FORT HARRISON AVENUE FROM BELLEAIR ROAD TO THE MERGE WITH MYRTLE AVENUE/ALTERNATE US 19; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the term "Complete Streets" describes a comprehensive, integrated transportation network with infrastructure and design that allows safe and convenient travel along and across streets for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, riders and drivers of public transportation, as well as drivers of other motor-vehicles, and people of all ages and abilities; and

WHEREAS, Complete Streets are essential in providing safe routes to school for children and to primary destinations for people of all ages and abilities; and

WHEREAS, The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) adopted a Complete Streets policy in 2014 to promote safety, quality of life, and economic development in Florida; and

WHEREAS, Forward Pinellas serves as the metropolitan planning organization ("MPO") for Pinellas County in accordance with 23 U.S.C. 134 and 135 and § 339.1715, Fla. Stat. and in that capacity is tasked with coordinating transportation planning in Pinellas County; and

WHEREAS, Forward Pinellas, in its capacity as Pinellas County MPO, developed an incentive program to assist local governments in planning, designing and constructing Complete Streets projects that entail roadway redesign to provide better access, safety, and mobility for all users, with an emphasis on economic catalyst projects in corridors that support environmental justice for disadvantaged communities in 2016; and

WHEREAS, a balanced urban community requires a comprehensive, integrated network of roadways designed and planned from a sustainable whole systems approach that is also sensitive to the contexts and needs of differing City neighborhoods, providing access to the transportation options balanced for the needs of all users; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to promote public health and independence by encouraging people to walk and bicycle, and use public transportation options that are safe, convenient, sustainable, and economical, while also reducing crashes and vehicle miles travelled on City roads; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that the careful planning and coordinated development of Complete Streets infrastructure offers long-term cost savings for local and state government, benefits public health, and provides financial benefits to property owners, businesses, and investors; and

WHEREAS, Fort Harrison Avenue is a south-north roadway operated by the City that connects two Activity Centers designated in the City of Clearwater Comprehensive Plan Citywide Design Structure, the Morton Plant Hospital Campus and Downtown, with multiple designated Destination Points, including the City/County Government Complex, the Clearwater Marina, PSTA's Park Street Terminal, the Main Library, and the Seminole Boat Launch; and

WHEREAS, the Citywide Design Structure identifies Fort Harrison Avenue as a Primary Scenic Corridor that has particular significance in terms of tourism, economic development, or community character, and designates South Fort Harrison as a gateway to the City; and

WHEREAS, the project corridor provides opportunities to address equity and environmental justice concerns for the transportation disadvantaged communities of Lake Belleview and North Greenwood through improved access to work, live, shop, and play; and

WHEREAS, the Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition, the Harbor Oaks Association, and the Downtown Neighborhood Association submitted letters of support in favor of the City's Forward Pinellas Complete Street Grant application for the development of a Complete Streets conceptual design plan for Fort Harrison Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to develop a Complete Streets concept and design plan for Fort Harrison Avenue from Belleair Road to the merge with Myrtle Avenue (Alternate US 19); and

WHEREAS the City Council wishes to encourage public participation in community decisions concerning street design, and the Project would provide opportunities for public input in the development of Complete Streets concept designs; and

WHEREAS, the required grant agreement (the Agreement) between the City and Forward Pinellas establishing payment not to exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) is attached as Exhibit "A," and details the scope of the responsibilities between Forward Pinellas and the City as part of the Complete Streets Concept Planning Grant program; now, therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEARWATER, FLORIDA:

Section 1. The City approves the Agreement, as attached in Exhibit "A," accepting the Forward Pinellas Complete Streets Concept Planning Grant in an amount not to

exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) and authorizing appropriate City officials to take all necessary action as may be necessary or appropriate to perform all obligations and commitments of the City of Clearwater in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2019.

William B. Horne, II
City Manager

George N. Cretekos
Mayor

Approved as to form:

Attest:

Michael P. Fuino
Assistant City Attorney

Rosemarie Call
City Clerk