

RESOLUTION NO. 20-37

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CLEARWATER, FLORIDA APPROVING THE FT. HARRISON AVENUE COMPLETE STREETS STUDY FINAL REPORT, A COMPLETE STREETS CONCEPT PLAN FOR FT. HARRISON AVENUE, FROM BELLEAIR ROAD TO N. MYRTLE AVENUE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Clearwater Comprehensive Plan's Future Land Use Element and Transportation Element recognize the importance of providing multimodal mobility options for people of all ages and abilities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Clearwater Comprehensive Plan's Future Land Use Element and Transportation Element includes a Citywide Design Structure which identifies portions of Ft. Harrison Avenue between Belleair Road and Druid Road and between Seminole Street and Sunset Point Road as a Redevelopment Corridor that needs character changes or restoration that support creating "walkable communities" and "livable neighborhoods", 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, Complete Streets are designed, operated, and maintained for all users, regardless of age or ability, and are essential in providing safe routes to schools for children; and

WHEREAS, the Clearwater Downtown Redevelopment Plan's Accessibility Goal and Objectives call for the strengthening of Ft. Harrison Avenue as a local, pedestrian oriented street, and seeks to reduce pedestrian and vehicle conflicts; and

WHEREAS, the Clearwater Downtown Redevelopment Plan Implementation, as adopted by the Community Redevelopment Agency August 2, 2018, established a capital improvement project for the redesign and construction of Ft. Harrison Avenue as a Complete Street, to achieve the Plan's accessibility goal; and

WHEREAS, Ft. 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 Ft. Harrison Avenue 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, on December 6, 2018, the City Council of the City of Clearwater authorized staff to apply for Program funding for Complete Streets concept planning for Ft. Harrison Avenue (hereinafter referred to as "Project"), for which the City was awarded \$50,000 on March 13, 2019, and the City Council authorized an agreement between the City and Forward Pinellas and the Scope of Work for the Project on June 20, 2019 (Resolution 19-09); and

WHEREAS, the City Council contracted with HDR Engineering, Inc. to develop the Ft. Harrison Avenue Complete Street Concept Plan and implement a community outreach program for the Project; and

WHEREAS, Project development included data collection, analysis, coordination with a Project Visioning Team comprised of local business owners, residents, and city staff, as well as representatives from institutions and local agencies, and public outreach through a public online survey and an outreach event at Blast Friday; and

WHEREAS, recent planning studies and design concepts were directly incorporated into the Project, including the Alternate US 19 and Fairmont Street Roundabout Design (FDOT – May 2019), the Complete Drew Street Project (City of Clearwater – October 2019), and the North Marina Area Master Plan (City – January 2016); and

WHEREAS, the Project divided the corridor into three main segments based on character and context, and recommendations and design strategies are tailored for each segment to provide several key benefits including improving transportation accessibility, corridor aesthetics, safety and livability while supporting local businesses; and

WHEREAS, recommended improvements are also consistent with the guiding principles established in the Clearwater Complete Streets Implementation Plan, approved by City Council June 20, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the final recommendations are based on the input received from the public and Project Visioning Team members, and each selected design strategy provides its own unique benefits to enhancing the street, but collectively serve to further the key goals developed for the corridor; and

WHEREAS, design concepts and strategies for each segment are incorporated into the Final Report, which is attached to this Resolution as Exhibit A; now, therefore

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

Section 1. Approves the Final Report, as attached in Exhibit "A," accepts the HDR Engineering, Inc., Complete Streets Concept Designs for the Ft. Harrison Avenue Complete Streets Study, and authorizes the appropriate City officials to take all necessary action as may be necessary or appropriate to transmit to Forward Pinellas and other jurisdictions the Final Report.

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

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2020.

Frank V. Hibbard
Mayor

Approved as to form:

Attest:

Michael P. Fuino
Assistant City Attorney

Rosemarie Call
City Clerk

EXHIBIT A

FT. HARRISON AVENUE COMPLETE STREETS STUDY FINAL REPORT November 2020