



**DRAFT**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE**  
**INFRASTRUCTURE TASK FORCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2022 – 2:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M.**

CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**January-December 2022**

**Attendance**

Marilyn Mammano, Chair	P	5	0
Peter Partington, Vice Chair	P	3	2
Gerald Angeli	P	4	1
Shane Grabski	A	3	2
James LaBrie	P	5	0
Charlie Ladd	A	1	4
Michael Marshall	P	4	1
Roosevelt Walters	P	3	2
Ralph Zeltman	P	5	0

As of this date, there are 9 appointed members to the Committee, which means 5 would constitute a quorum.

**Staff**

Marie Cine, Senior Administrative Assistant / Staff Liaison  
 Alan Dodd, Director of Public Works  
 Chris Bennett, Assistant Director of Public Works  
 Omar Castellon, Assistant Director of Public Works – Engineering  
 Sylejman Ujkani, Program Manager  
 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.

**ii. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion** made by Mr. Walters, seconded by Mr. Angeli, to approve. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

**iii. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – April 4, 2022**

**Motion** made by Vice Chair Partington, seconded by Mr. Walters, to approve. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

iv. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – June 6, 2022**

**Motion** made by Vice Chair Partington, seconded by Mr. Walters, to approve.

Vice Chair Partington noted the following correction to p.6, paragraph 3: it was a previous iteration of the Infrastructure Task Force that had made a number of major recommendations.

In a voice vote, the **motion** was approved (as amended).

**2. Old Business**

i. **Public Works Projects – Funding Request Priorities**

Chair Mammano recalled that at the June 6, 2022 meeting, the Infrastructure Task Force Advisory Committee (ITFAC) had sent a communication to the City Commission including their funding recommendations. Public Works Director Alan Dodd confirmed that these recommendations were acknowledged by the City Commission. This preceded the release of the City's draft budget, which is now available online. Next steps include the two planned budget hearings in September 2022, as well as adjustments to the budget.

Chair Mammano asked if the draft budget includes the prioritized items that were presented to the Committee in June. Mr. Dodd confirmed that most of these priorities were included. Public Works had requested a dedicated Information Technology (IT) specialist to focus on cybersecurity issues; while this position was not added to Public Works, there will be an individual within the City's IT Department who can provide these services. He was comfortable with this as long as the correct services will be provided. The focus is on prevention of cybersecurity issues.

Chair Mammano requested additional information regarding streets and sidewalks. Mr. Dodd replied that the Sidewalk Master Plan gap analysis received \$180,000, while the pavement condition index (PCI) received \$180,000 for an update. The Department also received \$303,000 for a PCI assessment of alleyways. The roadway team received the five additional personnel requested for it, as well as a \$150,000 increase in overtime pay. Both the asphalt resurfacing and concrete/paver budgets were raised to \$1.5 million, both of which were \$500,000 increases.

Vice Chair Partington observed that the draft budget lists \$26.7 million for the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). He asked how close this amount was to the recommended 7% of the total General Fund. Mr. Dodd estimated that this amount is slightly below 7% but is closer to that percentage than previous budgets. He suggested

that the Committee may wish to see a presentation from a representative of the City's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to clarify the percentage this amount represents.

Vice Chair Partington continued that the draft budget also includes \$3.6 million for bridge repairs and replacement. He asked if this is enough to address all of the City's bridges which were rated structurally deficient by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Mr. Dodd clarified that this amount is intended for repairs rather than replacement, as replacement typically requires a separate line item. The 2023 budget includes design funds for the Bayview Drive and SE 13<sup>th</sup> Street Bridges, as well as additional funding for the Westlake Drive Bridge.

Mr. Zeltman asked if there are provisions to address the design of bridges that were built at lower elevations and now need to be raised due to the expected increase in tidal height. Mr. Dodd confirmed this, noting that Public Works has identified several bridges which are functionally obsolete and are included in a replacement program. When these are addressed, raising the height to accommodate sea level rise will be part of the process. The bridges will also most likely be made stronger and wider, with sidewalks on both sides of the structure.

Mr. Dodd continued that improving the capacity of a bridge typically makes a project eligible for more funding opportunities, including grants. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will provide environmental review and permitting for these projects to ensure there are no adverse effects on endangered species or natural resources. The Army Corps will also consider navigability, particularly if the bridge spans a federally controlled channel.

Vice Chair Partington called the Committee's attention to p.4 of the June 10, 2022 City Commission Agenda Memo, pointing out that the draft budget includes one-time expenses for which American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds may be used.

Chair Mammano asked if the consolidation of a Public Works facility with another City Department's facility was included in the budget. Mr. Dodd explained that Public Works is working with the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) toward joint use of a site, with some funds already budgeted for the design of this facility. Funding for construction of this site would come in a later year.

Mr. Marshall advised that the Budget Advisory Board (BAB) will make its final recommendations at its next meeting, which will be a joint meeting with the City Commission on August 15, 2022.

## **ii. Water Distribution System Mapping**

Program Manager Sylejman Ujkani stated that the City is currently in a negotiation phase to finalize agreements with the selected consultant, with work to commence in a

few weeks after the agreements have been drafted and signed. Because this involves a Consent Order project, the process has been expedited and will come before the Commission at their September 6, 2022 meeting.

Mr. Ujkani explained that the consultant will be tasked with mapping all City infrastructure that is part of the water mapping system. The City has also asked the consultant to survey and collect data regarding the number of meters and valves, in order to make the map even more complete than what is required by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). The map will be used to inform and update the models already in use by the City.

### **3. New Business**

#### **i. Status update on the City's studies on its wells**

Assistant Director of Public Works (Engineering) Omar Castellon stated that the City is awaiting another contract with consultants to continue this study. It is expected that the contract will go before the City Commission for approval in September. In addition to this contract, the City is also conducting other types of water quality testing for its wells.

Mr. Dodd advised that the City has signed an interim agreement with the contractor who will operate the new water treatment plant. This agreement allows the contractor to undertake further analysis of the selected site, as well as a pilot program at the existing Fiveash Water Treatment Plant to test membrane technology. Public Works meets with this contractor on a weekly basis to discuss what will be built as well as a breakdown of the City's and the contractor's responsibilities.

Chair Mammano asked if the Committee will be able to see the City's comprehensive agreement with the contractor before it is signed. Mr. Dodd stated that he hoped this would be the case.

Mr. Walters asked what the pilot project is intended to establish. Mr. Dodd noted that this project will determine how well different membranes will process water. This will help determine the correct technology to be used. The costs of this program will be entirely the responsibility of the contractor.

Vice Chair Partington asked if the public-private partnership (P3) will be delayed by the pilot project. Mr. Castellon replied that the project is completely separate from the P3.

Mr. LaBrie recalled that one issue with membrane technology is water waste, and asked if this will be addressed through the comprehensive agreement. Mr. Dodd replied that the agreement will address the quality of water coming from the City's wells, the contractor's responsibilities regarding pre-treatment, how the water will be processed, and how much water will be delivered. The new plant will require an injection well for the

disposal of waste water, as well as the amount of wasted water and electrical consumption.

Chair Mammano requested a copy of the interim agreement for the Committee's review. Mr. Dodd confirmed that he would send a link to this agreement to the members.

Chair Mammano asked how the wellfield studies would affect the planned new water treatment plant. Mr. Castellon explained that the studies will examine the condition of the wells and determine whether or not they require maintenance or rehabilitation.

Vice Chair Partington asked if the condition of the wells would have any bearing on the P3 agreement. Mr. Castellon reiterated that this would not be the case: however, if the wells' condition requires repair, that will be the City's responsibility.

Chair Mammano asked what would happen if the quality of the water provided by the City deteriorates in relation to the condition of the wells. Mr. Dodd confirmed that this would also be the City's rather than the contractor's responsibility. The comprehensive agreement will establish a standard for minimum water quality requirements when the water is provided to the contractor, as well as the minimum quality requirements of the water that will be delivered from the contractor to the City. If either minimum is not met, the agreement will outline a process that must be followed in order to bring water quality into compliance.

Mr. Zeltman commented that the wells will now have to produce 15% more water than what is currently provided in order to satisfy current water demand, as 15% will be placed in an injection well. Mr. Castellon advised that this would only be a net 12% increase, as the City currently has a 3% loss percentage with its existing lime system.

Mr. Dodd explained that the City's allocation of water is based on availability from the Biscayne Aquifer, as determined by the South Florida Water Management District. Approximately three years ago, the City purchased an additional allocation of three million gallons per day (MGD) from the C-51 canal. Additional water will most likely be provided through this allocation. Another option could be creating wells that draw from the Floridian Aquifer, although the C-51 canal is the more likely approach.

**ii. Breakdown of the General Fund toward Public Works**

Chair Mammano noted that this Item was covered as part of the earlier budget discussion.

**iii. Map showing the Run Times of Basins Near Completed Re-lining Projects**

Patricia Carney, Ethan Heijn, and Guillermo Regalado, representing consultant Hazen and Sawyer, explained that the team has developed a methodology to determine how much improvement occurred pre- and post-relining of the system.

Mr. Heijn briefly reviewed the process that was implemented to assess the effectiveness of the gravity sewer rehabilitation program. This involved evaluation of flows at the wastewater treatment plant, as well as analysis of the energy consumption database for the individual pump stations that were rehabilitated.

Mr. Heijn advised that the main focus of rehabilitation was on reducing infiltration and inflow (I&I). Rehabilitation efforts were concentrated on the six pump station collection areas identified in the Consent Order. He pointed out that there was no pre-rehabilitation flow data to show what conditions were in effect prior to work being initiated. Because of this, the team had to develop a different methodology to assess the effectiveness of their repairs. The City provided energy consumption data for each of the six pump stations, which was used to estimate the flow reduction.

Mr. Regalado explained that the six basins were identified in the Consent Order had high concentrations of I&I, which meant the pumps were insufficient to handle the flow. Improvement of I&I not only helps the pump stations, but helps the condition of the force mains as well, as there is less gravel and sand in the pipes.

Mr. Regalado continued that flows are affected by times of day, as well as by weather and tidal events. These flows are affected further by I&I, which can also be called groundwater infiltration. I&I occurs even in the absence of weather events and outside peak hours.

Mr. Regalado showed a visual rendering of flows arriving at the George T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant during dry periods, which showed the estimated amount of I&I affecting those flows. He noted that greater rainfall events contribute to a raised groundwater table, during which the groundwater reaches and retains a higher-than-normal level.

Mr. Regalado continued that energy consumption is a good indicator of how much flow is being sent to the pump stations. While energy consumption is affected by a number of factors, the primary driver is flow. Conditions at a basin which did not undergo any repairs were used as a baseline for comparison with basins which underwent repairs.

Mr. Regalado further reviewed the methodology, noting that after repairs were made, run times at the pump stations decreased while capacity improved. When I&I is removed, basins can receive greater flows.

Chair Mammano observed that when a basin is repaired, the run times decrease, while when new development occurs, the run times increase; however, this increase is not as great as the decrease attributable to repairs. Mr. Regalado added that repairs will not

stop once the six basins named in the Consent Order are complete. The work is expected to continue.

It was estimated that more than 50% of the system is being affected by repairs, including pump stations, mains, manholes, and the portions of lateral lines owned by the City. The privatized portion of the system is more difficult to estimate. Ms. Carney advised that private lines are often deeper than the City's lines, which means more water is likely to intrude into them. This portion may be significant, although it has not been determined to be critical.

Chair Mammano asked how much the improvements to the first six basins have cost. This was estimated to be approximately \$30 million. Chair Mammano felt this was a reasonable amount. Mr. Zeltman pointed out that the decrease in run times results in cost savings.

Mr. Dodd stated that \$120 million worth of upcoming I&I work is listed in the CIP. Some of this work is already underway. He noted that more work on more basins will be necessary to make a significant difference.

It was noted that Fort Lauderdale's 2017 Comprehensive Utilities Strategic Master Plan states that up to 50% of flows going into water treatment plants are most likely attributable to I&I, and that I&I reduction is the most cost-effective means that the City can employ to achieve its long-term wastewater needs.

Vice Chair Partington requested clarification of the longevity of a lined pipe. Mr. Heijn replied that this can be 35 to 40 years. This time frame may also apply to smaller residential pipes, on which there is typically less demand than on mains. It was noted that this age range is dependent in part upon the conditions that exist farther up and down the system, and that slip lining can preempt what could be very expensive emergency repairs.

Chair Mammano requested a copy of the presentation, pointing out that it can stand as proof of the work the City has accomplished with respect to its infrastructure.

Mr. Dodd advised that smoke testing is also underway, which can help identify places in which repairs are needed to the private portion of the pipes. He added that the City may be considering amending some Ordinances to allow some public funds to be used to make these repairs.

Vice Chair Partington commented that his concern was for the effects of ongoing development on existing pump stations. Mr. Dodd advised that prior to approval for any development, a capacity analysis letter is prepared and sent to the City's Development Review Committee (DRC). Capacity analysis calculates the pump station run times, as well as the additional flows the development is expected to bring. The City's standard run time for pump stations is 10 hours.

Chair Mammano pointed out that when the result of additional development would result in longer run times, the development is not stopped: instead, it is noted that the appropriate pump station may require work. Mr. Dodd further clarified that the developer is required to pay an impact fee to the City, which is used toward making improvements to the pump station. He acknowledged that this impact fee is never enough to cover the entire cost of upgrades, but is calculated to be proportionate to the additional load the specific development would place on the pump station.

Vice Chair Partington characterized this process as problematic, noting that the development is not prohibited in this case. Chair Mammano recalled that it is the responsibility of the City to provide capacity for all the development anticipated in the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Dodd noted that while a new development may be asked to upsize a water main to accommodate its effects, the developer is not asked to fund a basin-wide or pump station project. Chair Mammano concluded that the City cannot legally halt development based on condition or capacity in the absence of a health emergency.

#### **4. Public Works Update**

##### **i. June Water and Wastewater Break Report**

Mr. Castellon gave a PowerPoint presentation on this Item, stating that a force main break occurred on June 4, 2022. Vice Chair Partington recalled that there was a manhole overflow on the Seminole River Canal on July 26, resulting in a spill of 15.7 million gallons. More information on the cause of this overflow will be available at the next meeting.

##### **ii. Financial Report**

Chair Mammano recalled that this was addressed earlier in the meeting during the budget discussion.

#### **5. General Discussion and Comments**

##### **i. Committee Members**

Mr. LaBrie noted that the Broward County Board of County Commissioners recently discussed the New River bridge crossing. He reported that the County Commissioners seemed to wish to continue moving forward on this process, with only one member of that body appearing to be interested in a tunnel rather than a bridge. There had been consensus from the County Commissioners that the cost of a tunnel would be too great, and that the City of Fort Lauderdale would need to find the money for that project if they wished to proceed with it.

Vice Chair Partington stated that the estimated tunnel costs provided by FDOT have been turned over to the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for additional study to determine their accuracy. Mr. LaBrie advised that he understood the estimated cost of the tunnel to be \$2 billion, although this has been challenged by the Fort Lauderdale City Commission, which has voted to fund another estimate. The County considers it unlikely that there will be consensus between the City and County on the possibility of a tunnel.

Mr. Zeltman advised that he had sent a PowerPoint presentation for dissemination to the Committee members, recapping what they have done since their inception as well as where they are going. He briefly reviewed some of the previously covered and ongoing items, which included the following:

- Sanitary gravity collection sewers
- Status of Police Department headquarters
- Fiveash Water Treatment Plant
- Replacement/upgrade of older water transmission/distribution mains and non-functional fire hydrants
- Replacement and/or retrofitting of existing stormwater drainage catch basins

It was determined that the Committee wished to hear an update on the status of the new Police Department headquarters at their September 2022 meeting.

Mr. Zeltman also recalled that after the Committee saw a presentation at a previous meeting regarding the City's stormwater catch basins, the City pumped out a number of these basins which had been blocked and held standing water.

Mr. Zeltman continued that there will be three new City Commissioners in Districts 1, 3, and 4 following the November 2022 elections. He suggested that the Committee consider when they would be able to meet with the current Commission in the future as well as with the incoming Commissioners. Chair Mammano emphasized the importance of meeting with the new Commissioners to bring them up to speed on the work the Committee has done. Mr. LaBrie commented that he was not certain of the value of meeting with the current Commission.

Chair Mammano advised that she had seen a presentation by consultant Stantec regarding the effect of a new water treatment plant on the water rate structure. She characterized the resulting estimated increase in water rates as "disturbing," particularly in comparison to what the increase might have been if the City Commission had not approved a P3. She asserted that the P3 is structured in a way that allows the private partner to make a profit, which raises these rates significantly.

Vice Chair Partington commented that this information from Stantec would have been relevant prior to the City's decision to proceed with a P3. Chair Mammano agreed, suggesting that the Committee ask to have the Stantec presentation she had seen brought before them so they could understand the issues more clearly.

Mr. LaBrie observed that the City's comprehensive P3 agreement has not yet been finalized. If an agreement cannot be reached, the City has the option of moving forward with their second choice of partner agency, or of issuing another request for proposal (RFP) to seek a partner.

Vice Chair Partington advised that the information presented to the City Commission regarding the P3 had included "significant" rate increases projected for the future. His concern was that these numbers may be increasing because of the decision to undertake a P3. Chair Mammano reiterated that at the next Committee meeting, there should be a discussion of water rates going forward. She agreed that a videotape of the Stantec presentation she had seen could be useful for this purpose.

Chair Mammano referred to a document entitled "Opportunities for Federal Funding" which was provided to the Committee members, stating that it listed opportunities related to the recently passed Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act. She requested that this discussion be held at the next Committee meeting. Vice Chair Partington added that there are also state funds available for resiliency, mitigation, and general infrastructure.

Mr. LaBrie asked if the federal funds typically go to the state first and are then distributed through Tallahassee. Mr. Bennett confirmed that this is often the case: the federal government provides funds to the state along with rules for the use of these funds, and the state then determines where these funds go. The County may also receive some state funding and make a decision on where that money will be used. There are also grant funds for which the City may apply directly to the state or federal government.

The Committee members discussed the need for the City to secure some of these state and/or federal funds. Mr. Bennett advised that the City is currently working on a number of applications for at least \$50 million in grant funds. Chair Mammano requested a list of the projects for which funds are being sought.

Vice Chair Partington recalled that the Department of Sustainable Development's (DSD's) City Engineer position was in charge of "the review of developments," and that the individual in this position recently retired. He expressed concern with the resulting loss of expertise and requested an update on how DSD plans to fill this position. Mr. Bennett replied that Daniel Ray will take on the position of City Engineer, as he was mentored by the previous individual in this position and has absorbed the duties and responsibilities of City Engineer with respect to Code and policy. Mr. Bennett concluded that the various aspects of the City Engineer position will be assigned to either DSD or Public Works. Code is being reviewed to better align which of these responsibilities should be assigned to which Department.

Chair Mammano asked who would attend DRC meetings. Mr. Bennett replied that most of this will be handled by the Land Development Manager, which is the position currently held by Mr. Ray. A number of Public Works employees work directly with this position at DSD for the purpose of assisting the DRC, as well as capacity analysis for water, sewer, and stormwater designs from developments.

Mr. Castellon addressed the fines associated with the overflows mentioned earlier in the meeting, explaining that these fines are reviewed at the end of the year by regulatory entities. The rate is set at that time and the City is sent an invoice for it. For this reason, he was not certain that the fines associated with the July overflow would be available for presentation to the Committee at next month's meeting.

**ii. Public Comments**

None.

**6. Adjournment**

It was noted that the next Committee meeting was scheduled for September 12, 2022.

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 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.]