

Resolution 3641

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SWEETWATER AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUPPORT EFFORTS BY FIU TO SUBMIT FOR US DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TIGER GRANT FINANCING IN THE APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF TWENTY MILLION (\$20,000,000) DOLLARS, FOR PURPOSES OF PEDESTRIAN-ORIENTED AND MULTIMODAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AND COMMUNITY TRANSIT, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED MATTERS ON THE FIU MAIDIQUE CAMPUS LINKED WITH SIMILAR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CITY OF SWEETWATER, AND THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, ADMINISTRATION AND MAINTENANCE THEREOF, APPROVING DRAFT GRANT DOCUMENTS, RATIFYING, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND THE CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AND FOR EXECUTION OF ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE THERETO, PROVIDING FOR AUTHORIZATION, PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, Florida International University (“FIU”) has expressed an intent to apply to the U.S. Department of Transportation (“DOT”) for a grant (the “Grant”) in the approximate amount of TWENTY MILLION (\$20,000,000) DOLLARS; and,

**WHEREAS**, drafts of the Grant application (the “Application”) are attached hereto and made part hereof,

**WHEREAS**, the City's plans call for a development of a district to be called University City; and,

**WHEREAS**, the goal is for University City to provide housing, shopping, dining and entertainment options for FIU; and,

**WHEREAS**, FIU has been supportive of the City's plans for University City; and,

**WHEREAS**, FIU's Grant submission is for purposes of aiding the development of pedestrian-oriented and multimodal infrastructure improvements and community transit, including but not limited to roadway improvements and related matters on the FIU Maidique Campus to be linked with similar improvements in the City's University City district; and,

**WHEREAS**, it is manifestly in the interest of the City to aid and support FIU in any in its application for the Grant; and,


**WHEREAS**, the Mayor has authored a Letter of Support to FIU expressing the City's support;

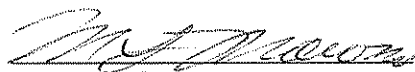
**NOW THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Mayor and the City Commission of the City of Sweetwater:

1. The attached Grant Application is hereby approved and authorized.
2. The attached Letter of Support is hereby approved and authorized.
3. The Mayor and the City Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute all documents necessary and appropriate to aid FIU in its Grant Application including but not limited to the attached Letter of Support.
4. This resolution shall become effective upon its adoption by the City Commission and approval by the Mayor or if vetoed, upon its reenactment by the City Commission as provided by the Charter of the City of Sweetwater.

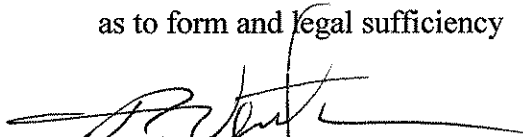
Passed and adopted on March 19, 2012


Attest:

  
Marie O. Schmidt,  
City Clerk

  
Manuel Marono,  
Mayor

as to form and legal sufficiency

  
Ralph Ventura  
City Attorney

  
Jose M. Diaz,  
Commission President

Jose M. Diaz, President of the City Commission	Yes
Orlando Lopez, Vice President of the City Commission	Yes
Prisca Barreto, Commissioner	Yes
Jose Bergouignan, Commissioner	Yes
Manuel Duasso, Commissioner	Yes
Jose M. Guerra, Commissioner	Yes
Isolina Marono, Commissioner	Yes

DATE OF FIRST READING \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF PUBLICATION \_\_\_\_\_



## City of Sweetwater

March 19, 2012

Kenneth A. Jessell, Ph. D.  
Senior Vice President/CFO  
Florida International University  
University Park/ Maidique Campus  
11200 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Street, PC 523  
Miami, Florida 33199

Re: UniversityCity Project TIGER Proposal

Dear Vice President/CFO Jessell:

On behalf of the City of Sweetwater, I am pleased to provide to you this letter of support and commitment for the FIU-led UniversityCity Project TIGER Proposal for FY2012 TIGER Discretionary Grant funds. I have been briefed by engaged FIU personnel and my own Chief of Staff, Robert Herrada, who has been very closely monitoring this proposal and you have my full support.

I have seen the plans developed by TYLIN International for improvements to SW 109<sup>th</sup> Avenue that widen walking opportunities and establish a linear park along both sides (as right-of-way allows) inclusive of the development of a City Hall Plaza on city owned property and they meet with my approval acting as the City's Chief Executive Officer. I do want to consult with the Sweetwater City Commission regarding these matters, but I see no problem in reaching the specific agreement as to timing and finalizing the details as to these UniversityCity Project components that involve activities within Sweetwater:

- Improvements to SW 109<sup>th</sup> Avenue as agreed upon with FIU to be performed by the FIU selected entity (or entities) along with those who will also be building the new parking garage, the Advanced Transit and Multimodal Station, Parabola Bridge, and the pedestrian improvements on the Maidique Campus;
- use of \$260,000 in these TIGER grant funds for Sweetwater to undertake the following activities as agreed upon by FIU: i) major maintenance, general repairs, fabrication and positioning of improved seating and interior conditions and the painting of the three existing Sweetwater community transit vehicles and a small all electric rubber-tired trolley currently stored at FIU; and ii) purchase of associated equipment and supplies for these major maintenance, repairs, and painting; and, iii) the taking of title of the small electric rubber-tired trolley when accepted by the Maintenance Department as in working order (it currently needs the afore mentioned work to become operational);

- commitment to the use of a second Sweetwater Community Transit vehicle identified by Sweetwater in a manner as agreed upon with FIU (an anticipated cost to Sweetwater of \$55,000 per year for three years assuming an eight hour service five days per week) once FIU and Sweetwater agree on how all four vehicles will be updated for local community transit services and how the second Sweetwater Community Transit vehicle will operate between FIU Engineering Center, destinations suiting the needs of Sweetwater citizens at or around the commercial properties at the intersection of SW107th Avenue and West Flagler Street and along SW109th Street including Sweetwater City Hall, the Advanced Transit and Multimodal Station in the planned FIU parking garage west of the Red Parking Garage on the Maidique Campus, and the Shuttle Stop to be built as part of the proposed Covered Walkway to the Green Library west of the Owa Ehan Building (it being assumed that the first Sweetwater Community Transit vehicle identified by Sweetwater will run the route for community services as it does now or otherwise as Sweetwater determines is best for its residents and that the third Sweetwater Community Transit vehicle identified by Sweetwater is held in good working order as a Sweetwater reserve vehicle; and,
- agreement to use the small all electric trolley for any of the following: short trips between City Hall and the Advanced Transit and Multimodal Station and afore mentioned Shuttle Spot for a small fee per passenger; short trips between Sweetwater and FIU using FIU interns or others for special and community event trips; and, use for concierge services associated with the hotel planned adjacent the new parking garage that houses the Advanced Transit and Multimodal Station as shown generally by the attached.

I do not anticipate having any problems reaching agreements on the particulars with FIU after the TIGER grant is awarded as to the exact details of these operational matters. I understand this agreement as between FIU and Sweetwater will also include the more frequent use of SW 109<sup>th</sup> Avenue by the FIU CATS shuttle vehicles operating between FIU Engineering Building and Maidique Campus ATMS, the afore mentioned Shuttle Stop and other destinations.

It is a recognized mutual goal of FIU and Sweetwater to optimize the use of available small transit vehicles for Sweetwater residents, employers, employees, and visitor as well as FIU students, faculty, other personnel, and visitor especially when crossing US 41 at SW 109th Avenue.

As FIU's partner in these UniversityCity Project TIGER Proposal that grew out of the University City Alliance Charrette of September 23-24, 2011, I whole heartedly support these efforts and will do whatever is in my power, subject to ultimate approval by the City Commission, to help bring about this UniversityCity Project to a successful conclusion and deployment in the event of US DOT TIGER funds awarded.

With the above conditions in mind, please accept this pledge by Sweetwater of the amount for these new community transit operations not to exceed \$55,000 for each year of a three year period beginning March 1, 2011 (total commitment not to exceed \$165,000) plus the use of Sweetwater right-of-way as depicted by the attached TYLIN drawings for pedestrian oriented improvements along SW 109<sup>th</sup> Avenue from SW 5<sup>th</sup> Street to US 41/SW8th Street subject to review and Sweetwater approval of the final construction plans and agreement as to the term of such use.

I concur in the estimated values for use of the right-of-way as \$1,613,040 for purposes of the UniversityCity Project TIGER Proposal (based on TYLIN drawings showing 34,320 square feet of area for the pedestrian improvements on both sides on the SW109th Avenue times average property values as calculated by FIU's I/ICRC-CAKE at \$47 per square feet).

Further, I agree that maintenance costs for keeping the pedestrian improvements along SW 109<sup>th</sup> Avenue will require Sweetwater maintenance to spend more time on this corridor and that a fair estimate of the extra effort is \$25,000 per year for the next 10 years (\$250,000).

The exact manner for the carrying out of this maintenance issue, along with the proposed \$260,000 TIGER funded repair and refurbishing efforts for the three Sweetwater community transit vehicles and a fourth electric rubber-tired trolley vehicle (that would be titled to Sweetwater after such repairs), as described in the UniversityCity Project TIGER Proposal will be agreed upon with FIU immediately after and in the event of the US DOT award of a TIGER grant to FIU for FY2011.

In addition to these commitments, Sweetwater had made a commitment to undertake a Sustainable Sweetwater Sub-Area Mobility Study (Sustainable Sweetwater SAMS) conditioned of the award of a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) FY2011 Community Challenge Planning Grant in FY2011. That HUD grant was not awarded and this SAMS study has been newly proposed as an effort to understand how to improve mobility throughout the entire University City Community (the entire FIU Maidique Campus, City of Sweetwater and adjacent properties). This proposed one year study proposed to commence on August 2012 and to conclude by August 2013 would help to identify how best to plan other transportation improvements to transform Sweetwater, FIU and adjoining properties into a well-designed, mobile, and prosperous UniversityCity. If following the award of FY2012 TIGER funds FIU will lead on this \$408,000 initiative, and conditioned upon award of the FY2012 TIGER funds, Sweetwater will secure funding to reimburse FIU for one-fourth of the expenses incurred (assume \$102,000) in addition to FDOT who has indicated it will reimburse FIU for one-half of the expenses incurred (assume \$204,000) using the talent and expertise available to FIU through the Industry/University Cooperative Research Center for Advanced Knowledge Enablement (I/UCRC-CAKE) and Lehman Center for Transportation Research (LCTR), and other academic and research centers.

As the FY2012 UniversityCity Prosperity Project submittal indicates, in addition the City Hall Plaza, the City is planning to develop a City Hall Parking Structure and Access (CHIPA) improvements with liner building(s) and access improvements for pedestrians to SW 109<sup>th</sup> Avenue and for automotive traffic from SW 107<sup>th</sup> Avenues. In addition, metered street parking, metered structured parking, traffic calming adjacent SW 109<sup>th</sup>, and complete street improvements on the west side of SW 107<sup>th</sup> Avenue would be undertaken. This will give Sweetwater a smart parking alternative to FIU parking and a stimulus for the development of Sweetwater's downtown. Based on input from the City Engineer and town planning and parking experts, we believe these improvements can be developed over the next five years as a \$20 million improvement funded through parking receipts and we will endeavor to undertake these efforts based upon the improvements initiated with the award of the FY 2012 TIGER funds.

If there are questions regarding these grant activities, please contact Robert Herrada, Sweetwater Chief of Staff, or myself.

Sincerely,

Mayor Manuel Maroño

City of Sweetwater

## UniversityCity Prosperity Project: FY2012 Discretionary TIGER Grant Submittal

**DRAFT**

### **Executive Summary**

How will Miami Dade County shape itself in the knowledge-based economy of the 21st century? Throughout the region, cities and neighborhoods are now actively seeking to redefine themselves to align more closely to their human and material assets. The **University City Prosperity Project** envisions an economically robust, sustainable, affordable, and equitable community centered around FIU as Miami's Anchor Institution for the global knowledge economy.

The UniversityCity Prosperity Project proposes to help achieve that vision in two innovative ways. First, our **Advanced Transit Oriented Development (ATOD)** for UniversityCity creates a best practice model for shifting trips away from private vehicles while simultaneously supporting the economic growth related to a major public research university. By strategically weaving together vibrant and mixed-use pedestrian pathways, pedestrian bridges, quality multi-modal transit station environments, shared local feeder vehicles, bike paths, private development projects, and express bus service, the UniversityCity ATOD overcomes a number of very real pedestrian obstacles and shifts significant numbers of trips from private vehicles to transit or other modes for at least a portion of their travel.

Secondly, our **Sustainable Informed Traveler Program (SITP)** provides personalized, timely information and advice regarding the most efficient and cost effective travel paths for consumers – in advance of their travel decision points. This includes information about whether to use transit, delay the start of a trip to avoid congestion, or take an alternate route to avoid construction or accident delays. The program software is predictive in nature, allowing users to make better travel decisions even before they get in their private vehicles, and it also offers the potential using express transit routes and faster parking in smart garages as major time savers.

The unique combination of these two innovations, along with a **very strong alliance of public and private partners**, furthers the goals and principles of the Sustainable Communities Initiative partnership and the TIGER program. IBM brings world-class solutions for Intelligent Transportation Systems, private real estate developers are poised to invest over \$35 million in the first of many phases of mixed use projects, international business interests have begun discussions about future investments, and the entire Miami-Dade County Congressional delegation has expressed their strong support.

**Significant benefits** include reductions in congestion, travel time, accidents, vehicle miles travelled, and travel costs for businesses and households. In addition, the UniversityCity Prosperity Project creates the first project of its kind to demonstrate the connections between sustainability, innovative mobility, technology transfer, and equitable economic prosperity led by a major public research university. In a globally competitive knowledge economy, the UniversityCity Prosperity Project points the way forward.

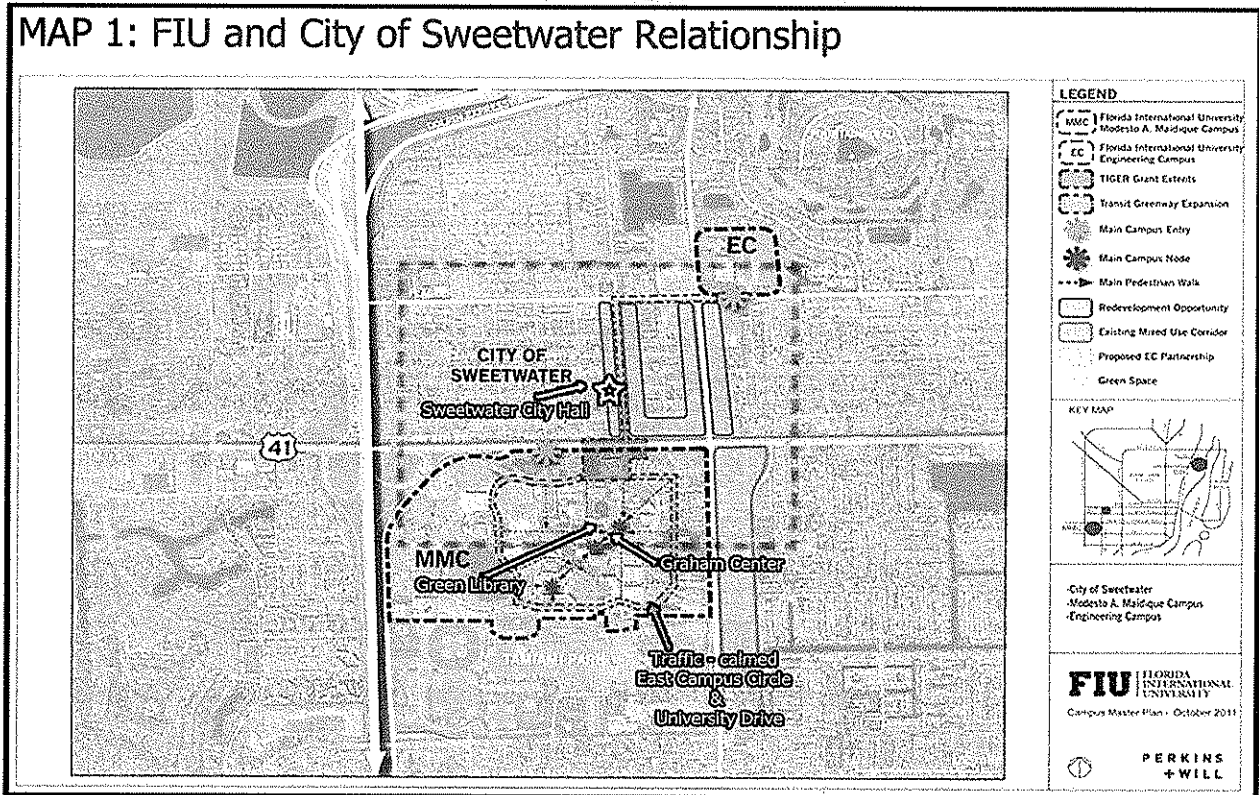
This is a real project addressing systemic and urgent problems in western Miami-Dade County. Communities such as Sweetwater and Doral have used annexation and incorporation as a strategy to revitalize themselves and give shape to new opportunities for their residents. The



rapid growth and expansion of nearby FIU, a public university whose enrollment is approaching 50,000, gives these cities and their neighbors an unprecedented opportunity to build new partnerships, generate fresh approaches to problem-solving, and improve their quality of life. The sustainable prosperity plan of FIU and our partners fosters a more seamless campus-community dynamic with the need for talent development, job creation, sustainability, enhanced public transportation, and new forms of residential and neighborhood development.

This proposal is the first step in catalyzing the long needed transformation of an important segment of our region that has been isolated and often too passive in the face of significant opportunity to move forward. It builds upon FIU's nascent role as an anchor institution and a neighborhood awakening about the need for a more intentional and deliberate effort to create a prosperous and sustainable future.

Public Research Universities such as FIU play a major role in creating global economic competitiveness for the United States, and strategic investments in the places surrounding those universities are essential to attract, develop, and retain the very best talent that drives the innovation economy, including technology transfer based on new research and business partnerships. In Western Miami-Dade County, we call this emerging place surrounding the FIU Modique campus UniversityCity, a number of partners have organized themselves around a series of shared goals and visions to form the UniversityCity Alliance (UCA), and the group is building momentum around their shared vision.



Without this project, extensive travel delays and high transportation costs for residents and businesses throughout South Florida will continue to negatively impact economic growth, quality

of life, affordable living options, environmental sustainability, and recruitment of talent and businesses. Most travel in the region continues to rely on single occupancy private vehicles, and increasing fuel prices are expected to create a significant economic hardship for many South Florida households. Without new ways to help residents and businesses reduce travel time and costs, economic growth and prosperity will remain a major challenge.

The City of Sweetwater (Sweetwater) provides an optimal opportunity to locate some of the livable, mixed-use places envisioned by UCA in an area just north of FIU's Madique campus. But poor mobility linkages across the eight lanes of high-speed traffic on US 41 (and similar conditions on SW 107th Avenue and West Flagler Street) have hindered private investment that would create a meaningful connection with FIU. This situation is expected to worsen and become very dangerous for pedestrians after widening projects on 107<sup>th</sup> and the nearby Florida Turnpike over the next five years. Sweetwater has envisioned a high-density and vibrant urban neighborhood that helps FIU attract students, global talent, businesses, and investors, but has also acknowledged that it needs additional capacity to emerge as a high quality urban built environment. Sweetwater also seeks to create new jobs, connections to the amenity-rich FIU campus, and quality educational opportunities for their predominantly low-income, immigrant residents, so the Mayor and the Sweetwater City Commission have agreed to actively participate in the UniversityCity Alliance (UCA).

As the only public research university in Florida's most populous and diverse metropolitan area of Miami-Dade County, Florida International University is among the top 25 largest universities in the country, and it plays a very special role in the Southeast Florida Region. In addition to attracting, developing, and retaining the internationally savvy talent that drives Florida's growing knowledge and innovation economy, FIU continues its role as the largest Hispanic serving university in the country. FIU also expects to quickly grow enrollment to over 50,000, including many students who are the first in their families to attend college, and many who come from limited English households. With over 7,000 faculty/staff and 150,000 alumni in the South Florida region, FIU serves as an anchor for the emerging South Florida Life Science corridor, attracts over 500,000 annual visitors for cultural and sporting events, and leads the development of a billion dollar economic development cluster centered on the new College of Medicine. As the only public research university serving the Miami area – one of only a few truly global cities in the United States – FIU's growth has enormous national and regional significance.

But traffic congestion, emerging water supply and drainage issues, looming parking shortages, and the lack of vibrant urban places adjacent to campus threaten FIU and its ability to provide the talent Miami's businesses need to compete globally. Affordable living options and limited transportation choices are frequent concerns of talented recruits, including students, research faculty, and staff at FIU.

With limited realistic transit options or connections to regional rail service, too few students and staff living close enough to comfortably walk or bike to campus, and completely congested major roadways acting as barriers to nearby communities, FIU is in danger of becoming an isolated location that few want to visit because it takes too much time and effort to reach campus. Additionally, FIU has very little room on campus to expand and therefore seeks to locate additional housing, retail, and other uses in quality, livable places in walking distance to campus.

Without the kinds of innovative solutions in this proposal, the combination of these challenges will stifle FIU's expansion plans, lessen positive impacts on surrounding communities, and reduce their ability to serve students and provide the knowledge economy workers essential for economic prosperity.

The UCA and other partners have now agreed to accelerate the UniversityCity Prosperity Project through this proposal for TIGER funds and a related funding request from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. This funding would allow the UCA partners to further conceptualize their shared vision in close coordination with FIU's master planning efforts that are firmly grounded in the goals and objectives of the Sustainable Communities Initiative. This transformation from a place of isolated congestion to a sustainably connected global UniversityCity requires strategic and innovative infrastructure investments. TIGER funding will help FIU, Sweetwater, and our other transportation partners accomplish this major sustainability initiative.

The unique combination of proposed improvements in the UniversityCity Prosperity Project do not fit typical funding categories or programs, but they offer great promise beyond Miami-Dade county once they are built, measured, and proven. In fact, once successful, they will create completely new standards for very smart, pedestrian-oriented, and multimodal mobility systems that *intentionally and directly support national and regional prosperity and sustainability.*