Mobility project includes streetscape, transportation access improvements

By David Volz news@newpelican.com

Fort Lauderdale - In an effort to accommodate the growing number of people visiting, living and working downtown, the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization [MPO] is in the midst of creating the Downtown Fort Lauderdale Mobility Hub.

The \$3.5 million streetscape project, funded through a Federal Transit Administration grant, includes infrastructure improvements within a multiblock area west of Andrews Avenue and north of Broward Boulevard.

Improvements include new sidewalks, drainage

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improvements, street repavement, lighting, bike racks and outdoor furniture.

"This is a key area for transportation and an important pedestrian area," said Vice Mayor Steve Glassman. The goal of the project, a partnership between MPO and the city, is to alleviate traffic congestion, improve mobility and connect people to various transportation options -Brightline, regional and local bus services, shuttle service to TriRail and Sun Trolley.

Renee Cross, project manager for MPO, said it will also improve downtown's appearance and create a better, easier experience for pedestrians and bicyclists.

- Renee Cross. MPO

"Mobility hubs are transit access points, and they intersect at areas with frequent transit and high development potential. They make the pedestrian environment better and give access to everyone so people can have a good experience going from one mode of transportation to another," said Cross.

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Mike Cobelo, spokesperson for the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, said his organization hopes the project will make it easier for people to get to hotels and restaurants.

"The chamber is always a proponent of increased mobility and we recognize that accessibility to public transportation is important . . . We hope this will improve the economy of the downtown area."

The Mobility Hub is centrally located in an area that is redeveloping because of its close proximity to the downtown business area and government centers.

