



## LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

**LTC No: 26-033**

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission  
**FROM:** Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*  
**DATE:** February 4, 2026  
**SUBJECT: High Priority Water Main Leaks and Potential Repair Options**

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The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to inform the City Commission of three (3) high-priority water main leaks. The details for each location are as follows:

SE 17 Street Causeway Under Bridge (Commission District 4)

There is an active leak beneath the SE 17 Street Bridge that may be on a twenty-four-inch (24") transmission water main. To locate the source of the leak City staff performed a systematic shutdown of nearby twelve-inch (12"), sixteen-inch (16"), and twenty-four-inch (24") water mains. The leak only ceased when the twenty-four-inch (24") transmission main was isolated.

To further verify it is the source of the leak, staff will initiate the second test shutdown during the overnight hours starting this week to isolate the twenty-four-inch (24") water main independently and confirm it is the source of the leak. This process is expected to last for several days. Isolating this water main may result in low water pressure in the surrounding area. On January 28, 2026, the City provided a seven (7)-day advance notice (via Alert FTL) to the impacted area prior to scheduling this shutdown.

Due to the subaqueous nature and depth of the water main, the preferred repair method would involve installing a line stop, creating a bypass, performing a new subaqueous crossing via Horizontal Directional Drill, and abandoning the leaking section of pipe in place. If the leak is confirmed to be on the twenty-four-inch (24") transmission water main, the repair would require a contractor-led effort and is expected to be costly and require City Commission approval.

NE 4 Avenue & NE 14 Court (Commission District 2)

There is a confirmed leak at an air release valve connected to a thirty-inch (30") transmission water main at the intersection of NE 4 Avenue and NE 14 Court. Preliminary work has included field verification of valves necessary for a potential system shutdown and procurement of the required repair parts. A test shutdown will need to be scheduled to determine the impact zone and evaluate system and plant pressure impacts.

SE 17 Street & S Federal Highway (U.S. 1) (Commission District 4)

A leak was observed at multiple locations within the intersection of SE 17 Street and S Federal Highway on a pipe of unknown size at the time of discovery. An eight-foot (8') by eight-foot (8') hole excavation was performed, exposing a six-inch (6") water main. Maintenance of Traffic required multi-agency coordination among the City (performing the work), the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT, the owner of U.S. 1), and Broward County (owner of Andrews Avenue and NE/SE 3 Avenue). Repairs were completed on January 29, 2026. Temporary restoration of the hole was completed; however, City staff will coordinate with FDOT and Broward County regarding the scope and scheduling of permanent pavement restoration.

Please note that all items listed above are subject to change should conditions escalate or become more critical. Utility Services staff will coordinate with the Strategic Communications Department for proper public outreach.

For further information, please contact Albert Carbon, P.E., Director of Utility Services, at 954-828-6563 or [ACarbon@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:ACarbon@fortlauderdale.gov).

Attachment:

1. Project Location Maps
2. Photos of Repairs at SE 17 Street & S Federal Highway (U.S. 1)

c: Shari McCartney, City Attorney  
David R. Soloman, City Clerk  
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor  
City Manager's Office  
Department Directors



# Project Location Maps



## Repairs at SE 17 Street & U.S. 1 (S Federal Highway)

**Repair**



**After**

