MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members
From: Staff
Date: December 14, 2012 Council Meeting
Subject: Local Government Comprehensive Plan Review
Draft Amendments to the City of Boca Raton Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 12-2ESR

Introduction

The Community Planning Act, Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, requires that the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC) review local government comprehensive plan amendments prior to their adoption. TCRPC comments are limited to adverse effects on regional resources and facilities identified in the Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP) and extrajurisdictional impacts that would be inconsistent with the comprehensive plan of any local government within the Region. TCRPC must provide any comments to the local government within 30 days of the receipt of the proposed amendments and must also send a copy of any comments to the State Land Planning Agency.

Background

The City of Boca Raton is proposing text amendments to the Transportation Element of the comprehensive plan. The City is also proposing to amend the Future Number of Lanes Map, Future Maintenance Responsibility Map, Future Functional Classification Map, and Thoroughfares Map of the map series in the comprehensive plan.

Evaluation

The City is proposing to add one new policy and modify an existing policy in the Transportation Element. The proposed new policy is as follows:

Policy TRAN.2.2.5
The City shall support the construction of a new I-95 interchange at Spanish River/FAU Boulevard to serve the traffic demands of Florida Atlantic University and relieve the congestion on Glades Road.
The amendment package from the City indicates that this new policy is supported by a 2009 Project Development and Environmental Study for I-95, which was funded by the Florida Department of Transportation. The study determined the future configuration of the interchange based on numerous criteria such as traffic projections, right-of-way needs, environmental concerns, and other relevant issues. Construction of the proposed I-95 interchange at Spanish River/FAU Boulevard is slated to begin in December 2013. The Future Number of Lanes Map, Future Maintenance Responsibility Map, Future Functional Classification Map, and Thoroughfares Map of the map series in the comprehensive plan are proposed to be amended to show the interchange as a four lane state facility classified as an urban arterial.

The second Transportation Element amendment modifies Policy TRAN.2.4.8 as follows:

**Policy TRAN.2.4.8**

West Palmetto Park Road between Military Trail and NW/SW 12th Avenue I-95 shall remain as a six-lane constrained facility to maintain the residential character of the area and to preserve and protect be widened to an eight lane facility with a landscaped median. Construction of the additional lanes shall be conducted with minimal impact on the environmentally sensitive areas in the Cypress Knee Slough property on the north side of West Palmetto Park Road and public recreation, open space, and oak hammock habitat located in Sugar Sand Park on the south side of West Palmetto Park Road.

In 2011, Palm Beach County intended to award a construction contract for the proposed widening of West Palmetto Park Road from 6 to 8 lanes. Upon notice of this activity, the City recognized a number of citizen concerns regarding impacts to adjacent properties. As a result of these concerns, the City initiated conflict resolution procedures with Palm Beach County and the Florida Department of Transportation regarding this widening. The conflict was resolved when the County elected not to proceed with the proposed widening of West Palmetto Park Road. Policy TRAN.2.4.8 is consistent with the agreement with the County and other components of the City of Boca Raton Comprehensive Plan.

**Extrajurisdictional Impacts**

The proposed amendments were provided by the City to the Palm Beach County Intergovernmental Plan Amendment Review Committee (IPARC) and were circulated by the IPARC Clearinghouse Coordinator on August 23, 2012. No extrajurisdictional impacts have been identified.

**Effects on Significant Regional Resources and Facilities**

No adverse effects on significant regional resources and facilities have been identified.

**Conclusion**

The proposed amendments are not in conflict or inconsistent with the SRPP.
Recommendation

Council should approve this report and authorize its transmittal to the City of Boca Raton and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

Attachments
List of Exhibits

Exhibit

1. General Location Map
2. Future Number of Lanes Map
3. Future Maintenance Responsibility Map
4. Future Functional Classification Map
5. Thoroughfares Map
Exhibit 2
Future Number of Lanes Map
Exhibit 3
Future Maintenance Responsibility Map
Exhibit 4
Future Functional Classification Map
Exhibit 5
Thoroughfares Map