




MEMORANDUM

Date: September 14, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

Via: Albert P. Childress 
City Manager

From: Carolyn Sheldon
Senior Grants Administrator

Subject: **Approving Tourist Development Council (TDC) grant agreement**

Introduction

The City Manager's Office requests the approval of the attached "Grant Award Agreement" Contract ID# 2985 with Monroe County for the City of Key West Southernmost Plaza (Public Facility) project in the amount of \$1,000,000.00.

Background

In 2022, Hurricane Ian damaged the existing seawall near the Southernmost Point, cracking and undermining a portion of the decking around the buoy monument. A preliminary structural investigation was conducted to assess the damage to the seawall, sidewalks, and foundation for the buoy. During this review and damage assessment, Engineering staff observed the poor condition of the areas surrounding the buoy, benches, sidewalks, and drainage facilities. It is believed that current facilities at the Southernmost Point are 20-25 years old.

The City of Key West submitted an application on April 18, 2023, for capital funding from the FY 2024 Capital Project (Bricks and Mortar) Funding cycle to assist with improving and enhancing the iconic Southernmost Point buoy area while addressing traffic difficulties, standing water, and visitor overflow into the street. The District I Advisory Committee (DAC I) only approved a portion of funds requested for the project on June 28, 2023. They suggested that the project be phased, so this funding will be used to construct improvements on South Street up to the intersection of South Street with Whitehead Street near the Southernmost Point. The City will apply for additional funding for the Southernmost Plaza project in the next available cycle in the Spring of 2024 for the second phase to include the buoy location as well as the block of Whitehead Street up to United Street.

Project costs are anticipated to be approximately \$4,000,000.00 to transform this linear area into a multimodal and pedestrian transportation space that provides a one-of-the-kind experience that is reflective of the City of Key West's unique character.

Procurement

Capital funding will be available (anticipated towards the end of October) after the Grant Award Agreement is approved by both the TDC and the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). The City will receive up to a maximum reimbursement amount of \$1,000,000.00 to construct improvements near the Southernmost Point. Grant revenue will be budgeted in account 1010000 3377001. Expenses will be budgeted in account 1011900 5196300.

Recommendation

The City Manager's Office recommends the City Commission approve the attached "Grant Award Agreement" Contract ID# 2985 with Monroe County for the City of Key West Southernmost Plaza (Public Facility) project in the amount of \$1,000,000.00.