

MAY 2021

Dear Community Members,

Summer season is almost here, and we are undoubtedly beginning to feel the humidity, heat, and increased rain showers in South Florida. We are finally seeing the light at the end of the tunnel as more folks are getting vaccinated. I look forward to seeing our residents and visitors enjoying more of our wonderful weather and our beautiful Broward beaches as we get closer to summertime.

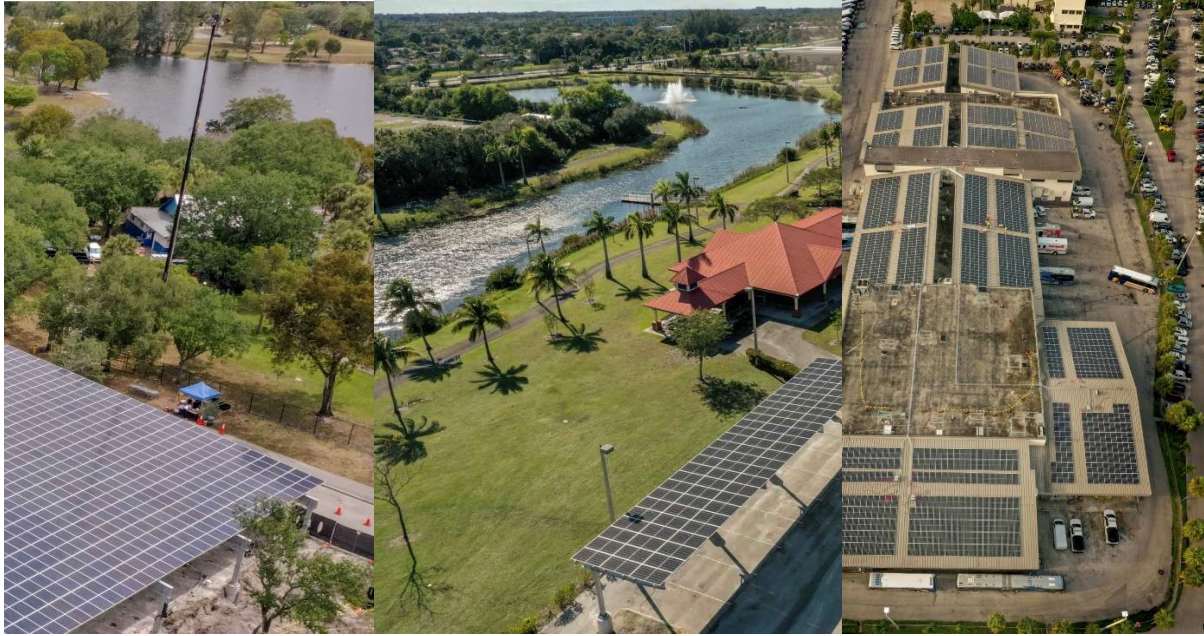
Coronavirus/Vaccination Updates

As we continue to deal with pandemic related issues, please make sure to visit [Broward.org/Coronavirus](https://www.broward.org/Coronavirus) for updates on reopening, testing/vaccination sites, and several funding assistance opportunities for those in need in our community.

Resilience Update

Broward County is leading the way in many of its efforts to mitigate the climate change crisis. At the most recent budget workshop Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Broward County's Chief Resilience Officer and Deputy Director of Environmental Protection and Growth Management, presented to the Board the County's resilience planning efforts and advancements as well as the challenges we are currently facing. Some of these challenges include increased insurance costs due to flood elevations, regional resilience needs like the Central & South Florida Flood Resiliency Study needed to mitigate at least 18 structures that are currently at capacity and much more.

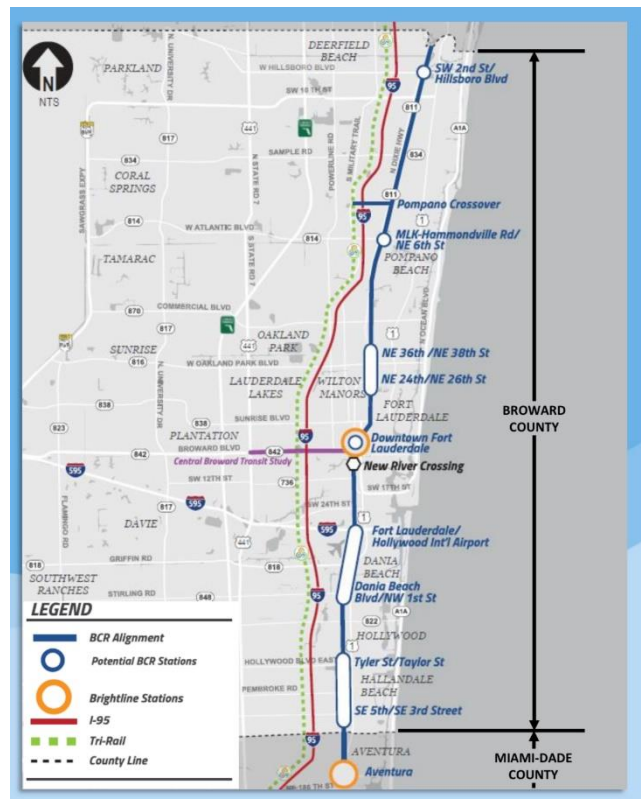
On the plus side the County has several initiatives that will ultimately assist in the mitigation of the climate crisis for our community. Some of these initiatives include the launch of the [Broward County Resilience Dashboard](https://www.broward.org/ResilienceDashboard), solar energy and EV charging stations at several County buildings, comprehensive assessments of County agencies with physical assets, shoreline protection projects and more. I applaud our Environmental team for making sure we are ahead of the game as we and many communities face severe challenges soon due to climate change. For more information on County actions/initiatives that help save our environment, please visit [Broward.org/NaturalResources](https://www.broward.org/NaturalResources).



Broward County Solar Projects on County Facilities

Coastal Commuter Rail

On Friday, April 30, 2021, Broward’s Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) hosted the Southeast Florida Transportation Council’s Coastal Link Workshop. Speakers from ten different organizations throughout the tri-county region came together to discuss how to bring local commuter rail back to the eastern rail (FEC) corridor. Broward County Transit and the Florida Department of Transportation presented their joint study of the Broward portion. This study consists of the study limits from Aventura to Deerfield Beach including Pompano Crossover, continued evaluation of the crossing at the New River in Fort Lauderdale, identification of the station locations and an analysis of east/west traffic for crossings and stations. This study and continued discussion between all stakeholders are crucial at this point to make sure we obtain Federal funding. Stay tuned for more information...



Hurricane Season Starts June 1!



Ready. Set. Safe.

It is that time of year to make sure you are prepared for any weather event that might come our way. Last year, on top of the pandemic, there were 30 named storms! This year, we encourage you to prepare early, create an evacuation plan, build an emergency kit (including pandemic supplies), check your homeowner's insurance, and stay informed by registering to Broward County's Emergency Alert Notification System ALERTBroward. You can find all this information and links to register at [Broward.org/Hurricane](https://www.broward.org/Hurricane).

Additionally, the American Red Cross has a hurricane app that can be downloaded free to your mobile device. The app sends location-based weather alerts, includes tips on how to assemble an emergency kit in the event of a power outage or evacuation, and a real-time map to help you find the location of shelters should you need to leave your home. The app can be found in smartphone app stores by searching for American Red Cross, texting 'EMERGENCY' to 90999, or by going to [redcross.org/apps](https://www.redcross.org/apps).



Important Update for our Transit Riders

Broward County Transit (BCT) will resume collecting bus fares on Tuesday, June 1, 2021. BCT suspended fares on March 24, 2020, as one of many safety measures put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic. BCT urges customers to take advantage of the contactless mobile ticketing app, which will be available on May 24, 2021, providing a safe, easy, and convenient way to purchase bus fares. Customers can download the [Broward County Transit Mobile Ticketing app](#) to their smartphone from Google Play or the Apple App Store, buy their ticket and scan it when boarding. For more information, call the Customer Service Center at 954-357-8400 or visit [Broward.org/BCT](https://www.broward.org/BCT).

Economic Engines Update (CVB, FLL & Port Everglades)

Convention and Visitors Bureau



Broward County's tourism organization has a new name. The Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau announced its new brand as Visit Lauderdale with the destination tagline 'Everyone Under the Sun,' reflecting the diversity and welcoming nature of the Greater Fort Lauderdale region. Flags displaying the new Visit Lauderdale logo are flying high from hotels, the Water Taxi, on airboats out in the Everglades and at many other Broward County locations. When you are out and about this summer make sure to check them out!

Fort Lauderdale International Airport (FLL)

During first-quarter 2021, the airport welcomed about 2.3 million visitors in March, 1.56 million in February, and 1.67 million in January. We are optimistic recent industry trends indicate a continued travel recovery that will help fast-track FLL back to pre-COVID-19 performance levels. If you have not visited FLL in a while here are a couple of highlights of recent activity at our airport.

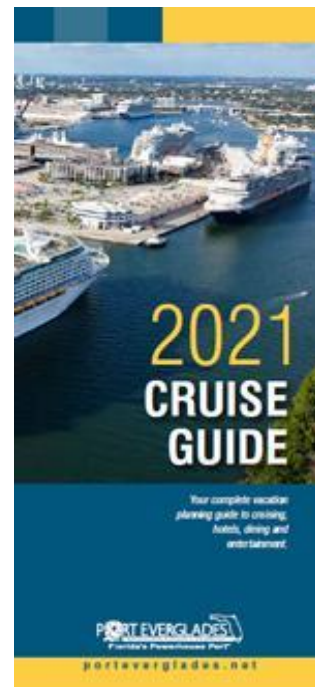
- Several carriers have announced plans for new or returning nonstop routes from FLL to leisure-focused destinations in 2021. For example, Spirit's new flights to Louisville, KY and St. Louis, MO began May 27, while Allegiant relaunched service to Bangor, ME on May 28. Additionally, American resumed flights to Los Angeles, CA; Boston, MA; New York, NY (JFK) and Port au Prince, Haiti on April 2.

For more information visit FLL.net.

Port Everglades

In anticipation of the return of cruising, Port Everglades has released an online-only version of its annual Cruise Guide. The 2021 Cruise Guide contains vital information including what Port Everglades has done to prepare for the return of cruising and the new safety protocols implemented due to COVID-19. The Port will be updating this special edition of the Cruise Guide as information is made available. You can visit PortEverglades.net/news-room/port-publications/ for this and all Port publications.

Additionally, in some very exciting news, the Port Everglades staff received a request from Disney Cruise Line to negotiate for the use of Cruise Terminal 4 to move its South Florida operation to Port Everglades starting with one year-round ship capable of carrying approximately 3,500 passengers. We are excited to bring Disney Cruise Line to our Port which will have a great economic impact to Broward County.



This Memorial Day let's remember those brave men and women that made the ultimate sacrifice for all of us. May you have a safe Memorial Day weekend in beautiful Broward County. I am truly thankful to serve you and Commission District 4. If I can be of any assistance, please contact me at 954-357-7004 or LFisher@broward.org. Also, follow me on Twitter and Facebook.

Best regards,



Lamar P. Fisher
County Commissioner
District 4