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LETTER TO COMMISSION
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TO: Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission
FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager
DATE: June 11, 2013
SUBJECT: **Bike Lanes on West Avenue**

The purpose of this LTC is to correct a perception that the City is spending millions of dollars moving bike lanes from Alton Road to West Avenue.

BACKGROUND

The City had been planning to install bike lanes on West Avenue without regard to bike lanes on Alton Road. These bike lanes are included in the West Avenue – Bay Road Basis of Design Report that was prepared in 2006 and finalized on February 23, 2007. They are also included in the Atlantic Greenway Network – the City’s bicycle master plan – that was prepared in 2008 and finalized on February 4, 2009.

These dates precede the discussion with FDOT about relocating bike lanes from Alton Road, which were held in 2012.

The West Avenue – Bay Road Basis of Design Report proposes a typical cross section on West Avenue with wider sidewalks, pedestrian level lighting, and planted bulbouts in the parking lanes instead of a planter strip. In addition, new stormwater and water infrastructure are proposed. These improvements will require road reconstruction. Similarly, the side streets will need to be resurfaced when the needed stormwater and water infrastructure is installed.

The total project budget for the West Avenue/Bay Road Improvements is \$23,636,769. The above ground improvements, financed with City Center RDA and G.O. Bond funds, are \$2,492,114. This budget includes the price for striping bike lanes on West Avenue and the side streets, which is estimated to be approximately \$40,000.

The addition of bike lanes on the side streets will result in the loss of 69 parking spaces if the streets remain two-way. A study is now underway to determine the feasibility of converting these streets to one-way pairs. Should the conversion to one-way pairs be feasible, no parking would need to be lost to accommodate the bike lanes. However, there would then be costs to remove signal poles and wiring that is estimated to be less than \$60,000.

Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.