

Retail project featuring Wawa breaks ground with \$26M loan

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The second phase of the Riverbend retail center in Fort Lauderdale, featuring one of South Florida's first **Wawa** stores, has broken ground after securing a \$26 million construction loan from **City National Bank of Florida**.

Gatlin Development Co. obtained the mortgage with help from **Aztec Group's Jason Shapiro, Jim Fried and Sean Harrington**. The project at 2400 W. Broward Blvd. - just west of Interstate 95 - will have five outparcel buildings plus 83,500 square feet of inline retail.



Located at 2400 W. Broward Blvd., Riverbend II will feature Wawa, Krispy Kreme,... [more](#)

Gas station and convenience store chain **Wawa** leased 5,178 square feet there as it plans to open dozens of locations in South Florida. Developers have already broken ground on **Wawa** stores in Sunrise and Palm Springs.

Krispy Kreme and **McDonald's** also signed outparcel building leases at Riverbend II. The inline retail tenants will include **Planet Fitness**, **Chipolte**, **Lucky Me** and **T-Mobile**.

Aztec Group also represented Gatlin Development in its recent sale of the ground lease for Riverbend's Walmart Supercenter for \$26.06 million.

"Having an anchor tenant like a Walmart Supercenter has played an important role in attracting additional national and regional retail brands and quick-service restaurants to sign at the shopping center currently under construction," Shapiro said. "The consumer appeal of this retailer and strong sales performance allowed us to secure favorable sale terms for our client."

Shapiro said the project should take about 18 months to complete.