



**MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
INFRASTRUCTURE TASK FORCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
VIRTUAL MEETING**

CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2020 – 2:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

February 2020-January 2021

Attendance

Marilyn Mammano, Chair	P	1	0
Gerald Angeli	P	1	0
Shane Grabski	P	1	0
Charlie Ladd	A	0	1
Michael Marshall	P	1	0
Norm Ostrau	P	1	0
Peter Partington	P	1	0
Jacquelyn Scott	P	1	0
Roosevelt Walters	P	1	0
Ralph Zeltman	P	1	0

As of this date, there are 10 appointed members to the Committee, which means 6 would constitute a quorum.

Staff

- Raj Verma, Director of Public Works
- Aneisha Daniel, Deputy Director of Public Works
- Rick Johnson, Utilities Distribution and Collection Systems Manager
- Dr. Nancy Gassman, Assistant Director of Public Works – Sustainability
- Talal Abi-Karam, Assistant Director of Public Works – Utilities
- Omar Castellon, Chief Engineer
- Jill Prizlee, Chief Engineer
- Todd Hiteshew, Environmental Services Manager
- Krishan Kandial, Project Manager
- Pauline Ricketts, Senior Administrative Assistant
- Igor Vassiliev, Project Engineer
- Marie Pierce, Stormwater Operations Manager
- Thomas Lawrence, Project Manager
- Fred Harris, Cityworks Administrator
- Kymerly Holcombe, Senior Financial Administrator
- Melissa Doyle, Solid Waste and Recycling Program Manager
- Ben Sorensen, Fort Lauderdale City Commissioner
- Jamie Opperlee, Recording Secretary, Prototype Inc.

Communication to the City Commission

None.

1. Call to Order

i. Roll Call

Chair Mammano called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Roll was called and it was noted a quorum was present.

2. General Discussion and Comments by Committee Members on Added Role Defined by City Resolution

<https://www.fortlauderdale.gov/Home/ShowDocument?id=51668>

Deputy Director of Public Works Aneisha Daniel advised that the previously existing Infrastructure Task Force expired on March 2, 2020. The advisory body meeting today is considered to be a new Committee, governed by a Resolution adopted on February 18, 2020 by the City Commission. The Resolution expands the purpose and duties of the Committee, and increases its membership to 11 members. Current members' terms will expire on February 18, 2022.

The Committee's role and responsibilities are primarily the same as those of the previous Task Force, with the addition of providing recommendations on the feasibility and impact of implementing a moratorium on the acceptance of applications for issuance of development permits within the City of Fort Lauderdale. Other responsibilities that remain the same include:

- Review of City infrastructure, including roads and sidewalks
- Repair/replacement of City infrastructure
- Identification of funding sources for infrastructure needs

As the Committee seated today is a new advisory body, minutes from the March 2, 2020 would not be approved at today's meeting.

3. New Business

i. Elect Chair and Vice Chair

Motion made by Ms. Scott, seconded by Mr. Partington, to nominate Marilyn Mammano as Chair. In a roll call vote, Ms. Mammano was unanimously elected Chair.

Motion made by Ms. Scott, seconded by Mr. Ostrau, to nominate Peter Partington as Vice Chair. In a roll call vote, Mr. Partington was unanimously elected Vice Chair.

The Committee discussed its meeting schedule, which was previously the first Monday of each month from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Ms. Scott suggested that the meeting time be changed to 6 p.m. in order to allow more members of the public to attend and/or participate. Vice Chair Partington, however, noted that once in-person meetings have resumed, it could be difficult to secure a meeting room at a different hour.

Mr. Ostrau noted that the Committee also benefits from Staff attendance at a daytime meeting. Chair Mammano pointed out that public participation is likely to increase while meetings are held using the Zoom platform, and spoke in favor of retaining the current meeting time.

Motion made by Ms. Scott, seconded by Vice Chair Partington, to change the meeting time to 6 p.m. to allow the public and more people to be able to listen and participate. In a roll call vote, the **motion** failed 1-8 (Chair Mammano, Vice Chair Partington, Mr. Angeli, Mr. Grabski, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Ostrau, Mr. Walters, and Mr. Zeltman dissenting).

With regard to the new Resolution governing the Committee, Mr. Ostrau requested that the members be provided with a memorandum from the City Attorney's Office regarding the legal requirements and procedures that must be met for a moratorium. Chair Mammano suggested the Committee could benefit from reviewing instances in which the City has implemented moratoria, as these would provide historical context.

Ms. Daniel stated that she would follow up on the appropriate channels for this information. It was determined that this would be an Agenda Item at the Committee's next meeting.

Vice Chair Partington noted that in recent months, City buildings were subject to a different pattern of occupation due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and their use of wastewater was affected. He requested information on how flows have varied during and after the recent lockdown, as a significant portion of the City's Downtown area was not heavily occupied during daytime hours.

Mr. Angeli advised that the issue of a moratorium arose due to infrastructure failure prior to the pandemic; however, since the previous Committee meeting, he pointed out that the City's infrastructure has been improved. Chair Mammano observed that most of the input she has heard from the community focuses on City waterways and water quality rather than a proposed moratorium on development in some areas. Ms. Daniel stated that a Public Works Update is on today's Agenda.

Chair Mammano recalled that documents provided to the Committee in advance of today's meeting included a Consent Order related to water quality, as well as a July 2020 report on this Consent Order's progress. Ms. Daniel clarified that Ms. Ricketts serves as the Administrator for the Committee, and is responsible for providing the members with documents. Ms. Daniel will serve as the Committee's Staff Liaison, which means she will interact closely with the Committee during meetings and provide follow-up information.

4. Public Works Update

Ms. Daniel explained that a number of infrastructure projects are currently active within the City and are in various stages of bidding, design, and construction. A LauderTrac Infrastructure Newsletter is updated quarterly to keep the public apprised of the status of all projects. This document is available at www.fortlauderdale.gov/lauderworks .

Ms. Daniel advised that today's infrastructure update will include:

- Redundant project status
- Fiveash Water Treatment Plant project
- Sewer breaks
- Water Consent Order
- Amended Wastewater Consent Order
- Water quality

Discussion of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) fines will be part of these updates.

Chair Mammano requested that the 2020 Semi-Annual Report on the City's Wastewater Consent Program also be addressed, as this will inform the Committee of what has happened since their previous meeting. She pointed out that this includes aspects of the original Wastewater Consent Order, including capacity analysis, which have been completed and delivered to FDEP but not provided to the Committee. Ms. Daniel noted that the most recent publication on this topic was released in August 2020.

Ms. Daniel provided a redundant project status update, beginning with the Rio Vista 54 in. force main replacement. This is a \$65 million project to install a 7.5 mile wastewater transmission line from Bayview Drive to the George T. Lohmeyer Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. It is expected to be complete in 18 months. Once the new transmission line is in place, a second project will rehabilitate the existing 54 in. line. This will provide full redundancy and reliability for the system.

Chief Engineer Omar Castellon reported that this redundant line project began in January 2020 and is presently 32% complete. Its estimated completion date is anticipated to be June 2021. No additional issues have been identified thus far.

Mr. Zeltman asked how the City would ensure critical interconnections between the redundant line (when completed) and the re-lined existing pipe. This would mean in the event of a future failure, the City could redirect flow from one line to the other without exceeding capacity. Mr. Castellon confirmed that connections at critical points are part of the project and exist throughout the pipeline.

Mr. Castellon next addressed Victoria Park water main improvements, noting that the first phase of this project is underway. This phase will install approximately 29,000 linear ft. of pipe and is expected to be complete in January 2021. This is a large and complicated project, as it involves every street of the Victoria Park neighborhood. The Riviera water main project, which is similar to the Victoria Park project, is roughly 98%

complete and will provide 25,000 linear ft. of water main. Final completion is expected in August 2020.

Vice Chair Partington asked how five additional force main projects, which were added to the City's Consent Order, are being administered. He recalled that a condition analysis was part of the Consent Order, and asked if this project will be designed by City Staff or an outside contractor. Mr. Castellon explained that these five projects have not yet been officially added to the Consent Order. Public Works Director Raj Verma advised that this will be addressed later during the update.

Chair Mammano observed that the 2020 Semi-Annual Report shows the City as on track to complete all projects proposed in the original Consent Order. Mr. Castellon confirmed this, adding that the City has missed no milestones toward completion. Chair Mammano asked if the Asset Management (AM) program and Capacity Management, Operations, and Maintenance (CMOM) report, both of which were mentioned in the 2020 Semi-Annual Report, have been submitted to the State of Florida for approval.

Assistant Director of Public Works (Sustainability) Dr. Nancy Gassman stated that the City has completed its sanitary sewer collection system CMOM report, which was submitted to FDEP in June 2020. This report focuses on activities that involve day-to-day operations and maintenance of the collection system to prevent sewer spills, while the Asset Management Program focuses on capital projects and the overall risk of asset failure and their life terms. The City is currently addressing comments received from FDEP and expects to begin the recommended implementation phase once the final AM-CMOM reports have been accepted.

Dr. Gassman continued that general implementation of the sewer AM-CMOM program will require the assignment of tasks to specific individuals as well as an implementation schedule, including intermediate milestones. Chair Mammano requested that the AM and CMOM reports be provided to the members in advance of the Committee's next meeting Agenda.

Ms. Daniel next introduced the Water Consent Order, recalling that in July 2019, the City experienced a number of water main breaks. These included a 42 in. break at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE) and resulted in a Consent Order with FDEP executed on July 24, 2020. As part of this Consent Order, FDEP requires the City to submit the following:

- Preventative maintenance plan, including exercise of 100% of the City's raw water supply line valves over the next five years
- Mapping of all service lines

The City was issued penalties of approximately \$19,000, which are being implemented through in-kind projects, including trench mitigation.

Talal Abi-Karam, Assistant Director of Public Works (Utilities), advised that the raw water supply line exercise affects the pipes coming into the Fiveash Water Treatment Plant from the Prospect Wellfield. The mapping aspect of the Consent Order applies to the full water distribution system. The first two deliverables of the Consent Order will be the raw water and City-wide distribution mapping plans.

City crews have begun the physical work of exercising and maintaining the valves on the raw water line from the Prospect Wellfield. Efforts are ongoing for the exercise and mapping of other valves throughout the City. The duration of the Consent Order is three years; however, the exercising of the full system will be ongoing for five years, achieving 20% of the total each year.

The City will engage a consultant to assist with the mapping of the water distribution system. Rick Johnson, Utilities Distribution and Collection Systems Manager, further clarified that the first task order has been issued for a consultant to develop the mapping plan by September 22, 2020. This will cost approximately \$14,836. There is no cost estimate thus far for the mapping itself, which is anticipated to be a more significant cost.

Vice Chair Partington asked if there is a dedicated crew charged with exercising the valves. Mr. Abi-Karam replied that Public Works has established a maintenance plan which requires a crew to exercise all fire hydrants to ensure flow as part of an ongoing process. The Department has also established two to three crews strictly dedicated for valve exercising and tapping. Once the five-year cycle has been completed, these crews are expected to begin the process again as part of the recurring program. The Department has requested additional equipment and hired staff for this project.

Chair Mammano asked if the only in-kind project required for the Consent Order was work on an infiltration trench in Hector Park. Mr. Abi-Karam advised that the dollar value of this project is approximately 1.5 times the penalty, or \$30,000. This project is related to work on exfiltration issues in Rio Vista and is now a de facto aspect of the Consent Order.

Mr. Abi-Karam also addressed recent sewer breaks, stating that the City has received a warning letter with respect to four minor sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) that occurred between July 18 and 30, 2020. Two of these overflows were due to the work of external contractors on pump station D-38, while the other two occurred on NE 30th Street and on Las Olas Isles. A financial penalty is likely to be imposed upon the City with regard to these breaks, which will be classified in the category of zero to 1000 gallons.

In June 2020, the City received an Amendment to its sewer Consent Order, which was first issued in 2017 as a result of two major breaks in Rio Vista and George English Park. The dollar value of this Consent Order was \$1.8 million. The City is currently negotiating the Amendment, which includes a provision for an in-kind project in lieu of the financial penalty.

Mr. Verma advised that the force main assessment, which was required as part of the original Consent Order, included identification of pipes in low-, medium-, and high-risk states of repair. Based on the findings of this report, additional pipes must be added to either Phase 2 of the Consent Order or to the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). He emphasized that his goal is to re-line all the City's force mains, whether or not they have been added to the Consent Order. This led to the addition of the five projects to which Vice Chair Partington had referred.

Mr. Verma continued that the amended Consent Order, which was the result of a pipe break at George English Park, had two components: ensuring that the City has an emergency power supply at the George T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant (GTL), which was already in the City's CIP, and providing temporary power for all injection wells, with 24 months permitted for the installation of permanent generators. This was not a feasible requirement due to the limited footprint of the GTL property, the cost of permanent generators, or the necessary time frame.

The City's negotiations related to this Consent Order resulted in the provision of one temporary generator at one injection well until a permanent facility has been built. Regarding water quality testing at George English Park and the Tarpon River/Rio Vista area, it was determined that the break at George English Park occurred due to a large mixture of sewage and sand which accumulated near the exit pipe. Because the area is a closed water body, this mixture deposited roughly 500 to 600 cubic yards of material, of which 95% was sand and 5% solid sewage resulting from the break. Cleanup of this deposit is in progress.

The Rio Vista break occurred in a tidal water body, which meant the discharge of sewage naturally flowed away from the area. Based on findings by scientists and engineers, the amount of solids attributed to the sewage spill is approximately between 70 to 150 cubic yards spread over 400 linear ft. Roughly one inch of solid waste materials may be attributed to this spill, while most of the remaining solids have decomposed through bacterial reaction and/or were washed away. The City is working with FDEP to determine whether this area requires any additional action, as there is no ongoing water quality degradation.

The larger water quality issue remains at George English Park, where the deposited solids must be removed. The City must identify a mechanism by which they can remove these materials without creating more problems than removal would solve. The removal method must be determined in conjunction with regulatory agencies. The City will continue to monitor the situation and will take appropriate action to meet community needs while complying with regulatory agency requirements. Due to the sewage break, the City has enhanced water monitoring to ensure they are in compliance with the requirements of the Clean Water Act.

Mr. Verma concluded that there is no deadline within the Consent Order for the implementation of the AM-CMOM program. Modeling is required before the City's Department of Sustainable Development will approve any new development. If analysis shows that a pipe must be increased in size to accommodate development, applicants must meet this requirement as part of the Development Order. CMOM will provide additional accuracy in modeling and prediction.

Mr. Verma addressed costs, explaining that these are typically based upon planning documents. The document most recently used by the City is the Reiss report, which was completed in 2017. He noted that reports of this nature often do not match the reality of existing infrastructure and related costs. If costs have increased, it may be a result of the planning documents on which they are based as well as figures provided by consultants and Staff.

Mr. Zeltman asked if the City has taken steps to inspect and prevent any residential outfalls that could affect water quality. Mr. Verma replied that this is considered as part of the stormwater permitting process. The City plans to add a quality component to this process, which will ensure interceptors are in place before stormwater is discharged into the water body. Existing exfiltration systems in some areas, such as Hector Park, reduce flooding while routing water into a medium that will treat the flow before it is discharged into a canal.

Chair Mammano asked if the additional projects added to the Consent Order would be funded in the first tranche of projects through a \$200 million bond, through the second tranche, or the CIP. Mr. Verma advised that these projects will be funded through a combination of measures, depending partly upon other costs. He emphasized that projects under the Consent Order have just begun. Chair Mammano requested an updated analysis of how much money has been spent from bond funds, as well as how much additional funding will be needed and when for the realization of projects. Mr. Verma stated that a cash flow analysis can be provided to the Committee.

Vice Chair Partington observed that if the cost of projects increases above a certain level, change orders would have to be presented to the City Commission for approval. Mr. Verma confirmed that guidelines permit changes of up to 10% without Commission approval. A change order must undergo the scrutiny of the City's Purchasing Department, City Attorney's Office, and other reviewing entities.

Mr. Zeltman requested an update on the Fiveash Water Treatment Plant. Mr. Verma stated that funds are requested in the fiscal year (FY) 2021 budget to hire an owner's representative that would take the City through the process of building a new water treatment plant. The estimated cost is \$450 million to \$500 million.

A new plant would require approximately five to seven years for permitting, design, construction, and other considerations, during which the existing plant must be kept in operation. Staff has identified improvements necessary to keep the Fiveash plant

running, including carbon dioxide treatment, which will help address the color of treated water. They are also considering the relocation of wells in the wellfield, which may lessen the yellow pigmentation. Another possibility is the addition of a partial reverse osmosis process to improve the appearance of water. Staff is expected to make recommendations on these proposed improvements in the near future.

Mr. Zeltman commented that the cost of a complete pilot study on water treatment analysis would be worthwhile before a new water treatment facility is constructed at considerable cost. He expressed concern with the possibility of locating a new facility remotely at the Prospect Wellfield, due in part to its proximity to FXE as well as its potential design. He was also not certain that a water treatment facility would be conducive to a public-private partnership (P3), which is one possibility.

Mr. Verma explained that an owner's representative would be able to address these and other concerns. He noted that even as a P3, the plant would ultimately need to be paid for through rates or an alternative structure. With regard to design, he noted that many of Mr. Zeltman's points were well taken and that the feasibility behind different models, methods, and impacts would be taken into consideration. He cautioned, however, that even this exercise may not yield a perfect solution, as portions of the City present additional challenges that may need to be addressed.

Vice Chair Partington requested additional information on the potential timeline for a feasibility study. He recalled that the previous Infrastructure Task Force had voted to recommend that the City Commission retain another consultant to review aspects of a report submitted by previous consultant Carollo. Mr. Verma replied that Staff, in combination with an owner's representative for which funding is being sought in the FY 2021 budget, would share this responsibility. The scope of services for an owner's representative is currently being determined. He estimated that the cost would be between \$200,000 and \$250,000.

Chair Mammano recalled that the previous Committee had sent a Resolution to the City Commission on this topic, which included a condition that if a P3 is selected as the contract type for a new plant, the City would not relinquish control of either the asset itself or the rate structure. She felt this resolution should apply to any contract into which the City enters. Ms. Daniel advised that additional discussion of this topic would be placed on the next month's Agenda.

Mr. Ostrau requested that an update on the status of the Police Department building also be placed on the next Agenda.

5. Public Comments

Paul Chettle, member of the public, addressed the need for more comprehensive backup materials to be provided to Committee members as well as the public in preparation for meetings. He recalled that when the Reiss report was presented to the

City Commission, the previous Mayor and City Manager had indicated that proposed solutions for the Fiveash plant would not cost more than \$1.4 billion; however, since that time, it has been determined that projects in Phases 1 and 2 of the Consent Order will cost an additional \$107 million on top of what was described in the Reiss report.

Mr. Chettle reiterated that while a new water treatment facility is being built, the existing Fiveash plant will need to be maintained at the same time. He noted that the five force main projects discussed earlier were added to the Consent Order because of their significant and recurring failures. An emergency generator for the GTL facility has been requested in the CIP budget since 2015. He emphasized the need to help the City Commission understand that deferral of maintenance is a failed and expensive policy.

Chair Mammano recalled that as part of the original Consent Order, the City restored roughly \$30 million in funding for the Fiveash plant, which had been deferred in order to pay for the Las Olas water main break. Ms. Daniel clarified that a Fiveash reliability project has been included in the CIP at approximately \$27 million. It is currently being re-scoped.

David Orshefsky, member of the public, reiterated the need for more comprehensive backup materials, which Mr. Chettle had previously stated. He also recommended that the meeting time be changed to a later hour so it is more convenient for members of the public to attend. Similarly, he felt Public Comment should be permitted throughout the Agenda as individual Items are addressed by the Committee.

Mr. Orshefsky continued by addressing the estimates provided by the Reiss report as well as by the City, noting that that the Reiss estimate of \$1.4 billion resulted in establishment of bonding capacity in five tranches of \$200 million each. He expressed concern that this would be insufficient to fund the project at the level suggested by FDEP documentation. He also advised concern for how cost overruns would affect water and sewer rates. He recommended that if a new model is created for rates in light of expected overruns, Staff should provide the consultant with the anticipated cost increase, as well as an estimate of when additional bonding capacity may apply.

Ms. Daniel reviewed a number of items to be included on the next Agenda:

- Monthly flows for wastewater
- Information needed to support a recommendation for a moratorium
- Documents attached as part of the 2020 Semi-Annual Consent Order Report, including the CMOM and force main assessment reports
- Bond expenditure update
- Update on a new Police Department building
- Backup documentation for items to be discussed further
- Discussion of owner's representative for the Fiveash project
- Review of CIP, including when the City expects to draw down these funds

Mr. Verma advised that it may be necessary to have a consultant revisit the estimate prepared as part of the Reiss report, as this could address some of the concerns raised by both Committee members and the public.

Chair Mammano commented that it may be wise to discuss the Committee's meeting day and time again in the future in the interest of sharing more information with the public.

6. Adjournment – Next Regular Meeting TBA

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Any written public comments made 48 hours prior to the meeting regarding items discussed during the proceedings have been attached hereto.

[Minutes prepared by K. McGuire, ProtoType, Inc.]