

Attorney Guides Parcel Purchases, Easement Deals for Road Linkup

Carla Vianna, Daily Business Review

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Peter Waldman, partner at Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Peter Waldman represented the town of Medley in acquiring dozens of parcels needed for a multimillion-dollar road project that will connect suburbs in western Miami-Dade County via West 87th Avenue. The north-south road flows north from the Doral area into Medley but turns to dirt at Northwest 74th Street.



"It's a main north-south transportation link," said Waldman, a partner at the Fort Lauderdale office of Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman. "In the town of Medley, there's a hole in that link."

The hole in the thoroughfare also known as Galloway Road is a two-mile stretch between 74th and 103rd streets. The paved road picks back up about a quarter mile south of North Okeechobee Road, or U.S. Route 27.

"You were left with a missing piece of the puzzle, and that's why there's a need for this project," he said.

Waldman helped the town acquire 11 parcels in fee simple interest, 39 temporary construction easements and 13 permanent easements for the eminent domain and right-of-way project, which has been more than two years in the making.

The acquisition process sparked five lawsuits, one of which is still in litigation. All other parcels were acquired pre-suit.

Acquisition costs for the project hit \$4 million to \$5 million, Waldman said.

Most of the sites were being used as storage yards for shipping containers or long-haul trucks.

The Florida Department of Transportation will open the project to bidding this year and construction should commence early next year, Waldman said.

"This project is important because it really is filling in this missing link," he said. "We have a lot of transportation problems in the county, and this is going to be instrumental in addressing one of those problems."

Carla Vianna can be reached at 305-347-6665.