



LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

LTC No: 26-130

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission
FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*
DATE: May 4, 2026
SUBJECT: Tunnel Top Plaza – New Shade Canopy Installation (Update #3)

The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to provide the City Commission with an update on the Tunnel Top Plaza (Plaza) shade structure project. The City Commission was initially notified of the shade structure project on October 13, 2025, via LTC No. 25-195 (Attachment 1). A revised schedule for the shade structure installation was provided on November 19, 2025, via LTC No. 25-238 (Attachment 2).

Tunnel Top Plaza was completed and opened to the public on December 10, 2023, and has hosted numerous events throughout the years, including musical performances, and various other community activations. Since its opening, the City has received ongoing feedback regarding excessive heat and sun exposure at the Plaza.

Subsequently, the City installed a permanent metal structure with a temporary retractable shade canopy in February 2026. The objective was to expedite the shade structure to enhance comfort and usability at the Plaza for programmed events including the St. Patrick's Day Parade, among others. After completing the metal structure installation in February 2026, City staff began planning to obtain and install a permanent shade canopy.

Due to inclement weather, including heavy rain and strong winds, multiple panels of the temporary shade canopy were damaged. City staff elected to remove the damaged panels and adjust the positioning of the remaining temporary canopy to maximize shade coverage until the permanent panels are installed.

On April 1, 2026, the City received two (2) architectural concepts for the permanent shade canopy made of SolaMesh fabric, an industry-leading performance fabric for shades sails and tension shade structures. This innovative fabric is engineered with polymer technology and made from High-density polyethylene (HDPE) monofilament and tape yarns to provide optimal strength, durability and protection from ultraviolet (UV) rays. City staff reached out to multiple adjacent stakeholders including the Las Olas Company, Fort Lauderdale Downtown Development Authority, Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale, Inc., and the Downtown Fort Lauderdale Civic Association to obtain

feedback and to provide input on the color scheme to be selected (Attachment 3). The final color scheme of denim and crimson was selected, and on April 20, 2026, a purchase order was issued to the vendor for production of the permanent shade canopy. The permanent new shade system fabric is expected to be installed this summer on the existing permanent metal structure. No additional structural improvements are needed.

City staff will coordinate with our Strategic Communications Department to provide public notification in advance of the shade canopy reinstallation.

If you have any questions, please contact Carl Williams, Director of Parks and Recreation, at cwilliams@fortlauderdale.gov or (954) 828-5804.

Attachments:

1. LTC No. 25-195 Tunnel Top Plaza Closure for Shade Installation
2. LTC No. 25-238 Tunnel Top Plaza Closure - Revised Schedule for Shade Installation
3. Tunnel Top Plaza - Permanent Shade Canopy Concept

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



LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

LTC No: 25-195

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission
FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*
DATE: October 13, 2025
SUBJECT: Tunnel Top Plaza Closure for Shade Installation

The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to inform the City Commission of an upcoming project to install a shading canopy at Tunnel Top Plaza, located at 601 E. Las Olas Boulevard.

Tunnel Top Plaza is the signature project for District 4 under the Parks General Obligation Bond (Parks Bond) approved on March 12, 2019. This Parks Bond project was divided into two (2) segments: 1) improvements to the existing portion south of Las Olas Boulevard and 6th Avenue, and 2) the new Tunnel Top Plaza extension north of Las Olas Boulevard. Both segments were included as part of the \$32 million Henry Kinney Tunnel rehabilitation and improvements project managed by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) with assistance from City staff.

Tunnel Top Plaza was completed and opened to the public on December 10, 2023 and has since hosted numerous events throughout the year, including musical performances, and various other community activations. Since its opening, the City has received ongoing feedback regarding excessive heat and sun exposure at the Plaza. To mitigate these concerns, the City will install a shading canopy to offer a more pleasant experience.

The total cost of the shade canopy installation is estimated at \$78,000 including materials, equipment and incidental services. For the safety of the public, Tunnel Top Plaza is currently closed for the installation period, lasting until December 5, 2025. The closure is necessary to allow City crews to complete the work efficiently while ensuring a secure environment around the construction site.

If you have any questions, please contact Carl Williams, Director of Parks and Recreation, at cwilliams@fortlauderdale.gov or (954) 828-5804.

c: D'Wayne M. Spence, Interim City Attorney
David R. Soloman, City Clerk
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor
City Manager's Office
Department Directors



LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

LTC No: 25-238

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*

DATE: November 19, 2025

**SUBJECT: Tunnel Top Plaza Closure –
Revised Schedule for Shade Installation**

The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to provide the City Commission with an update on the Tunnel Top Plaza Shade structure installation project. The City Commission was initially notified of this project on October 13, 2025, via LTC No. 25-195.

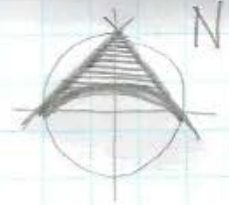
The project was scheduled to be completed on December 5, 2025. However, due to inclement weather at the start of the project and delays associated with the vendor procuring materials, the initial construction schedule has been revised. Recently, City crews temporarily reopened Tunnel Top Plaza while the concrete foundations cure and the fabrication of the metal structure is completed off-site.

The installation of the metal canopy and shade components is now anticipated to begin the week of December 22, 2025, with substantial completion expected by January 30, 2026. For safety reasons, the Plaza will be closed during the installation period. City staff will coordinate with Strategic Communications to provide public notification in advance of the closure.

If you have any questions, please contact Carl Williams, Director of Parks and Recreation, at cwilliams@fortlauderdale.gov or (954) 828-5804.

c: D'Wayne M. Spence, Interim City Attorney
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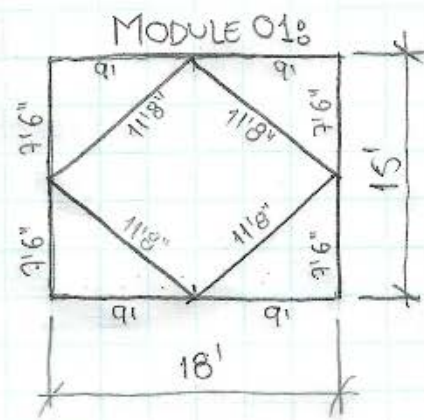
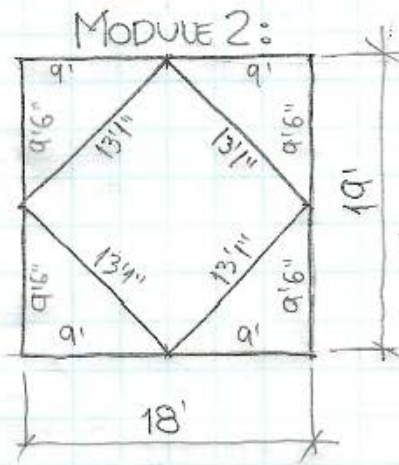
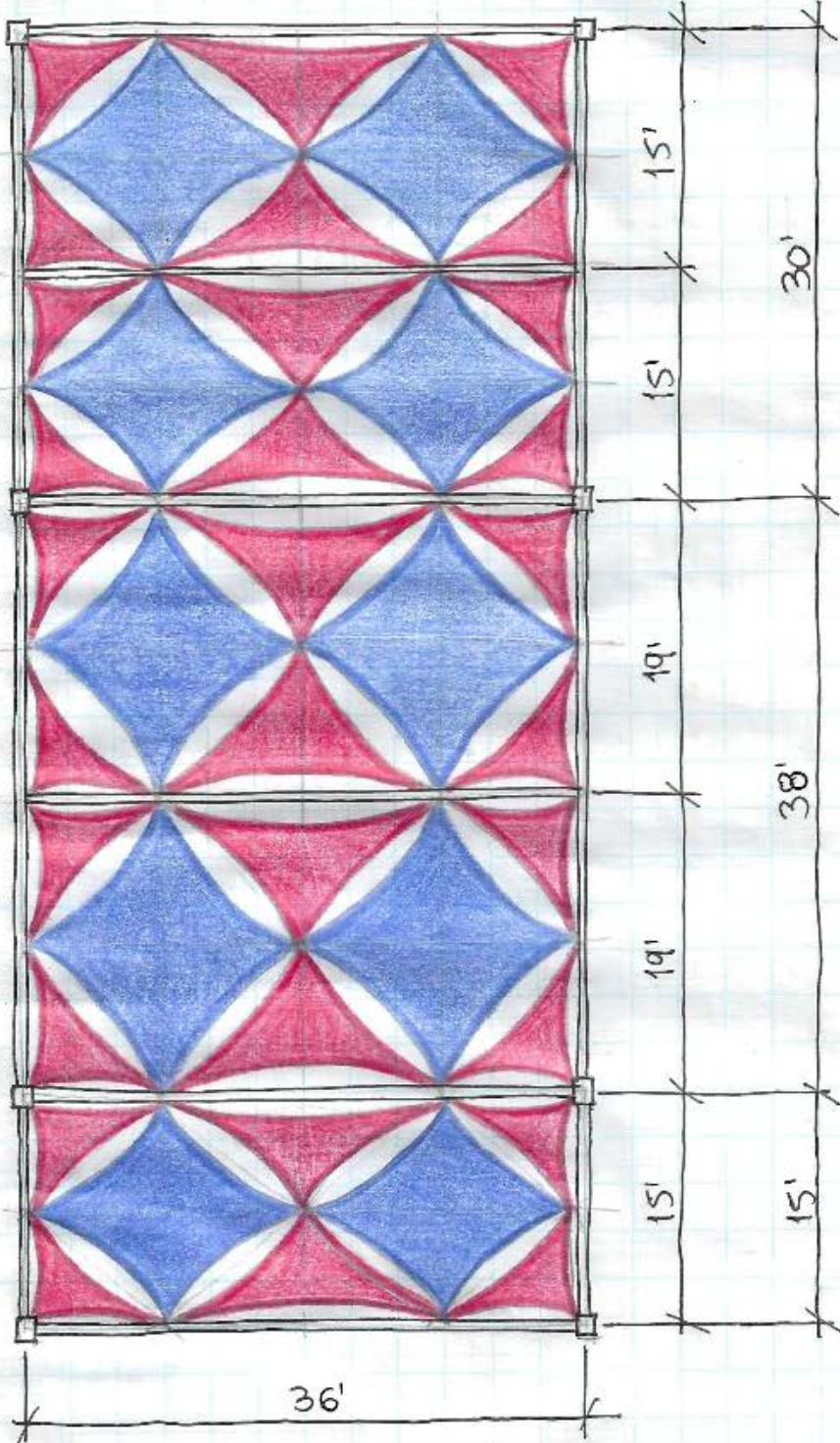
3'
SCALE



LAS OLAS TUNNEL TOP

CONCEPT SKETCH

OPTION 1



DENIM
865086



CRIMSON
865073