



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING**

#26-0164

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: May 19, 2026

TITLE: Resolution Accepting the Sidewalk Master Plan - (**Commission Districts
1, 2, 3 and 4**)

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission adopt a resolution accepting the City's Sidewalk Master Plan.

Background

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, the City Commission approved funding to develop a citywide Sidewalk Master Plan to identify and prioritize sidewalk gaps using a data-driven and community-informed approach.

In June 2023, the City retained Alfred Benesch & Company (Benesch) to assist with this initiative. The project began with comprehensive baseline data collection, including Laser Imaging, Detection, and Ranging (LiDAR) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data from prior City initiatives, with extensive quality control to ensure data accuracy. Resulting analysis determined that the City currently has 579 miles of existing sidewalks and 436 miles of sidewalk gaps along streets where sidewalks could potentially be accommodated.

Public outreach commenced in fall 2023 and continued through winter 2024 through surveys, public meetings, and online engagement. A total of 818 responses were received, providing valuable insight into community concerns and desired improvements. Respondents identified safety, maintenance, and connectivity as primary concerns, particularly among households with school-aged children. Many residents described their local sidewalk network as fragmented and uncomfortable, with most rating overall network conditions as "Fair" or "Poor." Respondents also emphasized the need for complementary safety improvements, including crosswalks and traffic control measures.

Given the scale of need, a structured prioritization framework was developed to guide implementation. Additional outreach included engagement with the Fort Lauderdale Council of Civic Associations, Neighbor Support Night, and individual neighborhood associations.

Community input, combined with national best practices, informed the prioritization criteria for implementation, which include proximity to schools, parks, and transit; crash history; roadway characteristics; outstanding resident requests; and likelihood of pedestrian activity.

On January 22, 2025, Transportation and Mobility staff presented the prioritization framework and preliminary results to the City Commission (CAM #25-0014). The City Commission provided direction to focus initial implementation on one side of the street to maximize geographic coverage and delivery efficiency. Based on this direction, staff finalized the prioritization and conducted desktop feasibility reviews to identify segments suitable for initial implementation.

The proposed Phase I implementation includes approximately thirty-eight (38) miles of new sidewalks across all four Commission Districts as summarized below:

- District 1 – 7.8 miles;
- District 2 – 10.7 miles;
- District 3 – 9.9 miles; and
- District 4 – 9.9 miles.

To support implementation, multiple funding sources are available including:

- \$10,176,976 in adopted FY2026-FY2030 Community Investment Plan (P12865). This project provides annual funding of \$1,000,000 in FY2026 and FY2027, \$2,500,000 in FY2028 and FY2029 and \$3,000,000 in FY2030 for the construction of new sidewalks within the City;
- \$3,000,000 in Surtax Grant funding for design and construction, supporting several Phase I priority segments (P12596). The award of the design contract will be coming before the City Commission in the near future for consideration;
- \$720,000 in federal funding for sidewalk construction along Chateau Park Drive in Lauderdale Manors (P12978). The funding agreement will be brought before the City Commission in the near future for consideration; and
- \$8,000,000 in Special Obligation Bond funding, which is coordinated with Public Works to construct new sidewalks or maintain existing ones in conjunction with planned roadway and infrastructure improvements.

Given that demand for construction of missing gaps is higher than funding available, staff recommend utilizing available funding to advance sidewalk implementation within seven

(7) neighborhoods in each commission district first. This approach aims to balance addressing significant needs while also delivering some quick wins in areas that require minimal intervention, as follows:

- Four (4) top-ranking neighborhoods identified in initial priorities in each commission district with the highest level of need/identified sidewalk gap; and
- Three (3) neighborhoods with the smallest identified sidewalk gaps which would, with limited investment, enable completion of the sidewalk network within those neighborhoods.

City staff recommend that the City Commission accept the Sidewalk Master Plan confirming the methodologies and outcomes, including the tiered categories. If approved, the next phase of the process includes targeted neighborhood outreach for identified priority segments. To support this effort, staff developed Neighborhood Fact Sheets to provide location-specific information and facilitate community engagement. Following outreach, supported segments will be advanced to the Capital Projects Department for detailed feasibility analysis. Feasible projects will advance to design, and construction based on funding availability.

City staff plan to start public outreach and engagement efforts with the following neighborhoods to further evaluate the implementation of new sidewalks. Once these neighborhoods are completed, the implementation of new sidewalk locations will continue in order identified in the Sidewalk Master Plan.

Commission District				
	D1	D2	D3	D4
Top Priority	1 Palm Aire Village West	South Middle River	Melrose Manors	Riverside Park
	2 Coral Ridge	Victoria Park	Historic Dorsey Riverbend	Croissant Park
	3 Poinsettia Heights	Sailboat Bend	Lauderdale Manors	Harbordale
	4 Coral Ridge Isles	Middle River Terrace	Durrs	River Run
Small Gap	1 Palm Aire Village 1	Flagler Village	Sunset	Flamingo Park
	2 Palm Aire Village East	Central Beach	Lake Aire Palm View	Rio Vista
	3 Twin Lakes North	Lake Ridge	Lauderdale West	Tarpon River

To promote transparency and track progress, staff collaborated with the Information Technology Department to develop an interactive GIS portal displaying priority sidewalk segments and implementation status. The Sidewalk Master Plan, Neighborhood Fact Sheets, and GIS portal are available at www.fortlauderdale.gov/sidewalkmasterplan

Resource Impact

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with this action.

Strategic Connections

This item is a FY 2026 Commission Priority, advancing the Infrastructure and Resilience initiative.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029 Strategic Plan*, specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure Focus Area
- Goal 4: Facilitate an efficient, multimodal transportation network

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are Connected*

This item supports the *Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan* specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure Focus Area
- The Transportation & Mobility Element
- Goal 1: Ensure the equitable development of a Complete Network for transportation that prioritizes safety and emphasizes multimodal mobility and accessibility

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Sidewalk Master Plan

Exhibit 2 – Fact Sheets

Exhibit 3 – Resolution

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