

# City of Fort Lauderdale

*City Hall  
100 North Andrews Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301  
[www.fortlauderdale.gov](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov)*



## Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, January 22, 2019**

**12:00 PM**

**Joint Workshop with Infrastructure Task Force Advisory  
Committee  
City Commission Conference Room**

## **CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP**

***FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION***

***DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor - Commissioner  
BEN SORENSEN Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District IV  
HEATHER MORAITIS Commissioner - District I  
STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District II  
ROBERT L. McKINZIE Commissioner - District III***

***CHRIS LAGERBLOOM, City Manager  
JOHN HERBST, City Auditor  
JEFFREY A. MODARELLI, City Clerk  
ALAIN E. BOILEAU, City Attorney***

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Trantalis called the Joint Workshop with the Infrastructure Task Force Advisory Committee (ITFC) to order at 12:13 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Commissioner Heather Moraitis, Commissioner Steven Glassman, Commissioner Robert L. McKinzie (arrived at 12:18 p.m.), Vice Mayor Ben Sorensen and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

**Infrastructure Task Force Members Present:** Chair Marilyn Mammano, Vice Chair Ed Kwoka, Keith Cobb, David Orshefsky, Norman Ostrau, Peter Partington, Jacquelyn Scott, Fred Stresau and Ralph Zeltman

**Not Present:** Roosevelt Walters

**QUORUM ESTABLISHED**

**Also Present:** City Manager Chris Lagerbloom, City Clerk Jeffrey A. Modarelli, City Attorney Alain E. Boileau and City Auditor John Herbst

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS****BUS-1** [19-0002](#)**Infrastructure Task Force Status Report and Discussion**

Mayor Trantalis commented on the Infrastructure Task Force Committee's (ITFC) Status Report (Status Report). Chair Marilyn Mammano reviewed the Status Report and efforts since the October 10, 2018 Commission Workshop with the ITFC. She commented on the Commission's work to have a Parks Bond and Public Safety Facilities Bond on the March 2019 ballot. Chair Mammano confirmed that the ITFC has a significant amount of additional work ahead to address infrastructure matters, noting the need for discussions with the Commission regarding substantive topics and the process. Ms. Mammano also requested feedback from the Commission regarding the ITFC meeting its goals and expectations.

***A copy of the ITFC Status Report is attached to these minutes.***

Mayor Trantalis commented on efforts and goals involved with the recent infrastructure bond which included public engagement, establishing the ITFC and studies done by the Office of the City Manager. He also commented on aspects and details of the previous Fire Bond, noting

oversight of those bond proceeds by the Fire Bond Committee. He confirmed the need for public involvement and guidance moving forward with the Parks Bond and Public Safety Facilities Bond on the March 2019 ballot.

Vice Mayor Sorensen commented on his perspective of the ITFC's work, goals and needs, confirming the need for continued ITFC assistance regarding additional infrastructure concerns including roads, sidewalks and seawalls. Commissioner McKinzie concurred with Vice Mayor Sorensen's comments, noting the need to address all infrastructure items and costs. Commissioner Moraitis acknowledged the work of the ITFC, confirming her support of continued ITFC participation to address infrastructure. Commissioner Glassman concurred with the comments of the Commissioners and the need to resolve outstanding infrastructure concerns listed in the Status Report (roads, sidewalks and seawalls) and the City's overall plan to deal with sea level rise. Commissioner Glassman concurred with the ITFC's involvement to oversee bond proceeds and the next bond for infrastructure funding. Each Commission member thanked the ITFC for their work and effort.

Board Member David Orshefsky discussed his positive experience as a member of the ITFC, commenting on the enabling legislation that addresses a specific set of tasks. He recommended the Commission define ITFC goals going forward and establish an entity to address future infrastructure decisions and objectives, including bond proceeds oversight.

Board Member Ed Kwoka noted his positive perspective regarding the ITFC's work with the Commission and Staff and the need to realign goals going forward, requesting Commission direction.

Board Member Peter Partington concurred with Mayor Trantalis' recommendation for the ITFC to monitor the proceeds of infrastructure bonds. He requested confirmation that the Water and Sewer Bond and the Consent Decree's projects would include ITFC monitoring. Mayor Trantalis concurred, expounding on details and acknowledging the expertise available from the ITFC and Staff. Mayor Trantalis recommended that the ITFC continue, confirming the need to augment the enabling legislation language to include future ITFC goals and responsibilities.

Board Member Kwoka concurred with Mayor Trantalis' comments, expounding on his perspective regarding current bond initiatives and ITFC membership. Further explanation and discussion ensued on ITFC appointments and the learning curve involved with addressing

infrastructure needs.

Chair Mammano commented on the task-oriented work and responsibilities of the ITFC, confirming the in-depth, complex nature of the ITFC's tasks. She discussed how these tasks differ from the procedures of other Advisory Boards and Committees. Chair Mammano commented on the impact of changes with the new Advisory Boards and Committees' Ordinance.

Mayor Trantalis discussed the ITFC's accomplishments, recommendations and deliverables which assist in Commission policy decisions. Mayor Trantalis reviewed the Status Report's questions for the Commission:

*Is the Commission committed to establishing ongoing and consistent funding for roads, sidewalks, seawalls and other General Fund financed infrastructure?*

Mayor Trantalis confirmed the Commission's commitment to addressing these items.

*The Infrastructure Task Force believes that the institutional knowledge developed over the last two years could provide ongoing value to the City. Does the Commission agree and have a need for an Infrastructure-related Task Force to continue to serve providing guidance to the Commission and advocating for local infrastructure improvements? If so, what are the Commission's needs, expectations and target dates?*

Mayor Trantalis discussed his perspective regarding the ITFC's position concerning prioritizing the institutional knowledge of Commission appointed ITFC members.

Board Member Orshefsky commented on his observation regarding the ITFC shifting from generating specific infrastructure recommendations to implementation and monitoring. Further comment and discussion ensued on moving forward with future ITFC tasks and responsibilities and defining those broadened roles in enabling legislation.

Board Member Kwoka commented on his perspective regarding ITFC's role, membership and appointments. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Moraitis suggested an in-depth discussion regarding the

ITFC structure and appointments at a future Conference Meeting. Mayor Trantalis concurred, acknowledging the input and comments from the ITFC. The Commission will address this topic at a future Conference Meeting.

Chair Mammano discussed the current Return on Investment (ROI) reduction policy. Mayor Trantalis commented on discussions at the Commission's Goal Setting Session to reduce reliance on ROI. Further comment and discussion ensued. In response to Mayor Trantalis, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed the ongoing Water and Sewer Rate Study (Study) is expected on April 1, 2019.

Chair Mammano commented on bond funding for water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure projects being paid by user fees. She confirmed that the ITFC supports an equitable hybrid rate system. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis noted that after receipt and review of the Study, the Commission would take appropriate policy action to ensure infrastructure needs are addressed and rates are equitable. Board Member Orshefsky noted the Study's reiterations. He commented that based upon the results of the Study, the Commission would make policy decisions to determine a rate-based system to be used as the funding mechanism to support infrastructure bonds.

Vice Mayor Sorensen acknowledged the importance of the ITFC identifying infrastructure needs, the budget impact and solutions. In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question regarding options available to address the impact of the ROI reduction, City Manager Lagerbloom acknowledged the impact on the General Fund. He noted that when the Study becomes available, decisions regarding rates and "buying down" future debt service will be a Commission policy decision. Further comment and discussion ensued on ROI, bond related financing and the upcoming Study's rate options. In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question, Vice Mayor Sorensen confirmed that the RIO would remain in the Water and Storm Water Fund for water and sewer infrastructure needs. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on his perspective regarding ROI. Board Member Kwoka discussed other municipalities' historic challenges regarding ROI for those with an electric utility component. He noted the City's ROI only includes water and sewer, expounding on details. Further comment and discussion ensued on future Water and Sewer Fund projects funded by ROI.

Commissioner Glassman commented on synergy between the ITFC and the Budget Advisory Board (BAB). Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis noted one of the tasks assigned to the ITFC related to obtaining the recent infrastructure bond issue. The BAB is tasked with addressing items in the General Fund. Board Member Orshefsky discussed keeping both entities informed and his sharing of the ITFC's Meeting Minutes with the BAB. He confirmed the BAB's focus on the fiscal year, short-term budget and financing issues. The ITFC's focus is long term. The ITFC and BAB overlap relates to rate studies. Once rate studies are addressed by both the BAB and ITFC, there would no longer be an overlap.

Chair Mammano said that the ITFC is reviewing and analyzing Water and Sewer Impact Fees, commenting on the ongoing Study. Parking Impact Fees and Park Impact Fees are not being examined by the ITFC. Board Member Orshefsky requested that the Commission direct Staff to analyze and update all other Impact Fee Structures and Fees to ensure that new development is paying their portion of future infrastructure costs.

Chair Mammano reviewed additional ITFC recommendations, acknowledging Commission action regarding the Parks Bond and Public Safety Facilities Bond (Bonds) on the upcoming March 2019 ballot. She explained details regarding roads, sidewalks and seawalls infrastructure projects which are not related to fees. Vice Mayor Sorensen noted that General Funds are currently being used to address seawalls. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Board Member Orshefsky explained the need for consistent funding from the General Fund for CIP infrastructure, stating there is no other easily implemented funding source. This recommendation is a Commission policy matter to establish a specific annual minimum funding commitment dedicated to CIP projects. Mayor Trantalis commented on possible bond funding to address sidewalks.

Board Member Partington commented on specific financial details regarding the ITFC's October 2018 estimate of funding amounts needed to address roads, bridges and sidewalks, the ITFC's recommendation of 7-10 percent funding from the General Fund, bond funding and property tax revenue.

Board Member Kwoka commented on future economic concerns which could impact property tax revenue. Further comment and discussion ensued on the positive economic growth rate. In response to Board Member Kwoka's question, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE) Fund is one of the healthiest.

Chair Mammano discussed financial aspects of bond funding and tax revenue funding. Further comment and discussion ensued on the value of public property.

Vice Mayor Sorensen commented on the four areas the ITFC should focus on going forward that would include guidance, direction, implementation and oversight:

1. Roads, sidewalks and seawalls;
2. Parks Bond (should voters approve);
3. Public Safety Facilities Bond (should voters approve); and
4. The next infrastructure bond.

Commissioner Moraitis suggested that should the Parks Bond pass, the Parks, Recreation and Beaches Board should address the Parks Bond. Mayor Trantalis noted this has not been decided.

Chair Mammano requested clarification regarding the future role and responsibilities of the ITFC and enabling legislation, confirming that the ITFC achieved its current goals.

Board Member Ostrau confirmed the need for a Commission policy decision regarding updates to the ITFC's enabling legislation language to include the definition of categorical items and the term of the ITFC. Mayor Trantalis requested the ITFC come back to the Commission with recommendations.

Board Member Kwoka commented on ITFC options. Mayor Trantalis noted the Commission's desire for the ITFC's work to be ongoing, expounding on related details. He noted that the ITFC, which was formed as a "task force", would end and be replaced with an ongoing Infrastructure Committee. Based upon the results of the Bond initiative on the March 2019 ballot, the Commission will address the ongoing role of the Infrastructure Committee at an upcoming Conference Meeting.

Chair Mammano confirmed that recommendations from the ITFC's last meeting would be formalized and forwarded to the Commission. This information would include recommended language for the enabling legislation. She confirmed the need to maintain focus on infrastructure needs and solutions, acknowledging that this would be done through an Infrastructure Committee. Further comment and discussion ensued.

City Manager Lagerbloom requested that the ITFC work with Staff to submit comprehensive recommendations to the Commission regarding all infrastructure needs to be addressed going forward. The establishment of an Infrastructure Committee should align with the structure of other Committees. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Chair Mammano thanked City Manager Lagerbloom and Public Works Staff for their work and support.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the Joint Workshop with the Infrastructure Task Force Advisory Committee at 1:22 p.m.



**Infrastructure Task Force**  
**Status Report**  
*January 22, 2019*



Background:

In March 2017, the City Commission created the Infrastructure Task Force (ITF) to review and advise on the current state of, and future needs for, the City's infrastructure. To date, the ITF has held 20 public meetings, conducted feedback open houses in all four City Commission districts and provided interim recommendations to the Commission. Three of the recommendations have been acted upon by the Commission while one has not, as summarized below:

Recommendations with Commission action:

- **Water/Sewer** – the rate-based monies of the Water and Sewer fund (and other utility systems, including stormwater) should remain available only internally to fund some of the infrastructure needs of those utility systems, and should not, via the Return on Investment ("ROI"), be used to offset other City general costs funded through the General Fund; provided however, if the use of ROI mechanism is to be phased out over time, that the phase-out period not exceed 4 fiscal years.
  - ✓ *Commission action: began phasing out the ROI transfer in the FY 2019 budget by reducing the transfer to the General Fund by \$5 million.*
- **Stormwater** – approve a revised methodology for stormwater utility rates, based on a traffic-based methodology, in order to allow for sufficient rate-based funds to implement the current Storm Water Master Plan; provided that such additional funds are not subject to any ROI-based transfer to the General Fund.
  - ✓ *Commission action: rate study underway with current and "trip-based"-hybrid methodology and all Phase II stormwater projects are designed, permitted by Broward County and ready to bid (with final funding approval).*
- **Impact Fees** – regularly analyze and update impact fee structures and fees to ensure that new development is paying 'its fair share' of future infrastructure costs.
  - ✓ *Commission action: water, sewer and stormwater utility rate studies are underway including analysis of impact fees.*

Recommendation without any Commission action:

- **Roads/Sidewalks/Seawalls** – establish minimum annual General Revenue funded capital contributions to the City's CIP to support the City's broader infrastructure needs, ranging in size from 7-10% of the General Fund operating expenses.
  - *Commission action: no action to-date.*

Infrastructure Task Force Questions for the Commission:

1. Is the Commission committed to establishing ongoing and consistent funding for roads, sidewalks, seawalls and other General Fund financed infrastructure?
2. The Infrastructure Task Force believes that the institutional knowledge developed over the last two years could provide ongoing value to the City. Does the Commission agree and have a need for an Infrastructure-related Task Force to continue to serve providing guidance to the Commission and advocating for local infrastructure improvements?
  - a. If so, what are the Commission's needs, expectations and target dates?