



Legislation Text

File #: 170019., **Version:** 1

NW 1st Avenue Streetscape: Extension of Midtown Programs (B)

NW 1st Avenue is an important mixed-use corridor located a block away from the University of Florida and the Ben Hill Griffin Stadium. This streetscape project is a top priority community initiative for the College Park / University Heights (CPUH) redevelopment area, and is part of the district's approved work plan and budget. The vision of the project is to transform the corridor and the Midtown area into a welcoming, well-functioning and safer mixed-use area, catering to the wide variety of stakeholders. Project scope was developed through a thorough community engagement process, and includes utility undergrounding and upgrades, continuous sidewalks, regular street trees and lights, on street parking, improved waste management and more.

Street renovation began in January on the 1600 and 1900 blocks. Work on the 1700 and 1800 blocks is scheduled to begin in a month. Staff and construction team are working closely with local stakeholders to coordinate construction efforts and minimize impact to businesses.

To complement the street improvements and encourage local stakeholders to improve their private properties and building facades, 3 time-limited façade improvement incentive programs were launched in summer 2016 for the Midtown area. Programs include the *Midtown Façade Grant Program*, *Midtown Residential Paint Program*, and *Midtown Architectural Assistance Program*. Thus far, 14 properties have taken advantage of these 3 programs. The *Midtown Architectural Assistance Program* application process expired in November 2016. Due to high demand, staff recommends re-opening the program to applications this spring. Currently, applications to the *Midtown Façade Grant Program* and *Midtown Residential Paint Program* are accepted until June 1, 2017. Staff would like to extend this opportunity and allow owners to apply for the special program through December 1, 2017.

Architectural fees associated with the *Midtown Architectural Assistance Program* will be paid out of the project account. Grants associated with the *Midtown Façade Grant Program* and *Midtown Residential Paint Program* will be paid out of the project's account.

CRA Executive Director to CRA Board: 1). Approve renewal of the *Midtown Architectural Assistance Program*, with applications to be received between June 1, 2017 and September 1, 2017; and 2). Approve the renewal of the *Midtown Façade Grant Program* and the *Midtown Residential Paint Program*, with applications to be received between June 8, 2017 and December 1, 2017, subject to CPUH Advisory Board approval.