



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

#26-0182

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

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: February 3, 2026

TITLE: New River Crossing Initiative Update – Transportation and Mobility Department (**Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4**)

City staff will present an update on the New River Crossing initiative and seek direction from the City Commission in advance of February 13, 2026, the deadline to submit a response to Broward County.

Over the past few years, the City Commission has adopted various resolutions focused on the New River Crossing including Resolution No. 22-20, Resolution No. 23-302, and Resolution No. 24-280.

On March 18, 2025, the City Commission discussed the Broward Commuter Rail project and the New River Crossing as part of the City Commission Conference Meeting. The discussion focused on the March 3, 2025, letter from Broward County Mayor Beam Furr to Mayor Trantalis. The letter requested that the City provide the requested information by October 1, 2025. The City Commission shared its initial feedback and identified some topics that required additional clarification and review. Subsequently, City staff and County staff met to further discuss the letter's objectives and potential next steps.

On April 1, 2025, during the City Commission Conference Meeting, staff provided a brief update including a draft resolution and requested feedback from the City Commission. As an outcome of discussions, the City Commission requested additional modifications and that an updated resolution be added to the April 15, 2025, City Commission Regular Meeting agenda.

On April 15, 2025, the City Commission adopted Resolution No. 25-71 reaffirming Resolution No. 24-280 and the construction of a tunnel as the Locally Preferred Alternative for the commuter rail train crossing the New River. Specifically, the resolution directed the City Manager to:

- Continue collaborating with Broward County staff on the tunnel concept with periodic meetings and provide, to the extent possible, a viable tunnel alternative update to the City Commission and the Board of County Commissioners before October 1, 2025, which shall illustrate the City's progress and define the City's

remaining timeline and next steps;

- Promote the City of Fort Lauderdale's desire to advance the tunnel concept only; engage with and provide project information to qualified firms with tunneling experience; and survey the industry to identify if any developer(s) with tunneling experience would be willing to submit a formal proposal for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a tunnel;
- Engage with Brightline and the Florida East Coast Railway, in coordination with the County, FOOT, and the MPO, as may be required, to secure written documentation from each entity on their respective positions regarding the proposed tunnel project; and
- Explore grant opportunities and financial strategies and develop a financial plan that addresses how tunnel construction, operations and maintenance costs may be funded.

Since mid-April 2025, staff have been working on deliverables identified as part of Resolution No. 25-71 to satisfy the October 1, 2025, deadline for a response set by the County.

On July 28, 2025, The City of Fort Lauderdale hosted the New River Crossing Industry Day (Industry Day). Industry Day included presentations from the City of Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Build America Bureau. In addition, the City hosted one-on-one breakout session opportunities with qualified firms to further discuss the project, understand their interest in the project, gain industry feedback on potential next steps and associated timelines.

At the August 19, 2025, City Commission Conference Meeting, City staff shared various updates on the tunnel initiative, including external factors that impact funding opportunities. During the City Manager's Report discussion, staff suggested, and the City Commission supported, that the City request an extension beyond the October 1, 2025, deadline.

On September 16, 2025, a letter was sent to Monica Cepero, Broward County Administrator, requesting an extension to July 1, 2026. On September 29, 2025, the City received a response from Ms. Cepero agreeing to an extension to February 13, 2026.

On October 27, 2025, the City released a Request for Information (RFI) to gather insights from subject matter experts in the tunneling industry. The RFI aimed to elicit formal responses for subsequent market analysis as a follow-up to the discussions held as part of Industry Day. While the RFI did not request proposals, it invited qualified firms to share feedback on project delivery methods, innovative technologies, financing mechanisms, and timelines to aid in developing future procurement strategies. The RFI submission deadline was on December 1, 2025, and the City received a total of thirteen (13) responses.

City staff shared updates with the City Commission via Letters to Commission (LTCs) and Memorandums listed below:

- January 16, 2026 (LTC No. 26-013)
- December 4, 2025 (LTC No. 25-261)
- October 29, 2025 (LTC No. 25-212)
- September 30, 2025 (LTC No. 25-191)
- July 16, 2025 (Memo No. 25-121)
- April 18, 2025 (Memo No. 25-038)
- April 9, 2024 (Memo No. 24-062)
- February 28, 2024 (Memo No. 24-036)
- January 10, 2024 (Memo No. 24-006)

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Presentation
Exhibit 2 – Resolution No. 25-71
Exhibit 3 – LTC No. 26-013
Exhibit 4 – LTC No. 25-261
Exhibit 5 – LTC No. 25-212
Exhibit 6 – LTC No. 25-191
Exhibit 7 – Memo No. 25-121
Exhibit 8 – Memo No. 25-038
Exhibit 9 – Memo No. 24-062
Exhibit 10 – Memo No. 24-036
Exhibit 11 – Memo No. 24-006
Exhibit 12 – Mayor Furr Letter

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