



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
INFRASTRUCTURE TASK FORCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TOWER 101 – SUITE 1100, 101 NE 3RD AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2025 – 2:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.**

January-December 2025

Attendance

Marilyn Mammano, Chair	P	2	0
Peter Partington, Vice Chair	P	2	0
Gerald Angeli	P	1	1
Gregory Barnett	P	2	0
Shane Grabski	A	1	1
James LaBrie	P	2	0
Michael Lambrechts	P	1	1
Marta Reczko	P	2	0
Roosevelt Walters	P	2	0
Ralph Zeltman	P	2	0

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

Staff

Vickie Beauvais, Senior Administrative Assistant
Omar Castellon, Assistant Public Works Director -- Engineering
Ingrid Kindbom, Public Works Program Manager
J. 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 2:05 p.m. Roll was called and it was noted a quorum was present.

ii. Approval of Agenda

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

iii. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – January 6, 2026

Motion made by Mr. Walters, seconded by Vice Chair Partington, to approve the minutes with or without corrections.

Vice Chair Partington requested that the following clarification of p.7, paragraph 4 of the January 6, 2025 minutes be added to today's minutes as follows: "...the maximum height of a seawall is intended to prevent water from rain events flooding the building."

In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

2. Old Business

i. Ongoing discussion regarding ITFAC

Chair Mammano recalled that at the January 2025 meeting, it had been determined that the Committee is now operating on a year-to-year basis. She expressed concern that this may not be appropriate for a Committee that requires stability and longevity in order to fully understand its subject matter. She proposed that the Committee request a meeting with the City Commission to discuss this further. This request could be made through a communication to the City Commission.

Chair Mammano continued that the Committee no longer functions as a task force, as their focus is not on a single task, but on continuing review, evaluation, and recommendation to the City Commission.

Mr. Walters recalled that when the Committee's continuation was discussed by the City Commission, the Commission did not address one of the Committee's concerns, which was to ensure that the terms of members were staggered so they would not expire at the same time, resulting in a significant loss of institutional memory. He was in favor of meeting with the Commission to discuss this concern in particular.

Mr. Lambrechts observed that the City's Board of Adjustment has alternate members, who do not regularly vote but serve as "backup" members to reach a quorum. He felt the appointment of alternate members would allow those individuals to be brought up to speed on the Committee's work. He was also in favor of renewing the Committee for a longer term than one year.

Mr. Barnett expressed concern that the Commission may not see the full value of the Committee's work. Mr. Lambrechts shared this concern, but emphasized that infrastructure is an ongoing issue in Fort Lauderdale.

Mr. Barnett proposed the creation of a "dashboard" for the City's major projects as reviewed by the Committee, based on the time and budget involved with each project. This could serve as a resource for the Commissioners, who could read the more detailed meeting minutes or reach out to their appointees as necessary. Chair

Mammano suggested that this could be done for historical purposes to show what the Committee has accomplished up to the present.

Mr. LaBrie did not feel that the Commission expects the Committee to provide them with reports. He added that the Commission may specifically ask the Committee to play a role in some activities, such as the discussions of a new City Hall or the new water treatment plant. He concluded that the creation of a dashboard may not apply to the Committee's work.

Chair Mammano emphasized that the Committee's mission is to address capital projects rather than ongoing maintenance, as they are not asked to opine on proposals related to maintenance or other continuing issues.

Vice Chair Partington recalled that the Committee was originally established in 2017 when the Commission requested the formation of a task force to review and examine the condition and needs of the City's infrastructure, and to prepare a report with recommendations to the City Commission regarding that infrastructure. Chair Mammano confirmed that the original iteration of the Committee had prepared this report, and the Commission had taken actions based on the report.

Vice Chair Partington continued that during the life of that original Committee, a number of sewer breaks occurred throughout the City, with the result that the Committee also took on the task of monitoring the Consent Order under which the City began to operate. He concluded that there is still a role for the Committee to fulfill these functions.

Chair Mammano reiterated that should the Committee sunset, this could be a significant concern to the City, as no advisory entity would monitor infrastructure activity. She stated again that the Committee should communicate to the Commission that their role should not continue on a year-by-year basis, as well as the need for longevity of members so they have time to accumulate information.

Mr. Angeli stated that the Commission should meet annually with the Committee to discuss any additional issues that should be added to the Committee's agenda. He also felt it may take a new member up to two years to fully understand the Committee's work.

Chair Mammano proposed the following communication to the City Commission: While we appreciate the continuation of the Infrastructure Task Force for one more year, it has given us an opportunity to discuss the future role of the Task Force, so therefore we request a meeting with you regarding the long-term future, mission, and composition of the Task Force.

Mr. Zeltman recommended that any meeting between the Committee and the Commission should include an exchange of thoughts and ideas to establish a list of

issues the Committee can address. It was noted that the Committee has only met with the Commission on an as-needed basis in the past, at the request of either party.

Mr. LaBrie advised that the Committee plan what they would like to discuss in a meeting with the Commission, including establishment of goals, staggering of members' terms, and other concerns. Vice Chair Partington pointed out that the first issue for discussion should be to reach agreement on the necessity of continuing the Committee over a longer term. Chair Mammano reiterated that there is a need for institutional memory on a Committee of this nature, which could be achieved by staggered terms, longer terms, or another means.

Mr. LaBrie suggested that the Committee bring forward its own proposal for how to continue. Mr. Lambrechts agreed, adding that the Commissioners were likely to appreciate this type of recommendation.

Ms. Reczko observed that it will be important to respect the Commission's time, and agreed that bringing recommendations to the discussion would likely be well-received. Vice Chair Partington proposed that one suggestion could be for the Commission to create a board rather than a committee to oversee infrastructure. There was additional discussion of some of the differences between boards and committees.

Chair Mammano stated again that she felt it is important for some of the Committee's members to remain in perpetuity in order to preserve institutional memory. It was determined that there would be further discussion of the possible establishment of an Infrastructure Advisory Board at the March 2025 meeting.

ii. Review of Outstanding Consent Orders

Public Works Program Manager Ingrid Kindbom explained that her responsibilities with the City include communications between the City and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) regarding Consent Orders. A Consent Order for water took effect in 2020 and was completed and closed by FDEP on October 18, 2024.

At present, the City remains under a wastewater Consent Order, which took effect in September 2017. It was amended on October 12, 2020 and has a scheduled completion date of October 31, 2026.

The reason for the water Consent Order included a major water main break as well as other abnormal events that came to the attention of FDEP once they acquired jurisdiction over Broward County's public water system in 2018. FDEP realized that there were issues with locating valves to turn off water when the break occurred. The City was required to exercise all the water valves during the first year of the Consent Order, followed by a plan to exercise 20% of the City's valves every year thereafter. This exercise is now part of City policy and is included in the operations budget.

Assistant Director of Public Works (Engineering) Omar Castellon briefly explained the process used to exercise water valves. The time necessary for these exercises depends in part upon the size of the valve. The process is done in-house by City Staff.

Ms. Reczko asked if the break which led to the water Consent Order was caused by a contractor. Ms. Kindbom explained that the Consent Order was decreed because the City was unable to locate the valves necessary to turn off the water. All water mains and valves within the City are now mapped in the CityWorks system.

Chair Mammano observed that some Consent Orders involve in-kind contributions. Ms. Kindbom confirmed that in-kind projects are sometimes used to offset the requirements of a Consent Order. These projects may be implemented in lieu of paying a fine, and the City's investment into an in-kind project must cost slightly more than the fine would have been.

Chair Mammano recalled that the City has also been under orders from the state due to other incidents, such as the spillover of wastewater into the Intracoastal Waterway from the water treatment plant. Mr. Castellon clarified that the release of water into the waterway during a severe rain event must be reported to the state; however, this results in warning letters from the state, which are not the same as a Consent Order.

Ms. Kindbom continued that the wastewater Consent Order includes 78 milestones, of which 68 were completed by December 31, 2024. The remaining milestones include force main projects, sewer system evaluations, and installation of permanent generators at the City's wastewater plants. In-kind projects included pump station improvements, asset management systems, a City Management, Operation, and Maintenance (CMOM) plan, condition assessments, mapping the wastewater system, and environmental analyses, among others. All of these in-kind projects have been completed.

The remaining projects necessary to complete the wastewater Consent Order are currently estimated to be on schedule for completion. Project managers meet on a weekly basis with the contractors, and a semi-annual report must be submitted to FDEP every six months. Only one project is not expected to be complete by September 30, 2026. All of the projects are under construction.

Ms. Kindbom addressed the four temporary generators currently operating at the George T. Lohmeyer Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (GTL), explaining that the permanent replacement generators are scheduled for delivery in June 2026. The City previously requested an extension from FDEP for the installation of these items, and will need to request a second extension, as the contractor was unable to secure a bond for the project. The project will need to go out for bid a second time.

Chair Mammano requested information regarding a project to install a redundant line from GTL to the injection wells. Ms. Kindbom replied that there are no issues with the Consent Order related to this project, although some coordination with Broward County remains necessary.

Ms. Kindbom continued that a second Consent Order will be issued to the City with respect to inflow and infiltration (I&I). Two meetings have been held thus far to review the terms and conditions of this second Consent Order, including its timeline and how I&I issues will be addressed.

Chair Mammano requested an update on the status of the consultant contract for I&I issues. Mr. Castellon replied that the total amount is estimated at \$130 million. The consultant is currently assessing all basins to prioritize them. He concluded that a presentation can be given on I&I at the March 2025 meeting, although no formal report has been prepared at this time.

Chair Mammano concluded that ongoing monitoring of the City's Consent Orders should be added to the Committee's mission, as should the progress of the Fortify Fort Lauderdale project.

3. Public Works Update

i. Water & Sewer Breaks Report w/Mapping

Mr. Castellon reported that there were no water breaks during the month of December 2024, although seven sewer breaks occurred which resulted in outflow into the Intracoastal Waterway. He noted that cold weather can make pipes more prone to breakage.

4. General Discussion and Comments

The following Item was taken out of order on the Agenda.

ii. Public Comments

Julio Tejada, representing the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), introduced himself to the Committee at this time. He explained that he is responsible for intergovernmental affairs with municipalities, counties, and elected officials. He provided contact information, stating that members may reach out to him with questions.

Vice Chair Partington recalled that following a catastrophic rain event in April 2023, there was discussion of how to improve coordination between the various entities responsible for local waterways, including how to operate the waterway system during flood emergencies. Mr. Tejada explained that at present, SFWMD manages the

primary canal network's inland structures. While there is coordination between SFWMD and other systems, certain instances or emergencies may result in water being less easily movable.

Chair Mammano requested additional information on coordination. Mr. Tejeda replied that there is typically a point person at the municipal level who can reach out to the team to report issues in a given area. SFWMD will determine whether or not they can assist with that issue within their canal network; if not, other local drainage districts are also on the call and may determine if the issue is under their purview. The different entities confer whenever a problem is reported to determine who can address it.

Mr. Tejeda further explained that SFWMD's canals are used to move water out of secondary small systems, such as local drainage districts and municipal canals, into the Intracoastal Waterway. They regulate how much water is retained within the system, monitor saltwater intrusion in order to keep freshwater wells operational, and release water during storm events to prevent local flooding.

From an environmental standpoint, SFWMD also works to ensure water is as clean as possible by removing nutrients from it. The natural flow of water through the Everglades is affected by deviations such as saltwater intrusion or the need to retain water in certain areas.

Mr. Lambrechts asked how much would need to be done to restore the natural flow of water to the south instead of discharging into waterways. Mr. Tejeda replied that he could not estimate how long this effort would take, but noted that there are projects currently underway to clean the water in Lake Okeechobee so it can flow south. If the lake holds too much water, there is a risk of damaging levees.

Ms. Reczko requested clarification of how many canals in Fort Lauderdale are under SFWMD jurisdiction. Mr. Tejeda estimated that there are three to four such canals. He also pointed out that SFWMD does not perform maintenance on any facilities south of their own structures, although they may participate in vegetation cleanup in specific areas. He concluded that he can give a presentation to the Committee at a subsequent meeting.

i. Committee Members

Mr. LaBrie requested a status update on City Hall. Ms. Kindbom advised that the contract for an owner's representative for the City is either still out for bid or recently closed. Chair Mammano requested that the Committee see a copy of this contract, recalling that they made a number of recommendations regarding a new City Hall. It was determined that the Committee would prefer to see a presentation on City Hall at their next meeting rather than the aforementioned presentation on I&I.

It was noted that former Public Works Director Alan Dodd has resigned effective February 28, 2025. Talal Abi-Karam will serve as Interim Director.

Mr. Barnett requested information on the rollout of new water meters. Ms. Kindbom advised that 15 pilot meters have been installed at this time, and the City is working on a communications plan. No rollout is anticipated before September 2025 at the earliest. She concluded that she could provide a presentation for the Committee later in the year.

5. Adjournment – NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING DATE: Monday, March 3, 2025

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 3:57 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.]