



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, MAY 4, 2026 – 2:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.**

March 2026-February 2027	Attendance		
Marta Reczko, Chair	P	3	0
Peter Partington, Vice Chair	P	3	0
Gerald Angeli	P	2	0
Gregory Barnett	P	3	0
Shane Grabski (arr. 2:02)	P	3	0
Marilyn Mammano	A	1	1
Lisa Sharkey	A	2	1
Roosevelt Walters	P	3	0
Lindsey Way	P	2	1
Ralph Zeltman	P	3	0

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

Staff

- Semele Williams, Senior Administrative Assistant
- Shaelyn Mack, Senior Administrative Assistant
- Otniel Rodriguez, Assistant Public Works Director, Engineering
- Roberto Betancourt, City Engineer, Public Works (via Zoom)
- Craig Barrett, CityWorks Administrator, Public Works
- Albert Carbon, Director, Utility Services

Communication to the City Commission

None.

1. Call to Order

I. Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 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.

Mr. Grabski arrived at 2:02 p.m.

III. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – April 6, 2026**

Motion made by Mr. Walters, seconded by Vice Chair Partington, to approve the minutes from April 6 for the purpose of discussion.

Mr. Walters advised that any references to the Infrastructure Advisory Board (IAB) as a Committee within the April 6, 2026 minutes should be corrected to refer to them as a Board throughout the document.

Motion made by Vice Chair Partington, seconded by Mr. Walters, to approve the minutes as written, subject to those minutes being checked and where the word is “Infrastructure Committee,” to replace with “Infrastructure Board.” In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

2. **Old Business**

None.

3. **New Business**

None.

4. **Public Works Department Update**

I. **Asset Management Presentation**

Otniel Rodriguez, Assistant Public Works Director (Engineering), recalled that at the April 2026 Board meeting, there were some unanswered questions regarding Fort Lauderdale's asset management program. He introduced CityWorks Administrator Craig Barrett, who provided a presentation on the Item.

Mr. Barrett explained that CityWorks is a geographic information system (GIS) -centric enterprise asset management system which connects to the City's GIS asset data so Staff can see where assets are located, where work has been completed, and where issues are occurring. It also coordinates how work is assigned, tracked, and closed between teams. The City can monitor this system in order to reduce reactive work and make better-informed

decisions.

Mr. Walters asked how artificial intelligence (AI) is integrated into the City's platforms. Mr. Barrett replied that the City is upgrading its systems to include an AI component which can help prompt data. It is currently not part of the CityWorks program. Mr. Walters explained that his concern was that AI components are monitored for accuracy. Mr. Barrett stated that a data custodian provides consistent monitoring.

Vice Chair Partington requested clarification of the source of the AI systems used. Mr. Barrett replied that while he was not certain of the platform the City uses for AI, CityWorks contains proprietary information that could be used to train its own in-house AI. The information included in CityWorks is provided only to authorized individuals and is not available to the public.

Mr. Barnett advised that his concern with the CityWorks database is meant to ensure that the data sets entered into this system can be used operationally by City Staff. He emphasized the importance of executive leadership mandates which require this data to be used in making decisions. He also asked if the City's engineers are confident in the data and can make their own decisions based on it. Mr. Barrett confirmed that City engineers assisted in the creation of the CityWorks data sets, and emphasized that they are confident in the system.

Major features of CityWorks include accountability and long-term infrastructure planning. Several dashboards have been built into the system so supervisors and managers can monitor open work orders, inspections, and requests. He offered the example of a preventative maintenance dashboard, which allows Staff to keep eyes on ongoing projects in a systematic way. Maintenance of hydrants and valves, as well as routine pump station inspections, run times, stormwater cleaning, and manhole inspections, are all included on the preventative maintenance dashboard.

Mr. Barrett continued that next steps for CityWorks include continuing improvement of data quality so the dashboards can support stronger key performance indices (KPIs), risk scoring, and future capital planning.

Chair Reczko requested more information on the kind of data that is included in CityWorks. Mr. Barrett confirmed that this data includes collection and distribution systems, stormwater, and treatment. The George T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant (GTL) is included in the CityWorks system.

Mr. Barrett advised that the implementation of an asset management system was a requirement of the City's wastewater Consent Order. It is the City's operational system of record for utility maintenance and compliance.

The implementation of CityWorks began in 2018. The first assets to come online were

stormwater and wastewater, followed by collection assets in 2022. In 2024, the City transitioned to CityWorks online using cloud technology. Water distribution systems were added in July 2025, followed by the GTL plant in 2026.

Chair Reczko explained that her concern had been that CityWorks is capable of collecting information from pump stations, including run times. Mr. Barrett confirmed that pump stations are inspected on a regular basis and run times are consistently monitored. GTL is monitored separately from stormwater and sewer pump stations. There is remote monitoring and control of the City's collection systems.

Mr. Barrett continued that CityWorks is already heavily used by the City's operations and engineering Staff. Supervisors and crews use the system to schedule maintenance, track work orders and inspections, manage service requests, and document work performed in the field. This use contributes to better visibility regarding what work is open, what has been completed, and where issues are occurring. The Engineering Department uses CityWorks data to track maintenance histories and produce reports while also laying the foundation for condition-based and risk-based decision-making. CityWorks also enables future Capital Improvement Program (CIP) planning through a new asset management contract, which is expected to come before the City Commission for approval later in May 2026.

Chair Reczko requested more information on the future of CIP planning through an asset management contract. Mr. Barrett replied that the City will enter into this contract with three different firms and will work with those consultants on various initiatives. He pointed out that CityWorks data can be used to factor in conditions for assets, and then to use these condition values to provide information to clarify issues and the timeline on which some assets should be replaced. The City does not currently have condition values, which can be used to determine probability of failure, business risk exposure, and other metrics that are used to calculate risk.

Mr. Barrett explained that there is a significant amount of condition data the City does not currently know. He further clarified that the condition values of assets are categorized from critical to good. He noted that the consultants will be asked to provide more information on the condition of assets.

Vice Chair Partington asked if the consultants will focus on further investigation of asset condition or will be used primarily to analyze information that has already been collected. Mr. Barrett explained that the consultants will refine the information already collected and compile it in a way that allows for its proper use.

Vice Chair Partington asked why three consultants would be necessary for this purpose. City Engineer Roberto Betancourt clarified that the use of multiple contractors allows the City to maintain a pool of contractors.

Chair Reczko requested clarification of the size of the City Departments using CityWorks. Mr. Barrett replied that his team includes two additional GIS analysts as well as one engineering tech. They also plan to hire another individual. Chair Reczko acknowledged that a department of this size, which supports critical infrastructure and assets throughout the entire City, could use assistance from contractors.

Mr. Walters requested clarification of the information the City does not yet have on its assets. Mr. Barrett explained that data is entered into a system which compiles a score for condition values, which then allows for better prediction of what may happen to the assets.

Vice Chair Partington commented that if the City plans to use the information it has gathered to decide how to invest in infrastructure going forward, he felt they should adopt a single approach rather than using three different consultants who may arrive at three different conclusions. He emphasized the importance of ensuring all consultants will use the same basic methodology. It was clarified that this will be part of the criteria package for consultant services.

Mr. Barnett cited the example of the current Victoria Park stormwater project, asking if that project's scope requires contractors to provide as-built or as-inspected information back to CityWorks in a format that can fill in existing data gaps. Mr. Barrett replied that as-built information is typically entered manually into the GIS system. When work is complete, the as-built information is converted into GIS format. He hoped that a more GIS-compatible way of gathering data will be available in the future. He concluded that there are still gaps remaining in this process.

Mr. Barnett reiterated his question regarding as-inspected information. Mr. Barrett replied that only as-built information is provided on current projects.

Chair Reczko asked how initial asset data was collected for inclusion in CityWorks. Mr. Barrett replied that this process began with the provision of as-built data, which was verified through various processes, including surveys and field verification by consultants. This data was vetted by City Staff and entered into the system.

Chair Reczko asked if City Staff provides any feedback on this data, including identifying areas that may require improvement. Mr. Barrett advised that while he was confident in the accuracy of sewer and stormwater asset data, he has heard concerns involving the accuracy of data on water assets. He concluded that the overall accuracy of CityWorks was fairly high.

Chair Reczko requested greater clarity how information provided from the field is marked within CityWorks. Mr. Barrett replied that when assets in the GIS system are not found in the field, a crew searches for the asset by excavation or other means. Chair Reczko emphasized the importance of ensuring that asset information is accurately documented in CityWorks and reflected appropriately on the associated dashboard.

Mr. Barnett concluded that the operational benefits of CityWorks are fewer failures and reduced emergency repairs through proactive maintenance. This results in a more accurate system, as assets can be addressed before they fail. Additional benefits include improved preventative maintenance completion rates, asset longevity, resource efficiency, better allocation of staff time, cross-divisional visibility, compliance tracking, and enhanced documentation supporting audits and regulatory reporting.

It was asked whether crews addressing projects in specific locations can also see whether there are other work orders in the same area for other systems. Mr. Barrett confirmed that this is the case for City projects.

Chair Reczko pointed out that the GTL plant's operational permit with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) will expire soon, and when it is renewed, FDEP will require inspection of 100% of the collection system. The inspection process must be documented over five years, and updates on these inspections must be submitted to FDEP on an annual basis. Chair Reczko concluded that it is critical to ensure that CityWorks includes all data sets from these systems before the City begins the permit renewal inspection process.

Vice Chair Partington asked if the City is currently submitting reports on the progress of its inspection of distribution systems to FDEP as part of its compliance with the Consent Order. Mr. Barrett explained that the implementation of CityWorks, which was one requirement of the initial Water Consent Order, is complete. All requirements of that Consent Order have been fulfilled.

Mr. Angeli noted that CityWorks is reliant upon the location, status, and condition of assets, and expressed concern that not all data on conditions has been gathered, as this affects maintenance. He also pointed out that many of the City's concerns with its utility infrastructure stem from contractors not knowing the location of infrastructure, which led to damage and eventually to the Water Consent Order.

Mr. Betancourt explained that the City is not waiting for CityWorks to program capital projects, but is actively pursuing programs, such as smoke testing and CCTV, to determine needs for repairs, detect inflow and infiltration (I&I), and take further action. He emphasized CityWorks' usefulness in making predictions on areas or assets to be targeted.

Mr. Zeltman observed that as-built information is a critical piece of the system, and noted that when full information on existing assets has been compiled, including location, installation, age, and materials, the City will be better able to estimate when they will need to replace specific assets.

Mr. Barrett showed the Board members an example from the CityWorks water valve

inspections dashboard, which shows how many such inspections are conducted each month, types of valves inspected, operable status, and more. Non-inspected valves are also identified. The inspections include information on the valves' locations, diameter, water type, and additional field observations and comments.

Mr. Barrett continued that he hopes to work with consultants to standardize templates, particularly with regard to information on conditions and observations, so this information can be easily added to CityWorks. He added that the CityWorks map includes a listing of the as-builts associated with projects.

Vice Chair Partington asked if CityWorks is intended to push forward this type of information to help with decision-making. It was noted that CityWorks is only as good as the information provided to it. Staff is currently working to ensure that all the information gathered by Staff is properly entered into CityWorks. Over the next few years, this information will be used to identify annual lists of priority projects.

Mr. Zeltman commented that the City has come a long way from the times in which incorrect knowledge of locations and assets contributed to the accidental damage of infrastructure. He noted that CityWorks, with the inclusion of as-built information and details on specific exercises or inspections, is establishing a process to allow better knowledge of what is in the ground.

The Board further discussed the collection of information on unknown assets, including type, age, size of pipe, condition, and more. Mr. Barrett advised that the intent is to complete this information over the next three years. Mr. Betancourt added that it is more difficult to identify unknown aspects of water mains and force mains, which may require sub-surface utility excavations to physically view those assets and determine their size and materials.

Ms. Way asked if a developer coming into an area with unknown assets would have to perform excavations to find out what is there. Mr. Barrett replied that if the City knows a contractor has exposed a pipe in a specific area, they will go to the site to gather information about that pipe.

Chair Reczko asked how data on actions performed by contractors rather than by City Staff is incorporated into the CityWorks software. Mr. Barrett explained that this information is provided through GIS updates and entered into the system by City Staff.

Vice Chair Partington recommended that when the consultant contract goes before the City Commission for approval, information on their specific purposes should be included in the introduction of the item, including the reasons that more than one contractor will be needed. Mr. Rodriguez advised that the scope of work used in the consultants' solicitation will be included, including the need to have a pool of consultants available in case one firm does not have sufficient manpower to perform all the work.

5. **Utility Services Department Update**

I. **Water & Sewer Breaks Report with Mapping**

Staff presented information on water and sewer breaks over the past month to the Board members, noting one water break on Cordova Road which was repaired overnight. There were also sewer lines which were addressed during the month of April, including a manhole overflow, a grease blockage, and replacement of a force main under the Hendricks Isle Bridge.

6. **General Discussion and Comments**

I. **Board Members**

Chair Reczko reported that Board Member Marilyn Mammano had sent a memo to Staff to recommend that the Board see a presentation on how Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Disaster Relief funds can be used by the City. There was Board consensus to see this presentation at the June 2026 meeting.

Vice Chair Partington noted that there is an item on the City Commission Agenda for May 5, 2026 relating to Phase 2 of bond funding for the Fortify Lauderdale program. He asked what entity is responsible for the design work for this program, which includes several projects. Mr. Betancourt stated that Phase 2 is spread out over a 10-year time frame. The City has an annual contract with consultant Hazen and Sawyer, with additional engineering firms participating in the contract as well. The design work will be shared among these firms. The program is managed by the Public Works Department.

Mr. Zeltman advised that implementation the City's new smart water meters had resulted in significantly higher water bills for some residents in his neighborhood. He had reviewed his own water bills, which indicated at times that delayed meter readings were applied to the next month's bill, resulting in an erroneous calculation that he should be charged at a higher rate. He concluded that he had communicated this information via email to City Commissioner John Herbst, as this may have occurred elsewhere in the City as well as in his neighborhood.

II. **Public Comments**

Ray Jordan, president of the Dillard Park Homeowners Association, requested additional information on the smart metering system. Chair Reczko recalled that this was discussed at the Board's April 2026 meeting and information is available on the City's website, noting that water rates have also increased.

Mr. Rodriguez also noted that at the May 5, 2026 City Commission Conference Agenda

meeting, there will be discussion of the Fortify Lauderdale projects planned for the Melrose and Riverland neighborhoods. The City has received two unsolicited proposals for these projects and the Commission will discuss whether to proceed with these proposals, including two public readings, or move forward with the design bid process instead. These two projects are among the final projects in Phase 1 of Fortify Lauderdale. Staff's recommendation is to allow a competitive period of at least 21 days.

7. Adjournment – NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING DATE: June 1, 2026

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 4:01 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.]