



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

#26-0444

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

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: May 19, 2026

TITLE: Sidewalk Master Plan Update Presentation – Transportation and Mobility
Department (**Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4**)

The purpose of this agenda item is to inform the City Commission of the completion of the Sidewalk Master Plan and share recommendations for potential next steps in advance of a resolution to accept the Sidewalk Master Plan (CAM #26-0164) at the May 19, 2026, City Commission Regular Meeting.

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 of 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. The resulting analysis of the data identified that the City had 579 miles of existing sidewalks and 436 miles of sidewalk gaps along streets where sidewalks could potentially be accommodated.

Public outreach included surveys, public meetings, and online engagement commenced in fall 2023 and continued through winter 2024. 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 the local sidewalk network as fragmented and uncomfortable, with most rating the overall network conditions as “Fair” or “Poor.” Respondents also emphasized the need for complementary safety improvements, including crosswalks and traffic control measures.

The 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 includes:

- 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 the new sidewalk implementation to one (1) 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 the initial implementation. The master plan includes six (6) phases (tier groups).

The proposed initial project implementation includes approximately thirty-eight (38) miles of new sidewalks across all four (4) 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 gaps is higher than funding available, staff recommend utilizing available funding to advance sidewalk implementation within seven (7) neighborhoods in each City 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 City Commission district with the highest level of need/identified sidewalk gaps; and
- Three (3) neighborhoods with the smallest identified sidewalk gaps which would, with limited investment, enable completion of priority sidewalk gaps within those neighborhoods.

A list of the recommended neighborhoods for each district is shown in the table below:

		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

If approved, City staff will begin targeted neighborhood outreach for the identified priority segments. To support this effort, staff developed Neighborhood Fact Sheets to provide location-specific information and facilitate community engagement. Following outreach, the 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.

To promote transparency and track progress, City staff developed 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.

Once the initial locations (identified in the table above) are addressed, the implementation of new sidewalks will continue in the order identified in the Sidewalk Master Plan.

Resource Impact

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with this action.

Strategic Connections

This item is a FY2026 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 – Presentation

Prepared by: Karen Warfel, Transportation Planning Manager,
Transportation and Mobility
Ekaete Ekwere, P.E., Deputy Director, Transportation and
Mobility

Department Director: Milos Majstorovic, P.E., Transportation and Mobility