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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Seacrest Revitalization Kicks Off Heart of Boynton Redevelopment

Construction for roadway improvements to major Boynton corridor starts June 2010

Boynton Beach, FL - Seacrest Boulevard, from Ocean Avenue to the C-16 Canal in Boynton Beach, is about to get a new look.

Construction will begin this June on the Seacrest Boulevard Streetscape Improvement project, a major component of the Heart of Boynton Redevelopment Plan, according to Lisa Bright CRA executive director.

City of Boynton engineer Andrew P. Mack, P.E., LEED AP, said that federal stimulus dollars are supporting the more than \$1.9 million Seacrest Boulevard Streetscape Improvement project. The year-long beautification project is one of seven major roadway projects being funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 in Palm Beach County.

The project will include:

- installation of raised medians with landscaping, irrigation, and stamped concrete
- milling and resurfacing of the existing roadway
- signing and pavement markings
- decorative street lighting
- a reclaimed water line
- public art
- and the installation of a pedestrian plaza at the intersection of Seacrest Boulevard and MLK Boulevard

“This project will enhance one of the City’s major north - south corridors within the northern portion of the CRA District known as the Heart of Boynton. It will increase safety in the community, with the creation of raised medians including landscaping and the closure of side streets at the intersection of NW 5th and NW 9th Court and Seacrest Boulevard,” he said. “A unique aspect of the project is that the City’s engineering staff will be performing the construction, engineering, and inspection duties, which are typically outsourced to private consulting firms. By keeping these responsibilities in-house, the City will be able to maximize the use of funds available for the project.”

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The federal stimulus dollars also allow for public art elements. Debby Coles-Dobay, the City's Public Arts Administrator, conducted public meetings with residents to review artist submissions and select one who would create and design the public art component at the intersection of Seacrest Boulevard and Martin Luther King intersection. At their February 9 monthly meeting, the CRA Board entered into an agreement with Deborah and Leonard Marucci, owners of *Hearts & Wings and Other Things*, to complete the artwork. These artists also created the "Butterfly Mandela," which the CRA purchased in July 2009 to place in Heritage Park, another art component of the Seacrest Streetscape project.

"The Seacrest Boulevard Streetscape Improvement will provide a much needed boost to Palm Beach County's construction industry and a great opportunity to employ local residents," Bright said. "Seacrest Boulevard's revitalization is the beginning of something very exciting for the community. The CRA is underway with the design phase for the second part of this project: the MLK streetscape."

The Boynton Beach CRA is committed to serving the community by guiding redevelopment activities and stimulating economic growth within its 1,650 acre district. The agency focuses on creating a vibrant downtown core, providing affordable housing, and revitalizing neighborhoods.

For more information on the CRA, its events and activities, call (561) 737-3256, or visit www.boyntonbeachcra.com.

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