



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
INFRASTRUCTURE ADVISORY BOARD
TOWER 101 – SUITE 1100, 101 NE 3RD AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2026 – 2:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.**

March 2026-February 2027

Attendance

Marta Reczko, Chair	P	2	0
Peter Partington, Vice Chair	P	2	0
Gerald Angeli	P	1	0
Gregory Barnett	P	2	0
Shane Grabski	P	2	0
Marilyn Mammano	P	1	0
Lisa Sharkey (via Zoom)	P	2	0
Roosevelt Walters	P	2	0
Lindsey Way	P	1	1
Ralph Zeltman	P	2	0

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

Staff

- Pauline Ricketts, Administrative Supervisor
- Semele Williams, Senior Administrative Assistant
- Otniel Rodriguez, Assistant Public Works Director, Engineering (via Zoom)
- Jason Walker, Distribution and Collection System Supervisor
- Ingrid Kindbom, Utility Services Program Manager
- Albert Carbon, Director, Utility Services
- Gabrielle Bork, Senior Project Manager
- J. Opperee, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Communications to the City Commission

None.

I. Call to Order

I. Roll Call

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

II. Approval of Agenda

Infrastructure Advisory Board

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

III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – March 2, 2026

Motion made by Mr. Walters, seconded by Vice Chair Partington, to approve with or without corrections. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

2. Old Business

Chair Reczko welcomed returning members Gerald Angeli and Marilyn Mammano.

Motion made by Vice Chair Partington, seconded by Ms. Mammano, to allow Lisa Sharkey to attend remotely by Zoom and vote. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

It was noted that one vacancy remains on the Board, which will have 11 members when all appointments are made.

3. New Business

None.

4. Public Works Department Update

I. Asset Management

Ms. Ricketts asked if the Board members had any questions regarding a memorandum on asset management, which was included in the members' backup materials. She recalled that members had requested this information at the March 2026 meeting.

Mr. Barnett stated that he had requested a presentation on CityWorks, with a focus on how the information gathered within this system is being used. He advised that his questions at the previous meeting had specifically addressed "what is going on with asset management" now that information has been compiled into the CityWorks database. Vice Chair Partington also requested a presentation on the system in the future.

Chair Reczko also addressed the memo, noting that the City initiated the development of a comprehensive utilities asset management system due to the requirements of the Consent Order, to support long-term sustainability and compliance. She recommended greater clarity in the memorandum in addition to a presentation, characterizing CityWorks as a living task order system.

Chair Reczko also asked for additional information on why CityWorks has not been implemented with respect to lift stations. She explained that real-time data about lift stations, including alarms and run times, is important information for developers and ensures that the City can accommodate flows from new developments. She requested that this information be presented at the next meeting.

It was noted that information on lift stations was not integrated into the CityWorks system due to security concerns. Chair Reczko noted that other municipalities have asset management systems in place while allowing this integration, and reiterated her request for more details at a later meeting.

Mr. Walters observed that the Chair's and Vice Chair's requests for more information would need to be voted on by the Board members.

Ms. Mammano asked that the presentation also include a discussion on the status of a new pump station proposed for Downtown Fort Lauderdale. Otniel Rodriguez, Assistant Director of Public Works (Engineering), advised that the City Commission will see an update on potential locations for this pump station at their April 7, 2026 meeting, and this information can be presented to the Board at their May 4, 2026 meeting.

Motion made by Vice Chair Partington, seconded by Mr. Walters, that we have a presentation on the asset management system, including the possibilities of the integration of that with the system.

Mr. Barnett requested that the presentation focus in part on how asset management data is used in operations and engineering. His intent was to ensure that the City's engineers have confidence in the CityWorks system and are mandated by management to use it.

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

The Board members reviewed documentation on impact fees, which was also requested at a previous meeting. Ms. Mammano stated that she would like to see more information on how and where this money was spent. Mr. Rodriguez advised that he is working with the City's Finance Department to determine whether this information can be provided in a similar manner to information on water and water/sewer bonds.

II. CIP Financial Report (Bonds) – Quarterly Update

Mr. Rodriguez provided documentation on the three bonds related to the Public Works Department, explaining that it lists the different projects to which bond funds had been allocated. He reviewed some of the projects, noting that the infrastructure bond includes funds for sidewalk and roadway repairs as well as new sidewalks. Some allocations will need to be amended for clarity, as some documentation of funding for sidewalks and roadways was transposed. This will be addressed through a budget amendment.

Ms. Mammano addressed Special Obligation Bond Series 2025, asking if this had not been a much larger bond meant to address more than roadways and bridges. It was clarified that of this \$110 million bond, approximately \$37 million was allocated to categories that fall within the Infrastructure Advisory Board's (IAB's) purview. These categories included roadways and bridges. Mr. Rodriguez further explained that

roadway projects may include sidewalk reconstruction as well as roadway improvements.

Ms. Mammano continued that sidewalk repairs were previously funded through the City's General Fund, and asked if all sidewalk projects are now funded through bonds. Mr. Rodriguez confirmed that there will continue to be additional sidewalk projects funded through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). He added that the \$110 million infrastructure bond was approved in 2025, with roughly \$37 million allocated to infrastructure improvements. The remaining bond funds were allocated toward other projects, including the new Fire and Police Stations. He concluded that Staff would provide the Board with a memo including more details.

Mr. Walters requested that when funds are moved from one infrastructure project to another, the Board be informed of the source of those funds, the projects to which money is reallocated, the total cost of the project, and how much money remains after the reallocation. He asked that this information be provided to the Board on an ongoing basis, stating that funds are not distributed equally throughout the City.

Mr. Barnett observed that bridges had been discussed at a previous meeting, and requested more information on possible grant funds to be used toward bridge maintenance. Mr. Rodriguez replied that the funds he had previously mentioned were slated for use on bridge projects that involve grant funds, including grants in which the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) pays 75% of costs and the City provides the remaining 25%. The City's portion of these projects will come from the General Fund, as it is not a large amount.

Vice Chair Partington stated that because the bond under discussion is an infrastructure bond, the Board should know how the remaining \$110 million is being spent after the \$37 million has been allocated for roadway and sidewalk projects. Ms. Mammano recalled that when the City issues bonds, they provide a memo showing a breakdown of how the money will be used, and requested that this memo be provided to the Board in next month's backup materials.

Ms. Mammano continued that similar memoranda from the City Manager's Office to the City Commission accompany movement of funds. She asked that Commission Agenda Memos (CAMs) reflecting this information be provided to the Board on a quarterly basis in accordance with Mr. Walters' request. Chair Reczko cautioned that the Board does not wish to create additional work for Staff if possible, and recommended that the members access these CAMs online.

Ms. Sharkey commented that one item listed under the Special Obligation Bond Series 2025 is seawall replacement for the Las Olas Marina, and asked if allocations for repairs to sidewalks and roadways will also include seawall improvements in the future. Mr. Rodriguez replied that the bond includes some money for underfunded seawall projects. All the seawalls being addressed by the City are located on public rights-of-way.

Mr. Barnett addressed a Victoria Park project listed under the stormwater bond, requesting clarification of the remaining balance of this project, which appeared to be over budget according to the documentation provided. He also requested clarification of the use of the term “encumbrances” in relation to this project. Mr. Rodriguez advised that he would need to look into this further with the Finance Department, stating that he could provide more information at the May 2026 meeting.

Vice Chair Partington requested information on bonds in addition to the infrastructure bond, as well as the amounts of money they represent and where it is reflected in the documentation provided to the Board. Mr. Rodriguez replied that these include the stormwater bond, which funds Fortify Lauderdale Phase 1 projects, as well as an additional water and sewer bond. The City also has a Special Obligation Bond for projects that would otherwise have been funded through the General Fund. As noted earlier, the Special Obligation Bond includes projects that fall outside the scope of the IAB.

Vice Chair Partington requested clarification of the rate of expenditure of funds in relation to how quickly the City is meeting the requirements of its Consent Orders. He asked if there is a timeline for the completion of at least one of these Orders. Chair Reczko recommended that Consent Orders be addressed further under Agenda Item 5.II.

Ms. Sharkey commented that the City has invested nearly \$1 billion in underground utilities infrastructure, which she characterized as a positive step.

III. List of Ongoing Capital Projects – Quarterly Update

Mr. Rodriguez advised that this document lists various projects which have been discussed at the past few meetings, including both design or construction phases.

Mr. Barnett asked if there have been any surprises in relation to the ongoing Victoria Park project. Mr. Rodriguez replied that a contractor was responsible for a recent water main break, which was quickly addressed. He confirmed that the project is moving forward as planned.

Vice Chair Partington asked how the City’s Seawall Master Plan is funded. Mr. Rodriguez replied that this Plan is funded through the General Fund unless seawall projects connected to other projects, such as roadway improvements. The General Fund is limited to funds that are budgeted every year for improvements.

Vice Chair Partington asked if updates were available on the construction of the City’s new water treatment plant. Mr. Carbon replied that the Prospect Lake Water Treatment Plant is currently undergoing operational testing and is scheduled to be fully operational by mid-September 2026. Chemicals for pre-treatment are being purchased and pilot

scale testing will begin soon. The pipeline between the existing and new plants is complete, with the final connections to the two existing tanks expected later in 2026.

Mr. Zeltman asked if there are secondary connections as alternates in case there are issues with the primary connection. Mr. Carbon explained that the plan for the treatment plant is to install a new pipeline from the Prospect Wellfield to the Fiveash Water Treatment Plant, with the existing raw water line between these facilities to be rehabilitated as a secondary feed line to the Prospect Lake facility in fiscal year (FY) 2028-2029.

Chair Reczko noted a \$9 million line item for upgrades to the Fiveash Water Treatment Plant. Mr. Carbon replied that one project for Fiveash includes a new high-service pump station and a new five-million gallon tank. The \$9 million is associated with this project, for which design is currently 90% complete. It is not associated with the startup of the Prospect Lake facility.

Chair Reczko also asked if the City will continue to use any of the structures at the Peele Dixie Water Treatment Plant, such as storage. Mr. Carbon replied that the Peele Dixie plant will continue to operate in its current function, averaging approximately six million gallons per day (6 MGD). The plant has the capability to increase to 12 MGD, depending upon the need in the distribution system. Water from Peele Dixie is concentrated in the southwestern portion of the City.

Mr. Walters asked if Staff has worked to educate the City Commissioners regarding the results of moving water through pipes that are made of cast iron in some locations, which will result in continued discoloration of water. He pointed out that current messaging could create confusion among residents who may be expecting clear water once the new plant is operational. Mr. Carbon advised that Staff is working to educate the public on this issue. Staff is working to minimize concerns by educating the public and providing treatment to the existing distribution system. The City's Strategic Communications Department will begin an outreach program later in the spring.

Ms. Sharkey asked how often the City's Master Plans are updated, and requested a copy of the Seawall Master Plan. Mr. Rodriguez advised that this and other Master Plans are accessible on the City's website. He added that the frequency of updates is dependent in part upon the scope of the plans: some are updated every 10 years, or specific plans may require a timeline for implementation. He cited the example of Fortify Lauderdale Phase 2, which is a 15-year plan. The plans are used as road maps and do not typically come with funding, but instead allow the City to plan ahead from a financial perspective.

Mr. Carbon added that the most recent Water and Wastewater Master Plan was published in 2019 using data from 2017. The City is currently reviewing the scope of work with a consultant to reevaluate this document.

5. Utility Services Department Update

I. **AMI Smart Meters**

Ingrid Kindbom, Utility Services Program Manager, showed a PowerPoint presentation on the City's Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) smart meter program. These devices will allow for tracking of near-real-time water consumption, which will help to identify leaks and other issues that would otherwise require manual determination.

Residents will be able to log into an engagement portal so they can monitor their own water consumption. This access will allow them to track their use patterns and become more aware of how much water they may use without realizing it. The system will assist the City by reducing the number of manual meter readings and allowing them to remotely connect or disconnect service.

Ms. Kindbom reviewed how the City can monitor consumption using the new system, which indicates spikes in usage with an accuracy of close to 15 minutes. The website including this data is not yet accessible to users, but will be available once all smart meters have been installed, which is expected by mid-2027. The meters are equipped with a 15-year battery life and can be replaced by the City if problems occur. All new construction is being equipped with the new meters.

Mr. Zeltman expressed concern with the installation of new meters in the Imperial Point community, stating that he has heard several complaints from neighbors related to significant water bill increases. Chair Reczko suggested that this could be discussed in greater detail outside today's meeting.

Ms. Kindbom provided a list of contact names and numbers for City Staff, stating that Staff's intent is to attend all homeowners' association meetings throughout the City, as well as posting information on the City's website. Once the new meters are installed, the system will be monitored and maintained by a contractor for 15 years. That entity will be responsible for addressing communication issues and any other problems with the devices.

The first smart meters were installed in December 2025. Installations have increased to approximately 200 per day as of March 2026, increasing to 400 installations per day by May. Installations do not occur on Fridays. Postcards are sent to residents roughly three to four weeks ahead of installation and are accompanied by outreach from Staff. The postcard will also include a QR code including all pertinent information. Chair Reczko suggested that the postcards include the name of the contractor and/or subcontractor responsible for installation.

II. **Consent Orders**

Mr. Carbon showed a PowerPoint presentation on the City's Consent Orders, reiterating that there are currently two Consent Orders under which the City is operating. A previous Water Consent Order was closed out in October 2024. A new Water Consent

Order was confirmed by the City Commission in January 2026. There is also an active Wastewater Consent Order which has been amended once and which has a pending second amendment that will focus on inflow and infiltration (I&I).

The Water Consent Order was issued in February 2026 with a three-year time frame. The first date in that three-year window is July 2027, which is the target date for completion of the assessment and engineer's report. Full compliance is expected by February 2029.

The first amendment to the Wastewater Consent Order is scheduled for completion in March 2027. Dates related to the second amendment have not yet been established. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the City are still negotiating the Consent Order, and the City is awaiting (FDEP's comments on the most recent draft of this amendment.

Chair Reczko addressed the Water Consent Order issued earlier in 2026, noting that this document also requested an asset management program and tracking system. She suggested that the City's investment in CityWorks could provide a benefit in meeting the requirements of this Consent Order. Mr. Carbon advised that this is true to some extent, noting that the City has issued a request for qualifications (RFQ) to hire a firm that will provide an engineer's report and a plan for moving forward.

Ms. Mammano asked if data collected as part of the process will be entered into the City's asset management system. Mr. Carbon confirmed that the first step is to verify that the information entered into CityWorks is accurate through fieldwork. This will be followed by building upon the existing information, confirming size, material, and other details of assets in order to meet FDEP requirements. This will help determine the priority of assets that need to be replaced.

Vice Chair Partington requested clarification of the reason behind the Water Consent Order. Ms. Kindbom replied that between 2023 and 2025, the City reported several water main breaks, and the Consent Order was formulated in response to this information in combination with a number of boil water notices. Mr. Rodriguez added that many of the breaks were related to the age of the pipes, which was a contributing issue.

Vice Chair Partington asked if the City anticipates additional Water Consent Orders once the current order has been complied with. Mr. Carbon replied that this is difficult to predict. He pointed out that if the City does not deliver the required CIP within the specified time frame, additional activity could follow.

Senior Project Manager Gabrielle Bork reviewed remaining projects related to the Consent Orders:

- NE 38 Street/NE 58 Court: 42 in. force main replacement, nearly complete; connections can be made following certification from FDEP

- SE 9 Street/SE 10 Avenue: 48 in. fixed force main to the Lohmeyer plant; this project is ongoing due to connection and other issues
- Force main from the Lohmeyer plant to injection wells: this project has completed installation of mainline pipe in Broward County right-of-way and work remains at the injection wells, including redundant force main connections
- Installation of permanent emergency generators at the Lohmeyer plant; connections are pending and existing equipment may require rehabilitation

Mr. Carbon advised that the pending I&I amendment will require evaluation, analysis, rehabilitation, and implementation over a seven-year window. He confirmed that the City's efforts to address I&I have been ongoing for a number of years. The analysis provided by a consultant is being incorporated into this plan.

Mr. Walters asked if the City has increased its budget for the maintenance of pipes as a means of preventing future Consent Orders and related issues. Mr. Carbon replied that funds are being allocated toward I&I, including replacement and lining of pipes. It is difficult to determine how much headway has been made toward this goal before the consultant's report is complete.

III. Water & Sewer Breaks Report with Mapping

Mr. Rodriguez briefly reviewed water breaks, which included an age-related break on Cordova Road and a construction-related break on NE 12 Avenue. There were no sewer breaks in March 2026.

6. General Discussion and Comments

I. Board Members

None.

II. Public Comments

None.

7. Adjournment – NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING DATE: May 4, 2026

There being no further business to come before the Board 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.