



MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM #15b

DATE: JULY 7, 2008
TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS
FROM: STAFF
SUBJECT: NORTH UNIVERSITY DRIVE ACTION PLAN - STATUS REPORT

Introduction

Pursuant to a finding of non-compliance by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) on a Palm Beach County comprehensive plan amendment to remove University Drive and Riverside Drive connections between Palm Beach and Broward counties related to the annexation of the "Wedge" properties in southern Palm Beach County into Broward County and the City of Parkland, the Palm Beach County and Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the Broward MPO and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) have cooperatively established an "Action Plan" and "Working Group." The Working Group includes representatives from the City of Parkland, City of Coral Springs, City of Coconut Creek, West Boca Community Council, the State Road 7/U.S. 441 Collaborative and the South Florida Regional Planning Council. This action is designed to address the deficiencies identified by the DCA.

The Action Plan highlighted three steps to be taken to ensure adequate mitigation if the University Drive connection is removed, including:

- Conduct a transportation network needs assessment,
- Develop a common cross-county vision for State Road 7, and
- Develop an implementation plan of transportation improvements agreed to by both MPOs and the affected local governments.

On May 30, 2008, the Working Group presented the results of the transportation network needs assessment at a Policy/Oversight Group of the Palm Beach and Broward County MPOs. The assessment is based upon the transportation impacts associated with the development of nearly 4,000 new residential units generating over 38,000 new daily trips on the wedge property. The transportation needs assessment considered seventeen alternative scenarios that were modeled by the FDOT to determine the impacts of this proposed development to the regional roadway network. The assessment included scenarios with and without cross county connections, connections with transit emphasis, and scenarios with additional roadway capacity.

Based on the results of the transportation needs assessment, the Policy/Oversight Group narrowed the scenarios down to three scenarios for further consideration and study, all including exclusive transit lanes. Scenarios that identified the need to widen regional roads, such as, the Florida Turnpike, Sample Road, Lyons Road and State Road 7 to ten or twelve lanes were dismissed.

No consensus was reached by the Policy/Oversight Group on a preferred scenario and the Policy/Oversight Group indicated that none of the scenarios would be achievable without support from both MPOs. The Policy/Oversight Group indicated that refinement of any of the scenarios needed to consider the development of a common vision and future land use, particularly along State Road 7, building the work of the State Road 7/U.S. 441 Collaborative and the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils.

To support the creation of a common cross-county vision, The State Road 7/U.S. 441 Collaborative and South Florida Regional Planning Council have submitted grant requests through State and Federal funding sources.

Council staff will continue to participate in future meetings of the Working Group and refinements to remaining alternative scenarios.

Recommendation

Informational item only.