

City of Fort Lauderdale

FY 2020 COMMISSION ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

Progress Report

January 2020





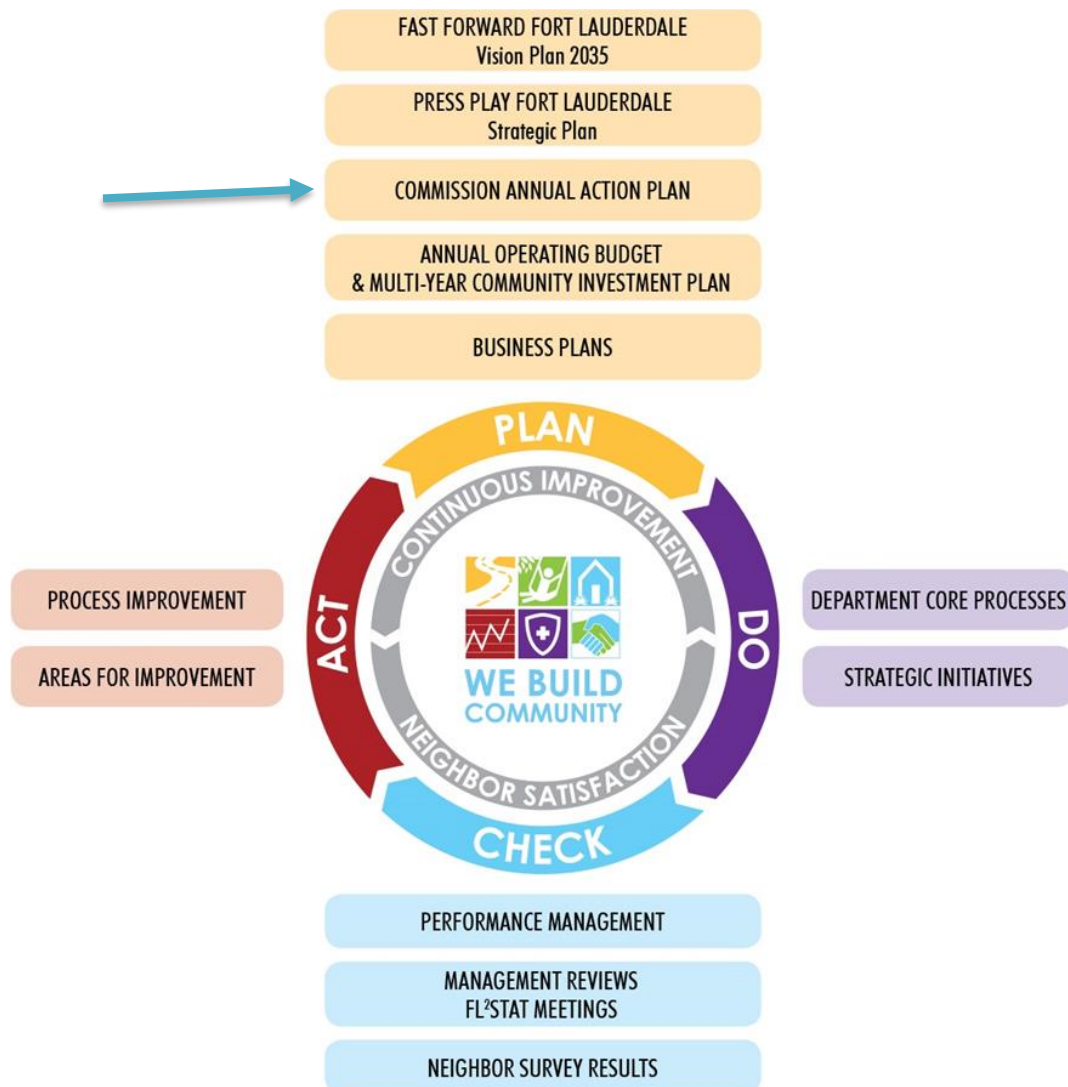
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

COMMISSION ANNUAL ACTION PLAN STATUS REPORT

The Commission Annual Action Plan (CAAP) initiatives represent the most important and highest priority goals for the City to accomplish in the fiscal year. The annual CAAP initiatives are established by the City Commission at a workshop in the beginning of each calendar year.

The Commission Annual Action Plan is an important component of the City's strategic management approach as it sets the priorities for the upcoming year. The CAAP initiatives advance the goals and objectives in the City's five-year Strategic Plan and long-term Vision Plan, ensuring that the City is aligning annual initiatives with the defined priorities for the next five years and beyond.

The City's Strategic Management Cycle



This Progress Report is compiled by the Office of Management and Budget. It provides information and progress updates about the FY 2020 CAAP initiatives that were established by the City Commission at a workshop in January 2019:

The FY 2020 Commission Annual Action Plan Initiatives:

- Homelessness Response and Action Plan*
- Stormwater Management Master Plan: Implementation*
- Affordable Housing: Incentives*
- Critical City Infrastructure: Utilities
- Sidewalk Policy: Review
- Waterway Quality & Algae Bloom Improvements
- Breakers-Birch Streetscape Project*
- LauderTrail Development*
- Joint Government Complex*
- Las Olas Corridor Mobility Working Group*
- Streetscape & Tree Enhancement

The content of the report is based on information provided by City staff and will be distributed to the City Commission biannually.

** Initiatives carried over from FY 2019 Commission Annual Action Plan.*

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Homelessness Response and Action Plan

Initiative Lead: Rick Maglione, Police Chief

Strategic Plan Alignment



Focus Area: Neighborhood Enhancement

Goal 4: Build a thriving and inclusive community of neighborhoods.

Initiative Description

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department's (FLPD) Homeless Task Force has been working in partnership with the City Manager's Office, Neighbor Support Division to address the City's concern of the growing homeless population. This partnership is responsible for continuing to develop strategies and action plans to support homeless individuals. The Task Force partners with other homeless service providers and educates the community to achieve its desired outcomes and to enhance the quality of life in the City.

Progress Update

The implementation of this strategic initiative includes family reunification, food recovery and collection (identifying food sources and partnering with shared meal programs), public education for the community, increased FLPD engagement in addressing criminal activities, and continued operation of the City's Community Court.

Since January 9, 2019 over 80 homeless cases have come before the Community Court, which was created to support the homeless by holding individuals responsible for offenses while also offering to help promote behavioral change. At least 20 of these cases yielded successes with the individual meeting all the Court's requirements and graduating from the program. The City is administering a grant in the amount of \$200,000 awarded by the Center for Court Innovations to support the Community Court initiative, and with increased resources, such as more case managers and peer specialists, the Community Court may be able to improve compliance rates further.

In addition to the initiatives undertaken by the Community Court, the City is also implementing a \$250,000 state grant for Rapid Rehousing and is providing \$750,000 to the United Way of Broward County, Inc., to address homelessness through initiatives designed to find solutions and strategies to help homeless people within the corporate limits of the City of Fort Lauderdale, such as: rapid rehousing high barrier, furniture and household items, move in costs for clients, utility deposits and ongoing utility costs, motel vouchers, permanent housing rental assistance, landlord recruitment initiatives, food repurposing, reunification services, substance abuse medical detox, day respite programs, health assessments, incentives for use at shelter, supplemental activities, communication initiatives, storage of client personal property, outreach, and other supplemental activities.

The City Manager's Office continues with approximately \$140,000 in funding for a Homeless Intervention Administrator, and the Police Department continues with approximately \$350,000 in funding dedicated to the Homeless Outreach Unit.

The City works actively with homeless outreach efforts to educate the homeless community in Fort Lauderdale about available resources throughout Broward County with the goal of promoting behavioral change toward a productive lifestyle. When appropriate, this includes recommendations for transportation to available resources.

The homeless population is also in need of basic support services for health care, job training and other life skills. The City is working to provide supplemental services through programs like Full Circle Fort Lauderdale that recovers resources and goods (food and clothing) and redirects these items to those most in need. Since the launch of the program in February 2019, Full Circle Fort Lauderdale has donated over 1,600 meals and 668 pieces of clothing. For Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, the Neighbor Support Division's budget includes approximately \$88,000 for the food recovery program.

Stormwater Management Master Plan: Implementation

Initiative Lead: Nancy Gassman, Assistant Public Works Director – Sustainability

Strategic Plan Alignment



Focus Area: Infrastructure

Goal 1: Build a sustainable and resilient community.

Initiative Description

The Stormwater Master Plan (SWMP) is intended to be a guide for improving the City's storm drainage system performance and meeting regulatory compliance through the year 2025. The Master Plan will provide a preliminary schedule of prioritized capital improvements necessary to allow the City's stormwater systems to meet the increasing performance and regulatory demands and modernize existing systems while providing a high level of service expected in a modern urban environment. The goals of the SWMP are to:

- Establish program goals such as flood control, water quality protection, surface water groundwater quality improvement, protection and enhancement of water supplies, wetlands management, creation and maintenance of greenways and parks, and funding;
- Compile and evaluate data for water quantity, water quality, and funding evaluations;
- Develop a base Citywide stormwater model to be used in more detail for evaluation of localized problem areas as needed;
- Evaluate regional and local alternatives to manage flooding;
- Evaluate water quality to support the City's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES MS4) permit renewal, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) compliance, and the Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) with Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP); and
- Evaluate funding options for stormwater improvements.

The SWMP was developed and is organized based on:

- Review of Stormwater Ordinances, Operations, and Regulations
- Data Acquisition and Review
- Regional Water Quantity Modeling
- Regional Water Quality Modeling
- Wetlands Inventory and Management Plan
- Regional Alternatives Evaluations and Recommendations
- Local Alternatives Modeling, Evaluation and Recommendations

Following the analysis, the neighborhoods chosen were ranked as "high" due to the severity of flooding as determined by the stormwater regional model (as described within the SWMP) as a base. Those

neighborhoods include Edgewood, Victoria Park, Progresso Village, Southeast Isles, Durrs, Dorsey Riverbend and River Oaks.

The Stormwater Master Plan is a three-phased approach spread over ten years (FY 2014 through FY 2024) to address flooding in the City.

Phase I (FY 2014 - FY 2019) consisted of design and construction of 37 localized stormwater projects with known storm or tidal flooding issues as well as engaging a financial consultant to evaluate stormwater rate options.

Phase II (FY 2015 - FY 2018) contained three tasks:

- Collected stormwater infrastructure data to create a Geographic Information System (GIS) database.
- Developed a comprehensive hydraulic/hydrological stormwater model.
- Developed engineering plans and opinions about probable construction costs based on the assessment of alternative levels of service (LOS) within each area of concern as identified in the stormwater hydraulic/hydrological model.

Phase III (FY 2017-FY 2024) consists of construction of Phase II projects and development of Citywide standards for long-term stormwater solutions which will incorporate:

- Proactive measures to adapt to climate change (from rainstorm and sea flooding) and future sea level rise impacts.
- Adoption of higher levels of service (acceptable water levels on the street during weather events) for design.
- Updating the Stormwater Master Plan to incorporate lessons learned and prioritization of future efforts.

Progress Update

- Stormwater Fee Study - The City engaged Burton and Associates, Inc. (now doing business as Stantec Consulting Services) to review revenue sufficiency and fee methodologies for stormwater utilities in order to equitably distribute the cost of future stormwater management throughout the City. Per City Commission direction, Stantec pursued development of a “hybrid” methodology which combines impervious area and trips generated as the basis for a property-based stormwater utility fee. The study was presented to the City Commission on November 19, 2019 and to the Infrastructure Task Force on December 2, 2019. Next steps include fee approval, validation of the fee methodology for bond issuance, issuance of the bond, and bidding for the first neighborhood-scale projects.

In December 2019, the City Commission authorized the execution of a \$70.5 million line of credit in anticipation of funds from the issuance of stormwater revenue bonds. The funding can be supported by the current rate structure and will address three neighborhood stormwater improvement projects included in the Stormwater Master Plan:

- Edgewater Stormwater Improvements - \$30, 475,000
 - River Oaks Stormwater Improvements - \$37,975,000
 - Southeast Isles Tidal Stormwater Improvements - \$1,550,000
- The City funded replacement of major seawalls, such as Cordova Road and Isle of Palms using one-time revenue from the sale of the Compost Site. The contractor for the Cordova seawall improvements was issued a Notice to Proceed and began on-site work on September 23, 2019.

Affordable Housing: Incentives

Initiative Lead: Anthony Fajardo, Sustainable Development Director

Strategic Plan Alignment



Focus Area: Neighborhood Enhancement

Goal 4: Build a thriving and inclusive community of neighborhoods.

Initiative Description

The purpose of this initiative is to identify incentives for affordable housing within the City of Fort Lauderdale. City staff has collaborated with and received recommendations from the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) and has further solicited insights and feedback from the City Manager's Office, Division of Housing and Community Development (HCD). Incentives under consideration include inclusive zoning, building fees, and impact fees.

Progress Update - Projects

This CAAP initiative is a continuation of the previous year's CAAP project and included collaboration, analysis and deliberation among subject matter experts and City management. Preliminary funding sources identified in support of affordable housing include:

- HCD administers the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) grant program, which allocated \$518,500 in FY 2019 toward purchase assistance for low-income families through the First Time Homebuyers Program. The program has allocated \$3.28 million in aid for 56 households in the last five years.
- HCD also administers the city's Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). A portion of these funds are targeted toward housing rehabilitation of occupied homes owned by seniors and/or very low to low income households. In FY 2019, the City allocated \$63,240 for these initiatives.
- The Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) provided an incentive package in the amount of \$7 million that partially funded Six13, a mixed-use, mid-rise project containing 142 units of workforce housing. The project is currently 65% complete.
- The CRA provided a \$5 million incentive package for the FAT Love Housing Project; the project will consist of 125 rental apartments of which 94 will be allocated toward affordable housing rentals.
- A purchase contract for four additional lots and a \$1.5 million incentive package was awarded for the construction of 25 affordable single-family townhomes along Sistrunk Blvd in the Northwest-Progresso-Flagler CRA.
- The CRA donated 11 infill lots which were used to build 11 affordable single-family homes in the Sweeting Estates neighborhood. The homes are currently under contract and under construction.

- The City Commission approved the appropriation of a \$783,250 loan from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund in support of an application for low-income housing tax credits for Sailboat Bend Apartments II (CAMs 17-1440 & 19-0847). Completion of the 110-unit project is estimated for Mid-2020.

Overall, the programs and projects highlighted above resulted in the approval of 382 residential units for affordable housing and the disbursement of over \$14,864,990 dollars in grants and/or loans toward affordable housing in FY 2019.

Progress Update - Policy

The primary objective of this CAAP was to establish a Citywide, comprehensive, multi-pronged solution to address the City's affordable housing issue. Incentives that had initially been identified and explored in 2018 required reevaluation, as a result of the passage of House Bill 7103. The Bill, effective July 1, 2019, requires counties and municipalities to offset all costs that a developer may incur related to affordable housing contributions if those contributions are mandated as part of inclusionary zoning.

The reference point for Fort Lauderdale's definition of affordability, is the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) metro area median family income (MFI), which is \$68,600. Prior studies conducted by the City have indicated that the combination of both housing and transportation (H+T) costs in Fort Lauderdale comprise 63% of a family's income, which is 18% higher than HUD's recommended combined cost of 45%. As a result, identifying Citywide affordable housing locations that are in proximity to primary corridors and mass transit would mitigate transportation costs thereby resulting in income spending decreases related to the H+T affordability index.

Initiatives currently under review:

1. Inclusionary Zoning Policy: Incorporate an Affordable Housing Overlay Zone or similar policy measure, which is tied to transit-oriented development, to decrease the cost of living through the promotion of walkability and multi-modal transportation options along primary corridors.
 - a. The residential unified flex overlay zone shares similar characteristics sought within an inclusionary zoning policy (high density, high walkability, access to transportation and has a Citywide reach) and has been chosen to function as the geographic boundary of the affordable housing policy efforts. These areas include three Regional Activity Centers (RACs): Northwest RAC, Downtown RAC and South RAC and primary commercial corridors. The boundaries of the overlay zone are subject to change based on further analysis.
 - b. Inclusionary zoning is one component of addressing affordable housing but cannot be the sole solution to the City's affordable housing challenges.
 - c. With the adoption of House Bill 7103, staff is reanalyzing their original policy recommendations of a mandatory inclusionary zoning program to assess an optional incentivized program. Since developers are not entitled to flexibility units and must request them from the City, a potential policy would be to require developers to provide affordable housing units in exchange for residential flexibility units.

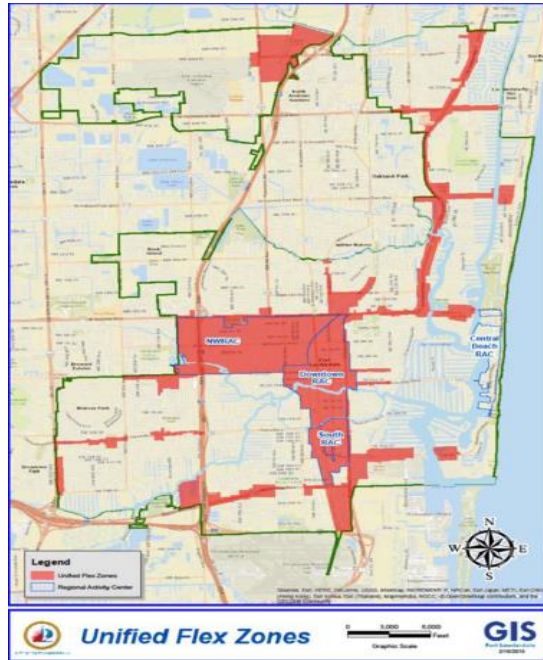


Figure 1 - Potential Affordable Housing Overlay Area

- d. The policy is anticipated to require fifteen percent (15%) of residential rental units to be set-aside as affordable and ten percent (10%) of residential for sale units.
 - i. Income thresholds are likely to be set between sixty percent (60%) to one hundred percent (100%) of the median family income (MFI) as established annually by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- e. Deed restrictions of no less than 30 years are recommended.
2. Because the allocation of residential flex units is optional and not by-right, additional incentives are not required but can be explored, and include:
 - a. Expedited Review
 - b. Height Increase
 - c. Density Bonus
 - d. Setback Reduction
 - e. Parking Space Reduction
3. A payment in lieu of affordable housing set-aside requirements is also being considered. If Broward County adopts a payment in lieu of fee, the City could potentially utilize the same fee standards.
4. In addition to inclusionary zoning policy measures, the use of municipal land to offset construction costs is being considered and would be based on land availability, location and existing goals.
5. The City has committed to contribute fifteen percent (15%) of net proceeds from the sale of City-owned commercial and industrial properties to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to contribute to affordable housing development.

6. The City is considering strengthening regulations related to height restrictions in certain areas to create incentive opportunities.
7. The adoption of a non-residential linkage fee is also being considered. Discussions with the City Attorney's Office are ongoing to determine the feasibility of imposing a linkage fee after the passage of House Bill 7103.

The above recommendations are based solely on the consideration of all current affordable housing policies and regulations. Any County, State or Federal changes that would directly impact affordable housing opportunities for municipalities would necessitate a re-evaluation and assessment of available options and may result in modifications to the listed recommendations.

Critical City Infrastructure: Utilities

Initiative Lead: Aneisha Daniel, Deputy Public Works Director

Strategic Plan Alignment



Focus Area: Infrastructure

Goal 1: Build a sustainable and resilient community.

Initiative Description

The focus of this initiative is to examine and address the infrastructure of our water systems. The effects of sea level rise on water supply and the color of potable water due to treatment processes are some areas of concern and may be addressed through this initiative. There are several innovations to monitor and address the City's infrastructure, including:

- Modernizing drinking water and sewage system piping;
- Reducing the strain on our potable water system by reducing demand through water conservation methods including new technology, ordinance and policy changes, and community education and outreach;
- Improving flood management infrastructure;
- Employing innovative adaption area strategies; and
- Vegetating sand dunes and creating new dunes to buffer from extreme storm or wave events.

Progress Update

- Staff is closely monitoring the collection system including plans to repair or replace existing infrastructure. Based on recent sanitary sewer breaks in December 2019, the urgent replacement of multiple force mains as well as the design and construction of a redundant transmission line has been identified. Those projects are listed below with their estimated costs:
 - Victoria Park Force Main Replacement – \$2.4 million
 - Coral Ridge Country Club Estates Force Main Replacement – \$850,000
 - Rio Vista Emergency Force Main Replacement – \$3.5 million
 - Redundant Force Main Design-Build Project – \$61.5 million
- Staff continues to monitor and meet target dates within the City's voluntary Consent Order with the Florida Department Environmental Protection (FDEP). To date, Hazen & Sawyer has met or exceeded all target dates within the City's Voluntary Consent Order. The calendar year 2019 semi-annual report, covering the period from January 1st to June 30th, was submitted to FDEP on the scheduled date of July 31st. The next semi-annual report is due January 31st, 2020.

- Engineering staff partnered with the Utilities Division to update and/or confirm Utilities FY 2021-2025 Community Investment Plan (CIP) projects and budgets to match the adopted Water/Wastewater Master Plan and current City priorities. The updated CIP was approved by the City Commission during the September 17, 2019 Budget Hearing.
- The Engineering and Utilities Divisions staff collaborated to ensure the Central Regional Renewal and Replacement Plan Report met needs and expectations. Additionally, staff ensured the report would be sufficient for developing the FY 2021-2025 CIP. The report and new proposed rates were presented during a Large Users (Fort Lauderdale, Wilton Manors, Port Everglades Authority, Oakland Park, the Town of Davie and portions of Tamarac) meeting on July 31, 2019.

Sidewalk Policy: Review

Initiative Lead: Anthony Fajardo, Sustainable Development Director

Strategic Plan Alignment



Focus Area: Infrastructure

Goal 2: Build a multi-modal pedestrian friendly community.

Initiative Description

This initiative focuses on the policy recommendations for sidewalks and any necessary recommendations for future funding.

The need for this initiative is based on concern regarding the condition and connectivity of sidewalks within the City. Considering the eventual need and cost for both sidewalk maintenance and construction, the purpose of this initiative is to provide a recommendation to determine whether the City or property owners should have financial responsibility for sidewalk upkeep and new construction. Currently under City Ordinance Section 25-56, property owners are responsible for constructing and maintaining sidewalks abutting their property.

Progress Update

Since the existing sidewalk policy does not promote sidewalks holistically and effectively, and it is often an added burden for homeowners to construct and maintain under-utilized sidewalk segments, staff is recommending that the City move away from holding property owners responsible and assume the costs of both sidewalk repairs and new construction. However, City costs incurred would be limited to sidewalk repair and replacement and would not extend to the swale; consequently, the policy recommendation does not include tree canopy or landscaping repair/replacement costs.

If a recommendation is made in favor of full responsibility resting with the City, the identification and/or recommendation of potential funding sources will be needed to supplement those that have been earmarked. Currently, the City's General Fund Community Investment Plan has committed to the allocation of \$5 million dollars for the repair and replacement of priority sidewalks and pavers. The funding will be disbursed annually in \$1 Million increments for each year from FY 2019 – FY 2023.

To move forward with sidewalk planning, the following is further recommended, pending the proposed policy change:

- Prioritization of sidewalk construction should be based on areas of highest need with consideration to the following factors:
 - Safety concerns
 - Density patterns
 - Gaps in connectivity to existing sidewalks

- Proximity to neighborhood serving uses
 - Proximity to transit among other considerations
- Transportation and Mobility's Master Mobility Plan can be used to initiate the framework, provided that the plan is Citywide and includes a tier-based prioritization listing.
- An updated, comprehensive assessment on sidewalks repairs Citywide is also needed. Per the 2014 CAAP related to a Citywide Sidewalk Assessment Program, the last assessment was completed over five years ago and determined that approximately 23% or 106 miles of sidewalk needed repairs.

Waterway Quality & Algae Bloom Improvements

Initiative Lead: Nancy Gassman, Assistant Public Works Director – Sustainability

Strategic Plan Alignment



Focus Area: Public Places

Goal 3: Build a healthy and engaging community.

Initiative Description

The primary goal of this initiative is to prevent algal blooms by reducing nutrient inputs into waterways rather than attempt to mitigate an active bloom. The Public Works Department, through the Sustainability Division, works across the organization to develop strategies and action plans to support water quality improvements for our natural environment.

Progress Update

Ongoing initiatives include actions associated with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for stormwater management and water pollution prevention activities. In FY 2019, public outreach was provided on blue-green algae bloom prevention, as well as community education, awareness, and compliance. While no red tide blooms were reported, monitoring and coordination plans have been developed and are now in place to address red tide concerns.

From June – November 2019, the City conducted weekly monitoring for blue-green algae blooms. The first signs of algal blooms occurred in July 2019 in the western canals. Observations were reported to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) who took a total of nine (9) samples in our waterways between July 24, 2019 and August 15, 2019. The last time algae were observed in our monitoring network was on September 27, 2019. In summary, this algal season was very mild.

Once a significant bloom occurs, there are limited technologies that can be applied and only at significant expense. The FY 2020 budget includes \$100,000 to contract for algal bloom response and mitigation and an additional \$50,000 has been approved to conduct related research on mechanical, biological and chemical methods. The City has now entered into contracts with two vendors who can provide limited mitigation in the event of a significant bloom. Additionally, the FY 2020 budget includes \$50,000 in ongoing Parks and Recreation funding to maintain and repair the Marshall Point public pump out facility at New River.

Roadway run-off and fertilizers are often the main contributors of nutrient pollution that lead to algal blooms. The City has developed proposed language to limit the application of fertilizer during the peak season for algal blooms. A public meeting was held on November 18, 2019 to take feedback on the ordinance modifications. The proposed ordinance is expected to be presented for adoption by the City Commission in early calendar year 2020.

Recent sanitary sewer breaks and an extreme rainfall event in late December 2019 have resulted in significant discharges of nutrients to our waterways. Tidal conditions in our area will drive improved

water quality in a relatively short time frame. Due to the timing of these events outside of the normal algal bloom season, they are not likely to result in algae blooms.

Breakers-Birch Streetscape Project

Initiative Lead: Ben Rogers, Transportation and Mobility Director

Strategic Plan Alignment



Focus Area: Infrastructure

Goal 2: Build a multi-modal and pedestrian friendly community.

Initiative Description

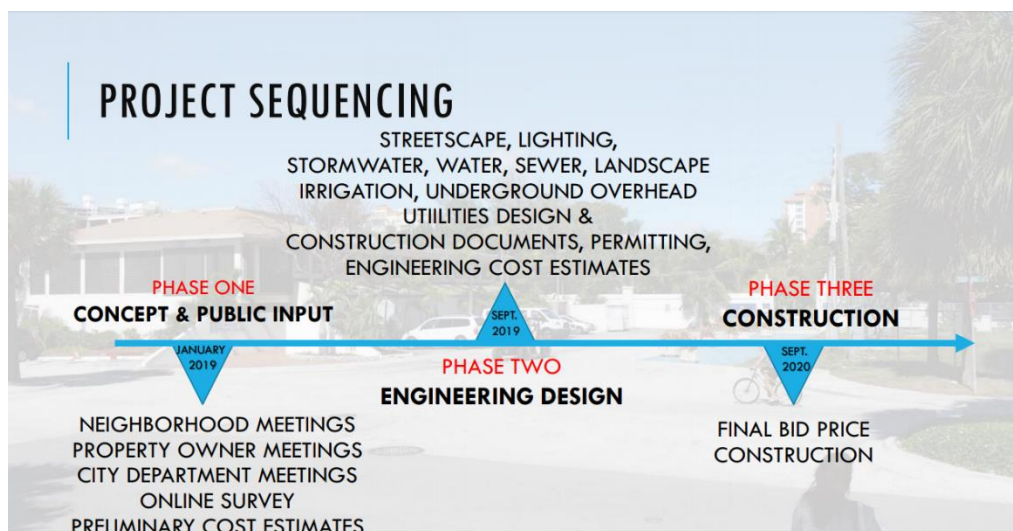
This streetscape project along Breakers Avenue between Riomar Street and Vistamar Street is a continuation of a FY 2019 Commission Annual Action Plan (CAAP) initiative. The goal of this project is to create an iconic corridor that not only provides mobility but is also a safe, accessible, attractive, climate-resilient public space that will serve neighbors and visitors in Fort Lauderdale beach. The initiative is a partnership between the Transportation and Mobility Department and the Public Works Department. Proposed improvements include streetscape elements such as pedestrian lighting, trees, landscape, shared used street design, and underground water and sewer utility upgrades.

Progress Update

The City has allocated \$3 million toward Breakers Avenue streetscapes improvements and \$2.1 million for water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure upgrades, for a total funding of \$5.1 million.

The City's consultant team, Dover, Kohl and Partners, developed the corridor concept design based on public outreach in July 2019. A project overview and the concept design were presented to the Commission in August 2019 and the concept was fully supported by the Commission.

The project will be conducted in three phases:



Phase I – Concept & Public Input (completed)

- Neighborhood meetings
- Property owner meetings
- City Department meetings
- Online survey
- Preliminary cost estimates
- Concept and aesthetics preferences

Phase II – Engineering Design

The design engineering contract was re-advertised in November 2019 and the design proposals were due on January 3, 2020. Procurement has been negotiating rates and the Project Manager has been negotiating scope to bring the proposed selection to the Commission for approval and award in late January 2020. The new contract for the engineering design is expected to be awarded in April 2020.

Phase III – Construction

The construction management at risk (CMAR) contractor interviews were held in late September 2019 and Burkhardt Construction was selected. Construction is expected to begin in September 2020.

LauderTrail Development

Initiative Lead: Ben Rogers, Transportation and Mobility Director

Strategic Plan Alignment



Focus Area: Public Places

Goal 3: Build a healthy and engaging community.

Initiative Description

The Transportation and Mobility and Parks and Recreation Departments are working collaboratively with the neighbor-based LauderTrail Working Group to develop a pedestrian/bicycle trail connecting destinations throughout the City. The LauderTrail Working Group has been working in conjunction with a multi-departmental City-staff Strategic Initiatives Team since November 2018 to:

- Develop project goals and objectives
- Identify preferred routes and facility types
- Research community partners
- Investigate possible funding sources
- Present recommendations to the City Commission

Progress Update

Since the first meeting on November 2, 2018 the Working Group has developed and adopted a Vision, a Mission and five goals:

Vision

The LauderTrail Working Group will help create an urban shared-used trail that will connect neighborhoods and destinations using a route that is safe and enjoyable for locals and visitors.

Mission

The LauderTrail working group will develop a continuous and comprehensive network of connected urban trail facilities for practical and recreational use, promoting healthy lifestyle and environmental stewardship through collaboration with city staff and stakeholders.

Goals

- Increase connectivity between neighborhoods and destinations in the City of Fort Lauderdale
- Provide a safe LauderTrail route for active transportation users to connect throughout the City
- Increase the number of healthy and sustainable transportation options throughout the City of Fort Lauderdale
- Improve overall livability and amenities for residents and visitors
- Increase outreach and education about LauderTrail

The Working Group has also identified key regional and local destinations to be included along the trail to serve the needs of neighbors, tourists and other stakeholders.

Regional Destinations	Local Destinations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brightline • Broward Center of Performing Arts • Beach (all seven miles) (corridor) • Las Olas Boulevard (corridor) • Broward General Hospital • 17th street causeway (corridor) • Courthouse • Museum of Discovery • Holiday Park • Parker Playhouse • Galleria • War Memorial • Mills Pond • Carter • Snyder • Riverwalk • Himmarshee area • FXE Airport • Port Everglades • Flagler Village • Galt Mile • City Bus station • Airport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Hall • Gateway Plaza • Invasive Species • LauderAle • 13th District • Galt area • Wilton Drive • Federal Corridor around 13th street • FAT Village • Sistrunk Park • Tri-Rail Station • Flagler Village • Mockingbird Trail • Broward College • Riverwalk • Tarpon River • African American Research library • Stranahan School • Riverside Market • New River Greenway on SR 84 • Riverland Park

To further develop the concept, the group took facilities already existing or in the process of construction into consideration, such as bicycle lanes, buffered bike lanes, and trails and developed a Feasible Proposed Route (Figure 2), with a further development to a Proposed Route (Figure 3).

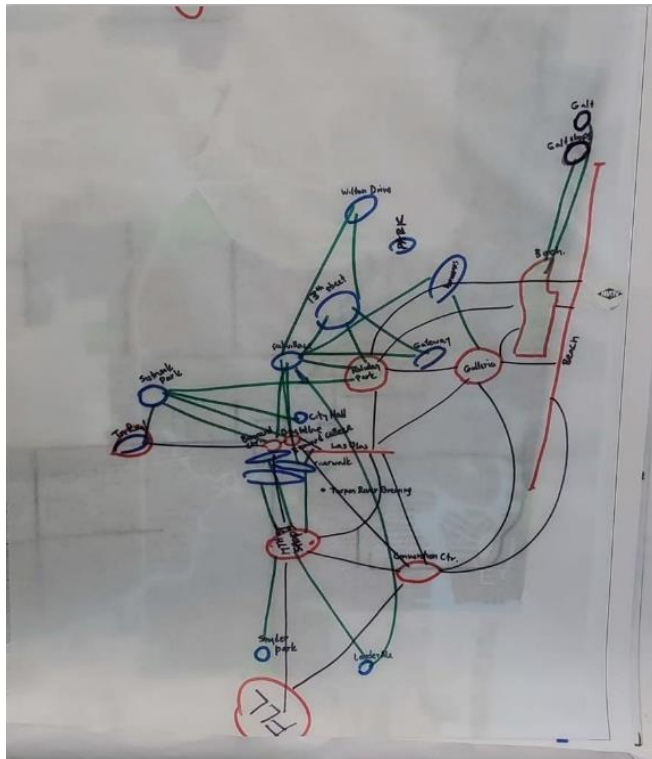


Figure 1 - Conceptual Route



Figure 2 - Feasible Proposed Route (with connection to existing facilities)

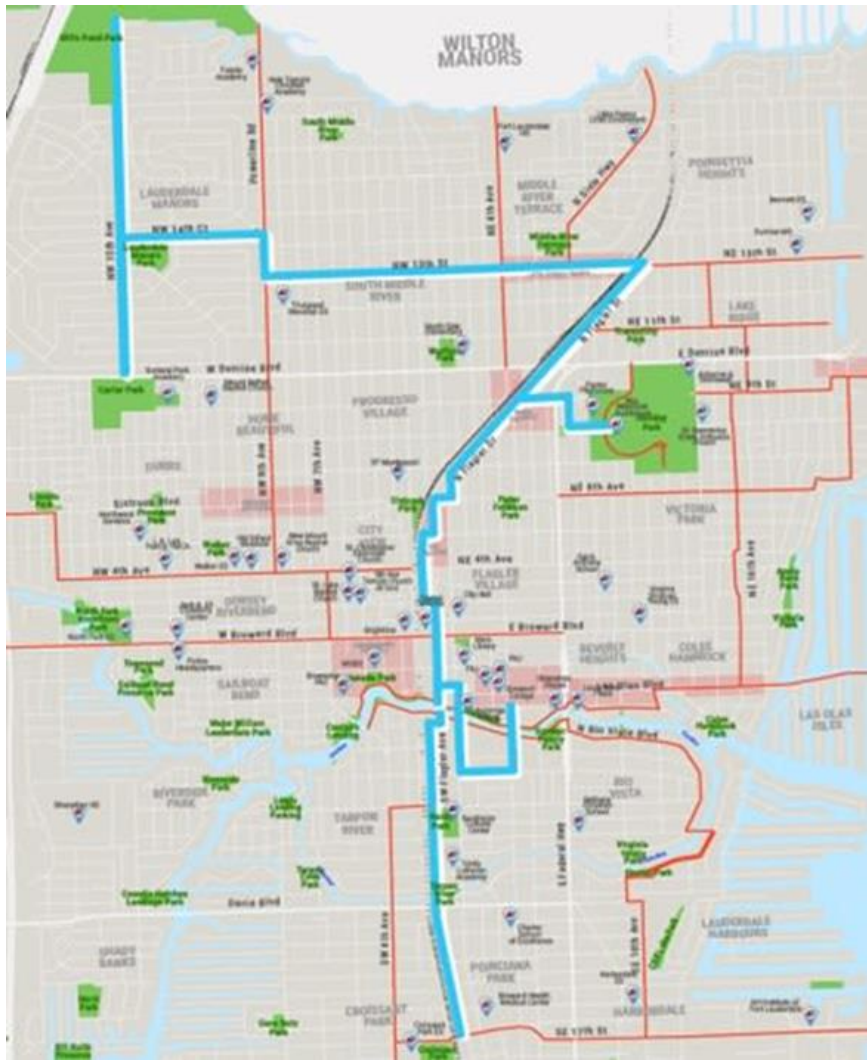


Figure 3 - Proposed Route

The Working Group has also entered into discussions with the Friends of Mockingbird Trail about a possible partnership to collaborate and merge the two concepts to create one cohesive trail instead of two separate trails. A partnership with the Friends of Mockingbird Trail would open opportunities for additional funding beyond the \$5 million that has been allocated in the Parks Bond.

The Working Group and staff presented the progress, proposed route and next steps to the City Commission on November 19, 2019, where the Commission supported the following next steps:

- Accept the overall route developed by the LauderTrail Working Group as agreed upon base map for the first phase of a comprehensive trail master plan.
- Work to combine the City's appointed LauderTrail Working Group with the Friends of the Mockingbird Trail as the official public/private partnership responsible for implementation of the trail master plan.
- Appropriate the \$5 million outlined in the City's Park Bond toward design and implementation of the approved trail.

- Immediately prioritize the trail project as high priority in the City's list of transportation surtax projects.
- Prioritize the LauderTrail as a top priority project with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

The Mockingbird Trail group is drafting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be shared with the LauderTrail Working Group that will start to outline the joining of efforts. If agreed, the MOU can move forward to City Commission for their Resolution of Support. The LauderTrail Working Group has met with representatives from the Old Dillard Trail group where they agreed to work together and collaborate to incorporate the trails into one comprehensive trail concept.

On January 22, 2020 a presentation was made to the Parks, Recreation and Beaches Advisory Board to request their support and recommendation to the City Commission to appropriate \$5 million that was identified for the LauderTrail in the initial assessment of the Parks bond. The Board unanimously voted to in favor to recommend the appropriation of the funds.

Joint Government Complex

Initiative Lead: Chris Lagerbloom, City Manager

Strategic Plan Alignment



Focus Area: Internal Support

Goal 8: Build a leading government organization that manages all resources wisely and sustainably.

Initiative Description

At a joint workshop of the Broward County Board of Commissioners (Board) and the City of Fort Lauderdale City Commission (Commission) held on May 9, 2017, the members of the Board and Commission unanimously supported the idea of moving forward with the development of a joint government center campus in downtown Fort Lauderdale to serve as the new offices for both the City and the County. The respective Mayors of the Board and the Commission both appointed an elected official to serve on a working group to help advance the Project.

Progress Update

The working group has met numerous times since May 2017 to discuss a variety of issues related to the project, most importantly where it would be located. The working group recommended to the Board and the Commission to build the project on the site of the County's downtown bus terminal, immediately adjacent to Broward Boulevard.

An Interlocal Agreement (ILA) was approved by the City Commission on May 7, 2019 establishing that the parties intent to work together on the joint development of the project. The ILA establishes the basic framework for the oversight of the procurement and development process of the project, specifically including a condition that all decisions of the Unified Direct Procurement Authority (UDPA) will require a majority of the respective membership of the Board and Commission. The ILA provides for the procurement of a design consultant to perform a space needs assessment and develop a design criteria package, the cost of which will be shared 50/50 by the parties. The ILA further provides that future cost sharing will be on a proportional basis.

On October 15, 2019, a Unified Direct Procurement Authority (UDPA) joint meeting took place between the City Commission and Broward County Commission relating to Request for Qualification (RFQ) No. PNC2119087RI - Consultant Services for Joint Government Center. The parties discussed the terms and conditions of the RFQ and selected to start negotiations with Zyscovich Architects for the design.

An agreement between Broward County and Zyscovich, Inc., for Consultant Services for the Joint Governmental Center Campus (JGCC) was awarded for those services with the County on December 10, 2019. Zyscovich Architects will be performing several tasks that result in the creation of a design package. The City's required contribution increased by \$250,000, totaling \$ 750,000, as \$500,000 was previously appropriated to this project in the CIP.

On January 21, 2020 the City Commission approved the first amendment to the ILA to expand the ILA's scope based on a consensus reached between Broward County Board of Commissioners and the City Commission at a Unified Direct Procurement Authority (UDPA) meeting that took place on December 10, 2010. The amendment will expand the authority of the UDPA to consider all procurement matters related to the proposed Joint Government Center Campus related to design, construction, and review of proposals received from third parties, including solicited and unsolicited proposals.

Las Olas Corridor Mobility Working Group

Initiative Lead: Ben Rogers, Transportation and Mobility Director

Strategic Plan Alignment



Focus Area: Infrastructure

Goal 2: Build a multi-modal and pedestrian friendly community.

Initiative Description

This project focuses on a premier street of the City that is used for many different purposes across nearly 2.5 miles. Six distinct character areas have been identified all having unique contexts. The project's intent is to bring them all together into a cohesive design to enhance this iconic boulevard representing our history and our future. It is essential to support the businesses, property owners, residents, and visitors, to address their needs for the street. The scope of the project includes significant outreach efforts to ensure that these groups have input for each of the uses and street segments. Further, the project seeks to achieve a consensus that the preferred alternative best represents the future of Las Olas Boulevard and balances the needs of all stakeholders.

The strategies and action plans include emphasis on increased safety and mobility for all who access Las Olas to live, work, or play. Improvements include Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades, stormwater improvements, enhanced crosswalks and wider sidewalks, landscaping modifications, pedestrian lighting and bicycle facilities.

Progress Update

Transportation and Mobility Department is the leading department for this initiative, and since the initiative began in early 2018, the completed milestones include: establishing a Working Group, conducting regular meetings with the working group with presentations from various stakeholders, drafting a scope of services, executing a \$100,000 traffic data collection project, issuing the Request for Qualifications (RFQ), reviewing the RFQ responses and interviewing firms to present a recommendation to the City Commission.

On November 5, 2019 the City Commission awarded the contract for conceptual streetscape design to the Corradino Group. With that authorization, the Corradino Group will develop the concept and present a project overview and timeline at the Commission Conference on February 4, 2019. The project has \$825,433 allocated in Community Investment Plan for FY 2020.

Streetscape & Tree Enhancements

Initiative Lead: Phil Thornburg, Parks and Recreation Director

Strategic Plan Alignment



Focus Area: Public Places

Goal 3: Build a healthy and engaging community.

Initiative Description

This initiative focuses on the beautification of the City, specifically toward streetscapes and trees. Areas that may be addressed through this initiative are City entryways or signs, tropical landscaping, and healthy maintained trees.

Progress Update

- **Las Olas Corridor Improvements – Barrier Island**

- This is an ongoing multi-year project that is currently 90% complete with final completion projected for early 2020.
- The project objective includes increased green space, a tree-lined promenade, landscape and streetscape enhancements, two new waterfront parks, pedestrian connections, and a state-of-the art parking facility with 660 spaces.
- Specific details about this project, in addition to project aerials and views per phase, are available from Commission Agenda Memo (CAM) 19-0824.
- There is approximately \$ 7.1 million appropriated in the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) fund for this specific project.

- **A1A Streetscape improvements:**

The design for this project is 100% complete and the project's primary focus is to enhance the pedestrian experience and efficiency of the sidewalk by consolidating existing and proposed above ground items (such as trees, signage, and lighting) and moving them closer to the curb for increased walkability.

- Permitting was recently completed and bids will be advertised by the 1st quarter of 2020. A contractor is expected to be on board by February of 2020, and work is expected to begin by April 2020. Construction should be completed between the last quarter of FY 2020 and the first quarter of FY 2021.
- Improvements include new sidewalks, consolidating trees and signage closer to the curb, new pavers, new landscaping, and new pedestrian lighting on the west side of A1A.
- There is approximately \$6.4 million appropriated for this project from the Central Beach Redevelopment CRA Community Investment Plan fund and General Capital Projects Fund. An additional \$1.56 million will be funded by the Florida Department of Transportation

(FDOT) through a Joint Participation Agreement (JPA) that will pay for the construction costs of the pedestrian lights from northern beach CRA boundary to Sunrise Boulevard.

- **3rd Avenue On-Street Parking and Streetscape Project**

This project focuses on SW 3rd Avenue between Broward Boulevard and SW 2nd Street. The project is completed:

- Reconfiguration of SW 3rd Avenue to accommodate 18 standard vehicle parking spaces, one Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible parking space, and nine motorcycle parking spaces for the general public
- Removal of existing asphalt and resurfacing the street
- Application of new pavement markings, new curbs and gutters
- Installation of solar panel pedestrian lights on both sides of SW 3rd Avenue

There is additional funding appropriated to major streetscape projects in the City's General Fund Community Investment Plan.

General Capital Projects Fund:

- Breakers Avenue Streetscape Improvement Fund for \$2,920,186
- Riverland Road Street Improvements for \$1,020,000
- Median Beautification – Entryway Signs for \$114,169
 - Completed for selected roads that are owned by the City; there have been some impediments (permitting, etc.) related to progress on selected County or State controlled roads
- Further work has been completed on Sunrise from the intercoastal to A1A related to median improvements via landscaping and trees
- Additional funding for specific neighborhood landscaping/streetscape initiatives

This CAAP initiative focuses on streetscapes and tree enhancements, both of which are components of multiple existing projects and Master Plans within the City. Progress related to prior plans and opportunities for collaboration are outlined below.

Prior projects attempting to focus on median beautification and entryway signage were disrupted as a result of permitting issues related to installation on state roads. Delays were incurred since FDOT and County permissions were needed to move forward; as a result, the contractor requested a re-bid which required re-permitting. Consequently, only three of the 21 roads were completed; the remaining roads were not City controlled.

Reference was made to the County utilizing surtax dollars to conduct work on projects with a focus on maintenance and rehabilitation, which this CAAP may be aligned with. A prioritized listing of areas that the County has an interest in is forthcoming and is expected in 2020. It is recommended that the listing be reviewed to determine if any County projects can be merged with projects related to this CAAP initiative to prevent duplication of effort and maximize funding/cost savings.

Similarly, additional cross-departmental collaboration is recommended prior to considering further beautification efforts to ensure that designs for areas of interest are not internally duplicated, and that

opportunities for enhancement are part of all projects. Alignment with projects proposed and/or initiated by Public Works, and Transportation and Mobility would decrease the costs associated with irrigation among other expenses related to landscaping and tree canopy coverage. Additionally, considering efforts related to the Design and Construction Manual and multiple City Master Plans have the potential to incorporate streetscape elements while projects are under construction. A comprehensive listing of streetscape enhancement projects that are referenced in City initiatives is currently underway to identify opportunities for collaboration.

Other opportunities include ensuring that any plans or projects that move forward have funding in place for long term maintenance and considering any impacts improvements made prior to modifications of the City's Tree Ordinance may have on the Commission's overall vision.

Highlights of Other City Commission Priorities

Parks General Obligations Bond

On March 12, 2019, Fort Lauderdale voters approved a bond referendum to issue General Obligation Bonds, for up to \$200,000,000, to finance the acquisition, construction, renovation and improvement of various parks and recreational facilities.

The first installment of \$80,000,000 will fund the cost of development, design, acquisition, construction, equipping, installation, improvement and furnishing of certain Parks and Recreation Projects. The Parks and Recreation Projects to be undertaken by the City and financed with proceeds of the first series of Bonds must be approved by the City Commission by a resolution.

The City has identified four signature park projects, one in each Commission district that will be funded by the bond: Joseph Carter Park, Holiday Park, Lockhart Stadium, and Tunnel Top Park.

On January 7, 2020 the City Commission approved a resolution authorizing the formation, execution and delivery of a paying agent and bond registrar agreement; a continuing disclosure agreement; distribution of a preliminary official statement; execution and distribution of a final official statement, with respect to the Series 2020A bonds.

Police General Obligations Bond

On March 12, 2019, Fort Lauderdale voters approved a bond referendum to issue General Obligation Bonds to finance the acquisition, construction, renovation and improvement of various police and public safety facilities for up to \$100,000,000.

The bonds will fund the cost of development, design, acquisition, construction, equipping, installation, improvement and furnishing of certain Police and Public Safety projects within the City.

On January 7, 2020 the City Commission approved a resolution authorizing the formation, execution and delivery of a paying agent and bond registrar agreement; a continuing disclosure agreement; distribution of a preliminary official statement; execution and distribution of a final official statement, with respect to the Series 2020B bonds.

Increased Credit Ratings

On January 14, 2020 the City received high marks from Standard & Poor (S&P) and Moody's for budgetary performance and healthy growth. S&P boosted the City's rating from AA+ to AAA and Moody's upgraded its outlook on general obligation bonds from stable to positive.

S&P Global Ratings raised its rating on the City of Fort Lauderdale's general obligation (GO) bonds and series 2012 special obligation bonds to 'AAA' from 'AA+'. At the same time, S&P Global Ratings assigned its 'AAA' long-term rating to the city's series 2020A GO (Parks and Recreation) bonds and 2020B GO (police and public safety projects) bonds.

Overall, the rating reflects S&P's opinion of the following factors for Fort Lauderdale:

- Very strong economy;
- Very strong management;
- Strong budgetary performance;
- Very strong budgetary flexibility;
- Very strong liquidity;
- Adequate debt and contingent liability profile; and
- Strong institutional framework score.

Moody's Investors Service assigned Aa1 ratings to the City's General Obligation Bonds, Series 2020A (Parks and Recreation Projects) and Series 2020B (Police and Public Safety Projects). Moody's has also affirmed the Aa1 rating on the City's outstanding parity general obligation unlimited tax (GOULT) debt. In addition, Moody's has upgraded the City's outstanding Taxable Special Obligation Bonds, Series 2012 to Aa3 from A1, and has revised the outlook on the general obligation bonds from stable to positive.