

Project/Program Name: Palmetto Expressway (SR 826) Underpass Transportation Improvements Project

Introduction:

Since incorporation in 2000, the Town has experienced significant development which has resulted in a population increase from 22,767 to over 30,000 in 2016. The Town of Miami Lakes is located in the Northwest quadrant of Miami-Dade County, uniquely bound by expressways to the north, south, and west. The Town is divided down the middle by the Palmetto Expressway with only one main corridor, NW 154th Street, providing east/west connectivity. This corridor during peak hour periods is failing to meet the level of service standards set by the County and it is experiencing heavy congestion.

The Palmetto Expressway is one of the most traveled transportation corridors in Miami-Dade County and it is currently undergoing significant capacity enhancements in the areas around Miami Lakes.

As part of these enhancements, the FDOT Palmetto Expressway PD&E demonstrated that failing conditions are expected at all interchanges along SR 826 by year 2040. In order to address the failing conditions, the Town proposed a plan to FDOT to develop two new Palmetto Expressway Underpasses. FDOT has agreed to include these underpasses in their design. The Town will fund the design phase. However, funds are required to construct the Project (see Illustrations I, II, and III). This Project is of great significance to open and expand east/west connectivity and relieve traffic from the NW 154th Street corridor. The total construction cost is estimated at \$8 million, for which we are requesting federal assistance.

Scope/Timetable/Cost/Benefit:

The Palmetto Express Lane Project is currently an FDOT federally funded project, constructing bridges underneath the Palmetto to provide east/west connection within the Town of Miami Lakes. The Town requires funding for major transportation infrastructure improvements to construct the roadways

connecting the underpasses on NW 146th Street and NW 160th Street. The Project is included as part of the Town's Strategic Plan, Greenways and Trails Master Plan, and Comprehensive Development Master Plan.

