



FEDERAL COURTHOUSE SITE SELECTION  
PUBLIC MEETING FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2020  
BROWARD COUNTY MAIN LIBRARY  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

In 2019, Congress appropriated funding for the design and construction of a new 255,000-gross-square-foot federal courthouse in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The existing Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse, constructed in 1979, does not meet the United States Courts Design Guide standards and lacks adequate security to meet the standards for Facility Security Level 4 as defined by the Interagency Security Committee. The existing building configuration does not allow for distinct separation between restricted, secured, and public areas.

Meeting the 10-year spaces needs of the judiciary, the new courthouse will include 12 courtrooms and 17 judges' chambers. Once built, the facility will provide workspace for several tenant agencies, including the U.S. Court of Appeals, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, the U.S. Marshals Service, the U.S. Attorney's Office and the U.S. Probation Office.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The United States General Services Administration (GSA) will be preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the acquisition of a site and the design and construction of a new federal courthouse (Courthouse). The GSA is preparing this EA in accordance with Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500-1508), and the GSA Public Buildings Service NEPA Desk Guide (October 1999). The GSA is consulting under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f) and intends to partially fulfill the Section 106 public notification and consultation requirements through the NEPA process.

The GSA plans to acquire a site (Figure 1) for the construction of a 255,000 gross square foot courthouse, to include 50 inside parking spaces, within the Downtown Regional Activity Center in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. The EA will evaluate a range of alternatives for this Courthouse. Alternatives include:

1. Taking no action;
2. Construction of the Courthouse at 301 N Andrews Ave (bounded by N Andrews Ave, NW 4th St, NW 1st Ave, and NW 2nd St);
3. Construction of the Courthouse at 633 S. Federal Highway (bounded by SE 5th Terrace, SE 7th St, SE 4th Ave, and SE 6th St.); and
4. Construction of the Courthouse at 477 SW 1st Ave (bounded by SW 4th Court, SW 1st Ave, SW 5th St, and SW Flagler Dr)

## PUBLIC SCOPING PROCESS

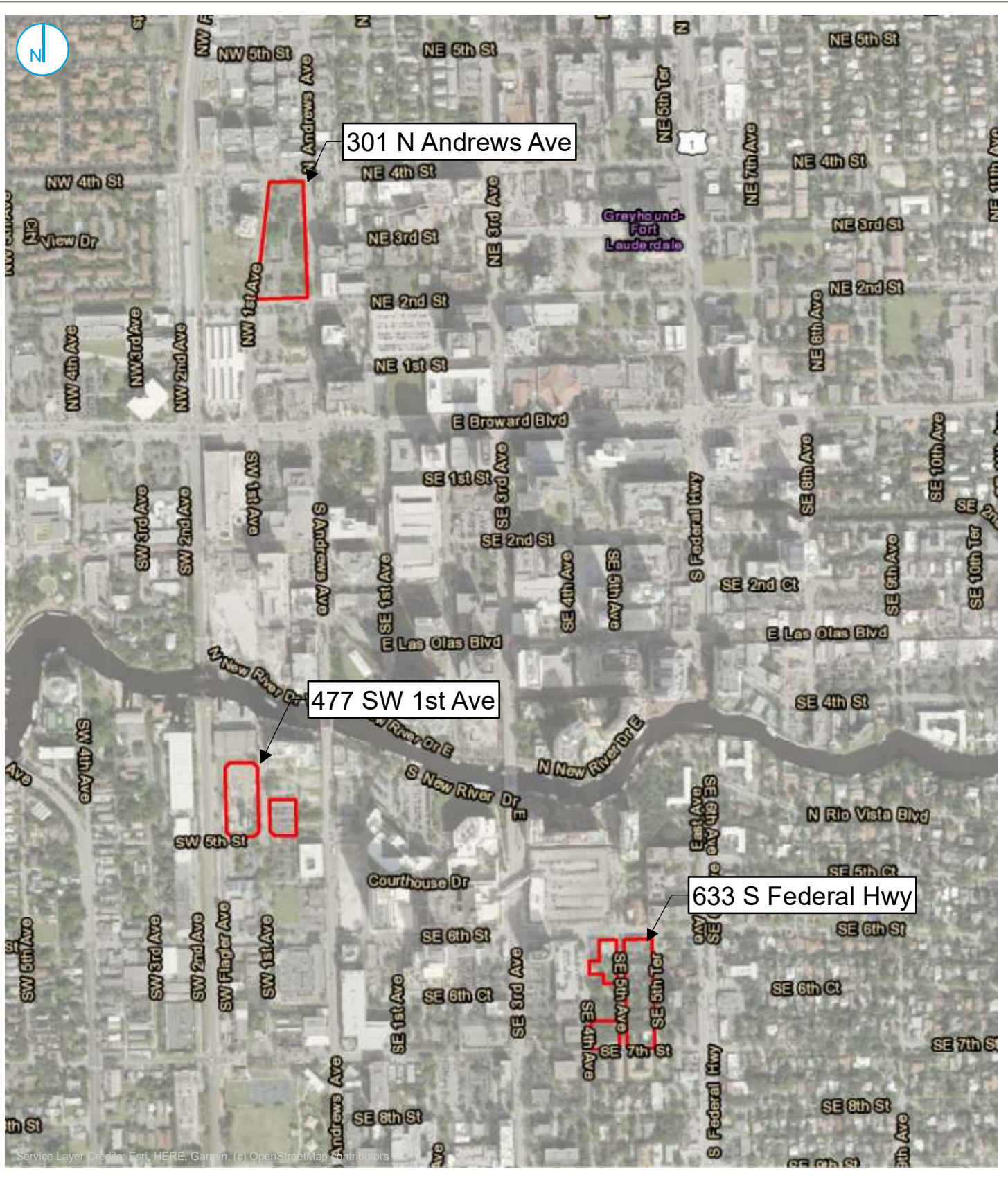
The purpose of this Public Scoping Meeting is to offer members of the community an opportunity to provide an input into the site selection and NEPA process. Visitors are encouraged to come, receive information, and give comments.

### *The National Environmental Policy Act*


The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C 4321-4347) was passed in 1970 and requires federal agencies to analyze the environmental impacts of their proposed actions before implementation. This law helps protect environmental resources within lands owned and administered by the federal government. Under NEPA, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) was established with the intent of overseeing the NEPA process and enforcing regulations. Provisions to NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508) were developed by the CEQ to provide further guidance.

### *National Historic Preservation Act*

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires federal agencies to consider the effect of their actions on historic properties. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) publishes regulations for implementation of section 106 (36 CFR 800). These regulations describe the process for identifying and evaluating historic properties. This includes assessing the effects of federal actions on historic properties as well as avoiding, minimizing, or mitigating any adverse effects. The NHPA ensures that federal agency decisions concerning the treatment of historic properties consider cultural and historical values.



LEGEND

 POTENTIAL SITE LOCATIONS

**SITE LOCATIONS**  
**FEDERAL COURTHOUSE SITE**  
**SELECTION**

**FIGURE 01**

O'BRIEN & GERE ENGINEERS, INC.  
A RAMBOLL COMPANY

0 400 800  
Feet

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

