

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 27, 2025

6:00 PM

Discussion - August 21, 2025 Letter from Florida Department of
Transportation
Broward Center for the Performing Arts - Mary N. Porter Riverview
Ballroom - 201 SW 5th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312

CITY COMMISSION - SPECIAL MEETING

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor

JOHN C. HERBST Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District 1

STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District 2

PAM BEASLEY-PITTMAN Commissioner - District 3

BEN SORENSEN Commissioner - District 4

RICHELLE WILLIAMS, City Manager

DAVID R. SOLOMAN, City Clerk

D'WAYNE M. SPENCE, Interim City Attorney

PATRICK REILLY, City Auditor

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trantalis called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

ROLL CALL

Present 5 - Commissioner Ben Sorensen, Vice Mayor John C. Herbst, Commissioner Steven Glassman, Commissioner Pam Beasley-Pittman (arrived at 6:20 p.m.), and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

COMMISSION QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Also Present: City Manager Rickelle Williams, City Clerk David Soloman, Interim City Attorney D'Wayne Spence, and City Auditor Patrick Reilly

[25-0864](#)

Discussion - August 21, 2025, Letter from the Florida Department of Transportation re: Traffic Control Device Noncompliance and such other matters that may relate to the preceding - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis explained the reason for this Special Meeting. An August 21, 2025, letter from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) was sent to City Manager Rickelle Williams (FDOT Letter) ordering the removal of specific roadway pavement markings in the City by September 4, 2025.

A copy of the FDOT Letter is part of the backup to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis stated that, contrary to the language in FDOT's Letter, the City did not receive any prior notice regarding the removal of specific street markings. Mayor Trantalis recognized City Manager Rickelle Williams. City Manager Williams announced that Milos Majstorovic, Transportation and Mobility (TAM) Department Director, would provide background information.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Mr. Majstorovic. Mr. Majstorovic narrated a presentation entitled *Special Meeting of the City Commission - August*

27, 2025.

A copy of the presentation has been made part of the backup to these Meeting Minutes.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Majstorovic confirmed FDOT's position and that the City could request an administrative hearing, but FDOT would not alter its position.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Majstorovic discussed and identified four (4) locations listed in the FDOT Letter. Mr. Majstorovic confirmed that none of the roadway pavement markings (pavement markings) are on State roads. The pavement markings are on City roads under the traffic control jurisdiction of Broward County.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Majstorovic explained that the purpose of painting these intersections was to improve pedestrian crosswalk safety and overall traffic safety and remarked on related information. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Majstorovic explained that Las Olas Boulevard, a former State road, was transferred to the City in 2018 and came under the traffic control jurisdiction of Broward County. The pavement markings at Las Olas Boulevard and Almond Avenue were implemented in 2019.

Commissioner Sorensen reviewed his understanding of the information presented by Mr. Majstorovic. Mr. Majstorovic reiterated that the intersections listed in the FDOT Letter are City roadways under Broward County traffic control jurisdiction.

In response to Vice Mayor Herbst's question regarding the FDOT Internal Memorandum dated June 30, 2025, on this topic (FDOT Internal Memorandum), Mr. Majstorovic confirmed that the FDOT Internal Memorandum was forwarded to TAM and was not directly received from FDOT. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Interim City Attorney D'Wayne Spence's question, Mr. Majstorovic confirmed that the Office of the City Attorney (CAO) forwarded the FDOT Internal Memorandum to TAM. Vice Mayor Herbst said he forwarded the FDOT Internal Memorandum to the CAO on July 12, 2025, to request input on potential financial implications should the City not comply with FDOT's directive. Vice Mayor Herbst confirmed that City management was made aware of this issue, and said he had related discussions with Paul Bangel, Senior Assistant City Attorney, and City Manager Williams.

Interim City Attorney Spence said formal notice from FDOT to the City was not received until receipt of the FDOT Letter. Interim City Attorney Spence reiterated that TAM did not directly receive the FDOT Internal Memorandum, noting it was forwarded by Vice Mayor Herbst.

Vice Mayor Herbst remarked that he was not formally notified of the FDOT Internal Memorandum and confirmed his proactive efforts to inform staff, based on his reading of a newspaper article about another impacted municipality.

Commissioner Glassman discussed language in the FDOT Internal Memorandum that differs from the FDOT Letter, quoted related language, and noted his viewpoint regarding its significance.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions regarding FDOT's input on the East Las Olas Boulevard and Almond Avenue intersection, Mr. Majstorovic explained FDOT was aware of the Beach Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Streetscape Improvement Project (Streetscape Project), but FDOT did not review the pavement markings. The pavement markings were reviewed and approved by the Broward County Traffic Engineering Division. FDOT only reviewed and approved access management and turn lane modifications.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on language in the FDOT Internal Memorandum associated with pavement markings required by autonomous vehicles that are critical to their overall effectiveness and remarked on related information.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions, Mr. Majstorovic said he is not aware of any autonomous vehicle operations currently underway or contemplated when the City painted the locations.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Mr. Majstorovic reconfirmed FDOT was aware of the pavement markings at the East Las Olas Boulevard and Almond Avenue intersection during the Streetscape Project. Commissioner Sorensen remarked on the long timeline between completion of the Streetscape Project and FDOT's Letter. Mr. Majstorovic confirmed. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis provided additional context regarding the pavement markings adjacent to State Road A1A and Sebastian Street. He commented on related discussions with Gerry O'Reilly, the former Secretary of FDOT District 4. Mayor Trantalis cited his understanding of

Governor Ron DeSantis' position, remarked on the State's short compliance deadline, and expounded on his viewpoint.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed that the Commission, not City Manager Williams, should decide how to respond to the FDOT Letter and hear public input.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman said she would provide comments following public input.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Troy Liggett, 707 NE 17th Court. Mr. Liggett spoke in opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Lester Zalewski, 545 S. Fort Lauderdale Beach Boulevard. Mr. Zalewski discussed his viewpoint regarding this topic and the deterioration of the Progress Pride flag located east of Sebastian Street and State Road A1A. Mayor Trantalis confirmed its restoration following completion of an adjacent project.

Commissioner Glassman took issue with Mr. Zalewski's comments, cited information from an April 2022 study by Bloomberg Philanthropies entitled *Asphalt Art Safety Study Historical Crash Analysis and Observational Behavior Assessment at Asphalt Art Sites* (Bloomberg Study), and expounded on his viewpoint. Further comment and discussion ensued.

A copy of the Study has been made part of the backup to these Meeting Minutes.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions, Mr. Majstorovic confirmed staff followed the appropriate process and guidelines, both internal and external, for all four (4) locations.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Molly Taylor on behalf of Colee Hammock Homeowners Association (CHHOA). Ms. Taylor confirmed CHHOA's opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Al Perry, 1848 SE 13th Street. Mr. Perry spoke in opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Paul Bangel, Senior Assistant City Attorney. In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Mr. Bangel explained language in the governing State Statute and legal aspects associated with options for Commission consideration related to the four (4)

locations identified in the FDOT Letter. Mr. Bangel said he did not find information prohibiting the City's pavement markings included in the *2016 Edition of the Manual of Uniform Minimum Standards for Design, Construction and Maintenance for Streets and Highways (Florida Greenbook)* and cited related language.

Commissioner Glassman commented on related policy statements from FDOT and Governor DeSantis. In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding the applicability of those statements to all public roadways, Mr. Bangel remarked that there is no clear understanding. Commissioner Glassman cited a related statement from the U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy and expounded on his viewpoint. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Herbst commented that despite the Bloomberg Study discussed earlier by Commissioner Glassman, FDOT's policy since 2011 discourages decorative paved crosswalks on roadways due to public safety concerns.

In response to Vice Mayor Herbst's question regarding the safety of brightly colored pavement markings, Mr. Bangel said that it is not his area of expertise.

Commissioner Glassman pointed out that of the four (4) locations identified by FDOT, only two (2) are street crosswalks. Mr. Majstorovic confirmed and remarked on vehicle accident data in the four (4) locations, recently and during the past ten (10) years. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Alex Vallejo, 2445 SW 18th Terrace. Mr. Vallejo discussed his opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Fred Fejes. Mr. Fejes discussed his opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Father Richard J. Vitale, 700 Kensington Place, Wilton Manors, on behalf of his congregation, Holy Angels National Catholic Church. Father Vitale discussed his opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Kate Driscoll, 4025 N. Federal Highway. Ms. Driscoll discussed her opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Susan Horovitz, 1765 SE 7th Street. Ms.

Horvitz discussed her opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Paul Renneisen, 3111 NE 57th Avenue. Mr. Renneisen discussed his opposition to the FDOT Letter. In response to Mr. Renneisen's question, Vice Mayor Herbst confirmed his support of the LGBTQ+ community.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Chris Nelson, 520 SE 5th Avenue. Mr. Nelson provided his viewpoint on this topic and confirmed the need to follow the law.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Piper Spencer, 7120 SW 2nd Court, Pembroke Pines. Ms. Spencer discussed her opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Laura Sue Wilansky, 2251 NE 66th Street. Ms. Wilansky discussed her opposition to the FDOT Letter. Ms. Spencer and Ms. Wilansky performed a song representing their position.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jennifer Jones, 15007 SW 10th Street, Sunrise. Ms. Jones discussed her opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Alfredo Olvera, 3913 NW 21st Avenue. Mr. Olvera discussed his opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Mary Eakins-Durand, 241 NW 53rd Street, Oakland Park. Ms. Eakins-Durand discussed her opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Sister Robin Merrill, 1404 E. Las Olas Boulevard. Sister Robin Merrill discussed her opposition to the FDOT Letter. As the artist of the Progress Pride Flag, Sister Merrill commented on her concerns. In response to Vice Mayor Herbst's question, Sister Merrill explained her perspective and recommendations.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Robert Kesten, 425 NE 4th Street, on behalf of Stonewall National Museum. Mr. Kesten discussed his opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Dr. Elizabeth King, 777 Bayshore Drive, on behalf of the Central Beach Alliance (CBA). Dr. King discussed her opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Reverend Aaron Lauer, Senior Pastor at the

United Church of Christ, 630 NE 14th Court, Fort Lauderdale. Reverend Lauer discussed his opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Paula Yukna, 2701 N. Ocean Boulevard. Ms. Yukna discussed her opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ted Inserra, 912 SW 19th Street, River Oaks Civic Association President. Mr. Inserra discussed his viewpoint regarding this Agenda item and support of the pavement markings.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Julie Levy, 8370 Spring Lake Drive, Boca Raton. Ms. Levy discussed her opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized James LaBrie, 1514 NE 20th Street, Poinsettia Heights Civic Association Board Vice President. Mr. LaBrie discussed his opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Michael Rajner, 4 SW 11th Court. Mr. Rajner discussed his opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Count L.F. Chodkiewicz Chudzikiewicz, 1141 Bailey Avenue, Macon, GA. Count Chudzikiewicz discussed his opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Shaun Hall, 2215 Marine Bay Drive. Mr. Hall discussed his opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized State Representative Mitch Rosenwald. Representative Rosenwald discussed his opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Elijah Manley, 301 SW 1st Avenue. Mr. Manley discussed his opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Michael Albetta, 1117 NE 10th Avenue, Lake Ridge Civic Association President. Mr. Albetta discussed his opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ann Wiley, 1600 SW 5th Street. Ms. Wiley discussed her viewpoint regarding this Agenda item and crosswalk public safety.

Mayor Trantalis recognized John Cotter, 432 Charley Avenue. Mr. Cotter discussed his opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Robert Boo, 724 NE 5th Avenue, Pride Center at Equality Park, Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Boo discussed his opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Oliver Larkin, 3345 SW 2nd Court, Deerfield Beach. Mr. Larkin discussed his opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Edward Louchs. Mr. Louchs discussed his opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Maxx Fenning, 1327 Partridge Close, Pompano Beach, PRISM (Pride, Raising Awareness, Involvement, Support, Mentoring) Executive Director. Mr. Fenning discussed his opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis passed the gavel to Commissioner Glassman at 7:59 p.m.

Commissioner Glassman recognized Vanessa Apotheker, 712 SW 9th Terrace, Tarpon River Civic Association President. Ms. Apotheker discussed her opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Commissioner Glassman passed the gavel back to Mayor Trantalis at 8:04 p.m.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Fay Alkinas. Ms. Alkinas discussed her opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Emma Collum, 1789 NE 34th Street, Oakland Park. Ms. Collum discussed her opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Melinda Bowker, 511 SE 5th Street. Ms. Bowker discussed her opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Tom Lander, 3030 N. Federal Highway, Safe Schools South Florida Chairman. Mr. Lander discussed his opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ben Hartard, 706 NE 3rd Avenue. Mr. Hartard discussed his opposition to the FDOT Letter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jason Nunez, 2300 NE 7th Avenue, Wilton Manors, on behalf of the Greater Fort Lauderdale LGBT Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Nunez discussed his opposition to the FDOT Letter.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Bangel reviewed options available to the City. The possibilities include compliance and removal of all pavement markings, removal of all pavement markings except for the Progress Pride Flag, challenging the removal of all pavement markings and requesting an administrative hearing, or taking no action and risking FDOT funding.

Mr. Bangel cautioned about the exhaustion of administrative remedies and due process concerns should the State remove the pavement markings before an administrative hearing. Mr. Bangel recommended broad direction from the Commission should litigation be pursued and suggested hiring special counsel who are currently working with other cities on this issue. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman noted District 2 resident feedback on this issue, confirmed the need to protect the pavement markings at the four (4) locations, expeditiously request an administrative hearing, and exhaust all available legal remedies before the City files legal action.

Commissioner Glassman discussed his perspective, cited language included in the FDOT Letter, and reiterated his support for the City quickly moving forward with all available legal options, including filing for injunctive relief and a declaratory judgment, concurrent with a request for an administrative hearing. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the need to exhaust all administrative remedies before filing legal action and discussed related information. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman requested that staff confer with other South Florida municipalities contesting similar issues and expounded on his perspective and recommendations. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question regarding the ability of the State to remove the pavement markings while pursuing an administrative hearing, Interim City Attorney Spence noted the inability to predict action by the State. He confirmed that CAO staff met with attorneys at Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman (Weiss Serota), who are representing other area municipalities on this issue, and explained related strategy discussions and options.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on related State action in the City of Orlando,

the City moving forward with available legal remedies, and expounded on his viewpoint. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Interim City Attorney Spence commented on staff efforts to be proactive. Vice Mayor Herbst commented on his understanding of Mr. Bangel's remarks regarding the City's ability to pursue legal action if the pavement markings are removed.

In response to Vice Mayor Herbst's questions, Interim City Attorney Spence discussed his legal perspective on several possible causes of action by the City. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding issues considered by a court, including due process.

Vice Mayor Herbst expounded on his perspective, his understanding of the situation, possible future scenarios, and options moving forward. In response to Vice Mayor Herbst's question regarding the City's position should the outcome of an administrative hearing not favor the City, Mr. Bangel read language from the State Statute. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis reviewed his understanding of the points discussed by Vice Mayor Herbst and input from CAO staff regarding potential causes of action that the City could pursue following an administrative hearing. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mr. Bangel recommended that the Commission's direction to staff regarding legal action be as broad as possible.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed the need for a Commission decision regarding how to move forward and cited options available. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding a timeline from Weiss Serota, Interim City Attorney Spence confirmed they are actively working on their recommendations for other municipalities facing this issue, acknowledged the short timeframe, and noted the City has not yet retained Weiss Serota as its Special Counsel on this matter.

Interim City Attorney Spence commented on circumstances related to the four (4) locations, cited examples, and explained related information and considerations. Mr. Bangel read language associated with FDOT withholding funding for additional violations. Mayor Trantalis confirmed his understanding. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' request for Commission Member feedback, Vice Mayor Herbst confirmed his recommendation to pursue an administrative hearing. Vice Mayor Herbst commented on his opposition to painting a flag on the ground, discussed his alternative recommendation, and remarked on related information. Vice Mayor Herbst confirmed his opposition to filing legal action against the State, noting the significant amount of funding the City is requesting from the State for numerous projects, and expounded on his perspective.

Commissioner Sorensen remarked on his positive perspective regarding the pavement markings, which indicates that everyone is welcome in the City. He confirmed his support to pursue an administrative hearing that would also include pavement markings at any City intersections in addition to the four (4) discussed in the FDOT Letter.

Commissioner Sorensen discussed his recommendation that the Commission direct the CAO to request an administrative hearing and concurrently engage with other municipalities facing similar directives and work together with Special Counsel Weiss Serota. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman concurred with Commissioner Sorensen's recommendations, confirmed her support for pursuing all available legal avenues, and expounded on her perspective.

Commissioner Glassman commented on the large number of emails received from residents on this issue. He discussed artwork placed on beach lifeguard stands in District 2, explained his anticipation of similar problems and concerns in the future, and shared negative experiences related to culture in the past. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis acknowledged the large amount of community feedback on this topic, remarked on the related Statute, and discussed his perspective regarding the intention of the State in this situation. He expounded on his viewpoint and discussed future concerns should the City not act. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed the Commission's unanimous support to pursue an administrative hearing and discussed additional legal options. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Herbst reiterated his support to pursue an administrative hearing but does not support additional legal action.

Commissioner Sorensen commented on his viewpoint regarding Commission action related to additional legal remedies.

DISCUSSED

25-0878

Motion to pursue an Administrative Appeal in response to the August 21, 2025, Florida Department of Transportation Letter

Mayor Trantalis commented on the City's history of cultural respect and ethnic diversity, discussed examples, and expounded on his viewpoint. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman made a motion to approve this Agenda item and was seconded by Commissioner Sorensen.

APPROVED

Yea: 5 - Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst, Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman and Mayor Trantalis

25-0879

Motion authorizing the City Attorney to explore and take action on all legal remedies, in concurrence with the Administrative Challenge, in the event that action needs to be taken prior to the next Commission Meeting

Commission Member discussion ensued regarding direction to staff. Commissioner Sorensen clarified his motion directing staff to explore all of the City's available legal remedies in concurrence with the administrative hearing process. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen made a motion to approve this Agenda item and was seconded by Commissioner Glassman.

APPROVED

Yea: 4 - Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman and Mayor Trantalis

Nay: 1 - Vice Mayor Herbst

25-0880

Resolution Approving the Appointment of Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L. to represent the City of Fort Lauderdale in a Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Traffic Control Device Non-Compliance Matter, Prescribing Hourly Rates of Pay for such Legal Services, Authorizing the City Attorney to Execute a Retainer Agreement, and Providing for an effective date

Interim City Attorney Spence said that additional information is to be included in this Resolution for retention of Special Counsel Weiss Serota

on behalf of the City, which also represents the City of Delray Beach, Florida, and the City of Key West, Florida, in those cities' respective, similar legal matters, at the following rates: Senior Partner \$575 per hour; Partners \$525 per hour; Associates \$425 per hour; and Paralegals \$175 per hour.

Commissioner Sorensen introduced this Resolution which was read by title only.

ADOPTED

Yea: 4 - Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman and Mayor Trantalis

Nay: 1 - Vice Mayor Herbst

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Dean J. Trantalis
Mayor

ATTEST:

David R. Soloman
City Clerk