

**RESOLUTION NO. 5495**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 18-082**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE LAKELAND CITY COMMISSION SUPPORTING THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S LAKELAND AREA ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS AND ESTABLISHING PROJECT PRIORITIES FOR FUNDING BY THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE POLK TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION; MAKING FINDINGS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, US 98 is a four-lane Principal Arterial roadway between US 92 (Memorial Boulevard) and Interstate 4; and

**WHEREAS**, the Polk Transportation Planning Organization's (TPO) Momentum 2040 long-range transportation plan includes the six-laning of US 98 between US 92 (Memorial Boulevard) and Griffin Road as an unfunded transportation need and also identifies bus rapid transit as a long-range transit need between US 92 (Memorial Boulevard) and Interstate 4, and

**WHEREAS**, the Lakeland Comprehensive Plan 2010-2020 designates this section of US 98 as a Type I roadway that provides high-capacity connections between the urban core and freeways/expressways for people and freight, with separate pedestrian and bicycle facilities and premium transit connections such as bus rapid transit; and

**WHEREAS**, the Comprehensive Plan and Momentum 2040 long-range transportation plan also designate this section of US 98, State Road 33 (Lakeland Hills Boulevard) and US 92 (Memorial Boulevard) as "constrained corridors" where

the addition of highway travel lanes is not feasible due to neighborhood and commercial impacts, with the Comprehensive Plan explicitly stating that this designation for US 98 does not apply to facilities associated with premium transit service such as bus rapid transit; and

**WHEREAS**, the Comprehensive Plan has identified several safety corridors throughout the central Lakeland area for future investments and analyses, including US 98 (Memorial Boulevard to Griffin Road), State Road 33 (Lakeland Hills Boulevard) south of Parkview Place, US 92 (Memorial Boulevard) between the CSX Overpass and Ingraham Avenue and in the vicinity of the Lakeland Regional Health Medical Center; and

**WHEREAS**, the Comprehensive Plan contains recommendations from the TPO 2060 Transportation Vision Plan, including identifying US 98 as a Core Transit Corridor and US 92 as a Regional Core Transit Corridor; and

**WHEREAS**, the City adopted Resolution #5004, adopting the Polk County Local Government Complete Streets Policy that was formalized through the Polk Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Resolution 2012-15; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has programmed funding for a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study for a six-lane project on US 98 between US 92 (Memorial Boulevard) and Griffin Road, which was determined to not be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and TPO long-range transportation plan; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 26, 2014, the TPO Board concurred with FDOT's recommendation to replace the PD&E Study with a Planning/Feasibility Study that

addresses modal concerns within the US 98 corridor such as bus rapid transit service and pedestrian safety and requested FDOT coordinate with the TPO and City staff on the development of a project scope and services; and

**WHEREAS**, FDOT commenced the “Lakeland Area Alternatives Analysis” (LAAA) to evaluate travel demand and identify multi-modal transportation and safety projects in an expanded area bound by US 92 (Memorial Boulevard) on the south, State Road 33 (Lakeland Hills Boulevard) on the east, Interstate 4 on the north and State Road 539 (Kathleen Road) on the west; and

**WHEREAS**, the entire LAAA study area is located within the Mid-Town Community Redevelopment Area within which the City’s medical district (Lakeland Regional Health’s medical center and Watson Clinic campus), Tigertown/Publix Field and Marchant Stadium complex, Bryant Stadium/Henley Field complex are located; and

**WHEREAS**, the LAAA study area is located between Downtown Lakeland and Interstate 4, the primary highway route across Central Florida, that has also been studied for future intercity mass transportation solutions including express bus service, High-Speed Rail and the potential premium rail service to be operated by Brightline or vendor to be selected by FDOT with potential station sites near the US 98 or State Road 539 (Kathleen Road) interchanges; and

**WHEREAS**, the LAAA study area encompasses designated neighborhoods including Harmony Hills, Kathleen, Paul A. Diggs, Orangewood, Pinehurst, Swannanoa and Webster Park North and South; and

**WHEREAS**, a vast majority of the LAAA study area is located within Environmental Justice Areas defined in the Momentum 2040 plan with high concentrations of populations below poverty threshold and Hispanic/Non-White populations; and

**WHEREAS**, the entire LAAA study area is located within the Central City Transit Supportive Area and contains designated Transit Oriented Corridors including US 98, State Road 33 (Lakeland Hills Boulevard), State Road 539 (Kathleen Road) and US 92 (Memorial Boulevard) within which the Comprehensive Plan defines less stringent highway levels-of-service due to the presence of existing and planned multi-modal transportation networks and projects consistent with the City's locally-preferred level-of-service standards as part of the Transportation Concurrency Exception Area; and

**WHEREAS**, the LAAA study process included extensive technical analyses, Roadway Safety Audit field reviews, outreach through a designated stakeholders group and neighborhood meetings, and workshops with the Lakeland City Commission on April 28, 2017, February 16, 2018 and September 17, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, the LAAA study includes a wide-range of improvement recommendations, including a new roadway connection between SR 539 (Kathleen Road) and US 92 (Memorial Boulevard), bus rapid transit in the US 98 corridor, pedestrian crossing improvements, roundabouts, event management and safety improvements through improved motorist information using technology, gateway and corridor treatments, transit service enhancements and "complete

street” projects to improve conditions for all users consistent with context classifications assigned by FDOT based on feedback from City staff; and

**WHEREAS**, FDOT is currently constructing safety improvements at the US 98/10<sup>th</sup> Street-Parkview Place intersection, will soon commence construction of safety improvements in the US 92 (Memorial Boulevard) corridor between Wabash Avenue and Ingraham Avenue and will begin the design phase of a complete street project on State Road 33 (Lakeland Hills Boulevard) between Parkview Place and Granada Street that could be funded for construction in FY 2024 or FY2025, and FDOT has also identified the need for a full reconstruction of US 92 (Memorial Boulevard) east of Wabash Avenue within the next decade, and the City and Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) have budgeted improvements for the Providence Road Corridor and the City and CRA are negotiating with the Lakeland Area Mass Transit District to allocate tax increments to improved transit services in the Mid-Town CRA;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAKELAND, FLORIDA:**

**SECTION 1.** The foregoing findings are true and correct and are hereby adopted and made a part hereof.

**SECTION 2.** The Lakeland Area Alternatives Analysis (LAAA) study area includes a mix of large employment centers, recreational/entertainment centers and neighborhoods that create unique transportation needs for residents, employees and visitors.

**SECTION 3.** These transportation needs require multi-modal transportation solutions to ensure a safe and functional system that serves all users, improves quality of life and allows for a more efficient urban form, solutions that are further supported by policies and funding constraints in the adopted Lakeland Comprehensive Plan 2010-2020 and Momentum 2040 long-range transportation plan prepared by the Polk Transportation Planning Organization.

**SECTION 4.** The LAAA study and specific Project Phase Priorities contained in Exhibit A best respond to the study area's transportation needs, categorized by corridor, project phase and mode.

**SECTION 5.** The Project Phase Priorities allow for short-term funding for 1) planning/engineering phases of longer-term transportation projects requiring right-of-way, and 2) implementation of lower cost projects that can be constructed within existing right-of-way, incorporated into improvements already funded and planned by FDOT and/or programmed as stand-alone projects in the FDOT Five-Year Work Program.

**SECTION 6.** The Project Phase Priorities also represent opportunities for coordination with City investments and an overall request to incorporate Roadway Safety Audit recommendations into routine maintenance projects that are implemented by FDOT.

**SECTION 7.** It is requested that FDOT coordinate with the City and TPO to prepare a comprehensive funding strategy for the Project Phase Priorities that identifies the recommended timing and order for the funding of these individual


projects, so project implementation can begin with the FDOT Five-Year Work Program cycle that commences in 2019.

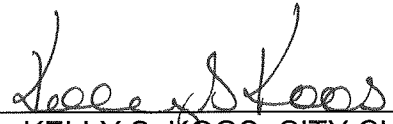
**SECTION 8.** It is requested that those specific Project Phase Priorities that are not currently consistent with the TPO long-range transportation plan be considered for inclusion in the 2045 long-range transportation plan update that is scheduled for adoption in 2020.

**SECTION 9.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

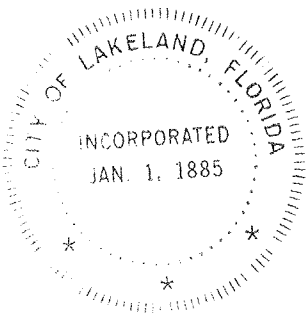
**PASSED AND CERTIFIED AS TO PASSAGE** this 15th day of October,

A.D. 2018.

  
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H. WILLIAM MUTZ, MAYOR

ATTEST:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
KELLY S. KOOS, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CORRECTNESS:   
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TIMOTHY J. MCCAUSLAND  
CITY ATTORNEY



## Lakeland Area Alternatives Analysis

### *Project Phase Priorities*

#### **SR 33/Lakeland Hills Boulevard**

1. *Complete Street (Parkview to Granada) programmed for FY 24 or FY 25*
2. Event Management System (South of Bella Vista Street to Interstate 4) and Queue Detection System for southbound approach to Memorial Boulevard.
3. Roundabout at Lake Crago Drive Intersection
4. Tenoroc Trail Connector to Lake Parker Park
5. PD&E/Alignment Study and Operational Analysis for Roundabout at Parkview Place

#### **US 92/Memorial Boulevard**

1. *Concrete Reconstruction in 8-10 Years*
  - a. Lane Elimination between Walker Avenue and Florida Avenue
  - b. Intersection Treatments at Martin Luther King, Florida and Lakeland Hills
2. Bicycle/Pedestrian Overpass over Kathleen Road/CSX Railroad

#### **US 98 North**

1. Pedestrian Plaza at Bryant Stadium
2. Bus Rapid Transit Feasibility Study (support Brightline Extension)
3. Gateway Treatments between Pyramid Parkway and Interstate 4
4. Bicycle/Pedestrian improvements at Interstate 4 (upcoming resurfacing project)
5. PD&E/Alignment Study for Griffin Road/Pyramid Parkway Alternative

#### **SR 539/Kathleen Road**

1. Feasibility Study for Kathleen Road/Memorial Boulevard Interchange
2. Pedestrian/Complete Street Treatments between 8<sup>th</sup> Street and 14<sup>th</sup> Street
3. Operational Analysis to identify improvement options for 10<sup>th</sup> Street at Kathleen Road
4. PD&E/Alignment Study and Operational Analysis for Roundabout at Fairbanks Street/Interstate Drive
5. PD&E Study for Kathleen Road/Memorial Boulevard interchange

#### **Providence Road**

1. *City Project in Corridor – 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Street and/or Providence Reserve to Griffin Road*
2. Complete Street Reconstruction between 14th Street and Griffin Road (w/ sidepath in lieu of bike lanes)

#### **Transit (including any associated capital needs)**

1. Extended hours of operation on key routes such as Routes #1 and #3
2. More frequent service within study area
3. Transit stop improvements on City collector streets

**Exhibit A (Page 2 of 2)****Maintenance/Push-Button Contract Projects**

1. Project needs derived from Roadway Safety Audits for incorporation into upcoming maintenance, safety and other stand-alone projects.

**Reference Code**

Transportation System Management:	Blue
Bicycle/Pedestrian/Complete Streets:	Green
Aesthetic/Gateway Treatments:	Purple
Transit:	Red
<i>Planned or Programmed Projects:</i>	<i>Italics</i>