



City of Delray Beach Grants

PROJECT: Congress Avenue Complete Street Project from C-15 Canal to Atlantic Avenue

PROGRAM: Local Initiatives

Federal Contribution: \$5,113,090 for construction

Local Contribution: \$767,000 for design

Initial Cost Estimate: \$3,085,253 includes FDOT in-house support costs

Grant Award Year: 2016 Application for FY 2021 or 2022 Project Funding

Commission Approval: May 17, 2016 approved Resolution of Support

Entity Leading Design: City of Delray Beach

Design Start Date: 2019 **Design Completion Date:** 2020

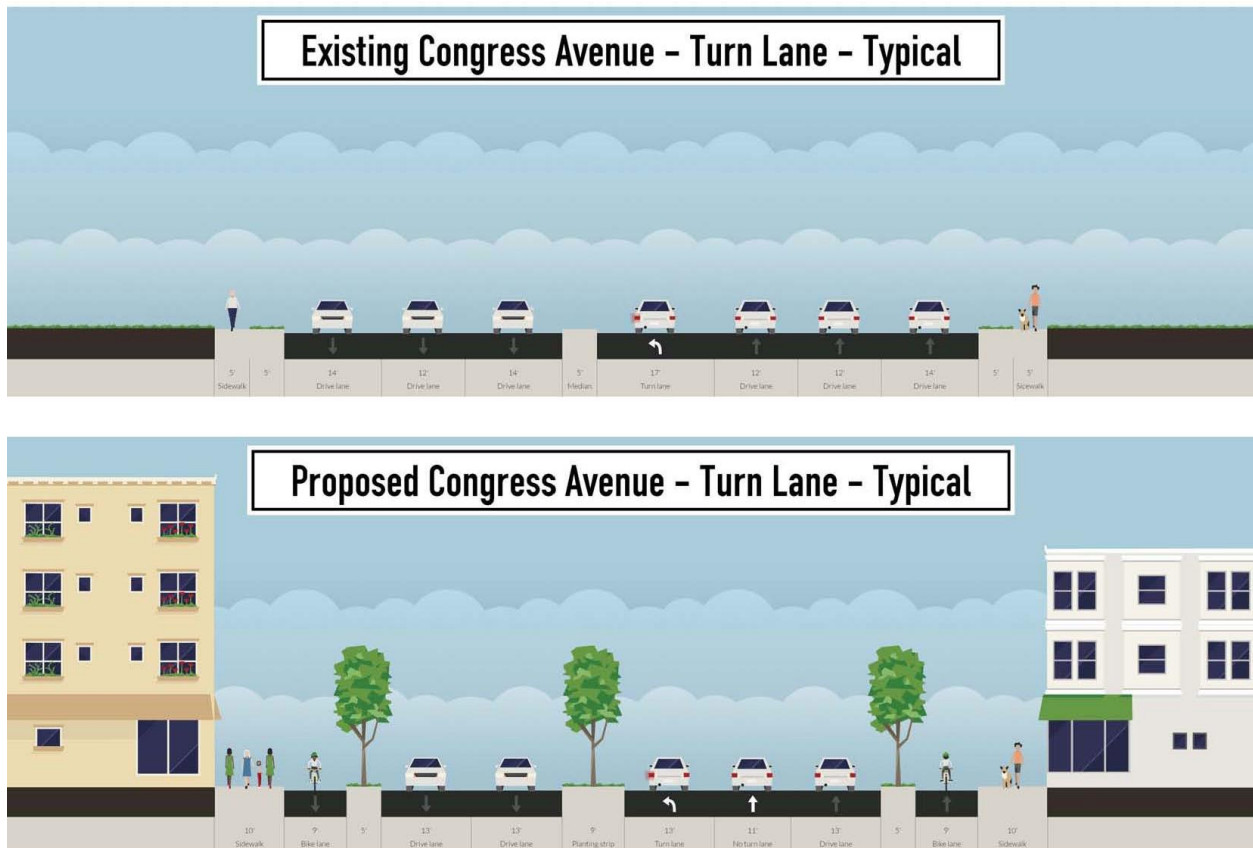
Construction Start Date: 2021 **Construction Completion Date:** TBD

Status: **Project withdrawn** – Project has been withdrawn at this time due to Palm Beach County concerns about insufficient right of way, which would have required a reduction in the number of lanes in order to achieve all project goals. City Staff is currently working with Palm Beach County Engineer and Staff to achieve project goals within Palm Beach County project limits. Currently Congress Avenue from Clint Moore Road to Lake Ida Road is programmed for resurfacing in the Palm Beach County Infrastructure Surtax fund in 2024. City and County staff are working together to design a project that can be brought forward in partnership to maximize all available funding.

Description: A portion of Congress Avenue, a four-mile, 6 lane roadway located along the newly designated Innovation Corridor, will be enhanced to a Complete Street as an economic development initiative to attract startups to Delray. The project will construct protected bike lanes and sidewalks and transit interconnections with trolleys and commuter trains to attract companies interested in sustainability and environmentally aware Millennials. The project design incorporates native landscaping together with native plants and canopy shade trees to reduce urban heat islands in the strong Florida sun. The combination of bicycle-pedestrian mobility with existing commuter rail line and new bike paths provides a 21st century transportation solution instead of auto-centered roadways fostered by outdated engineering standards and lifestyle choices.

Benefits: This project provided a number of benefits from bolstering economic development to improvement of air quality and public health. The provision of protected cycletracks for bicyclists, providing raised medians and redesigning of intersections and sidewalks can reduce pedestrian risk by 28 percent according to one study cited in the application. Replacement of the vehicular traffic lanes provides safe alternatives to driving for bicyclists and pedestrians and those who utilize public transit. These are the target audiences for the Innovation Corridor.

Risks: Palm Beach County is opposed to the potential to eliminate one lane of traffic from this corridor, which is utilized by commuters when accidents occur on I-95. Although County Staff was willing to the City to implement a two-year test of the proposal, this would be entirely at the City's expense with no avenue to recoup the cost if the test was found to be unacceptable.



Staff Recommendation: While the original concept of creating a protected cycletrack that would require a reduction in the number of traffic lanes on Congress Avenue was not well received by Palm Beach County, the County is open to working with City Staff to create a safer and more attractive corridor for pedestrians and bicyclists. Staff recommends allowing the coordination of alternatives with Palm Beach County to move forward with a proposed end result of bringing a proposed application for future TPA funding back for Commission approval. It is anticipated that this future application would be a partnership between Palm Beach County and the City of Delray Beach.