

MARCH 2022

Dear Community Members,

March is here and our days will get a little longer with the time change this weekend, providing us the opportunity for more afternoon outdoor activities. This month, we celebrate women with Women’s History Month, recognize safe bike measures with Bicycle Month and join together for water preservation with the 20th Annual Broward Water Matters Month. Additionally, our community has begun to see an influx of spring breakers on our beaches and don’t forget to wear your green on Thursday, March 17th for St. Patrick’s Day!

Affordable Housing

Broward County continues its work on affordable housing in our community. We know many are struggling and that is why the County Commission continues to make affordable housing a priority. The Broward County Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) provides a continuing, non-lapsing fund for the County Commission to use to address the need for affordable housing. While each year the Board adds funding to the trust fund, I’m excited about the most recent action that allowed us to provide about \$47 million in gap financing funding to nine projects throughout the County. Given the extreme affordable housing crisis in South Florida, this is an extraordinary opportunity to provide 1,025 new affordable homes in Broward County.

Additionally, the Broward Housing Council recently published the [Affordable Housing Dashboard](#). The dashboard is now open for public use and can be reached through the main page of the [Broward Housing Council website](#). On the dashboard you can find current housing trends, information on affordable housing supply, current affordability gaps, and income-level data in Broward County.





County Community Awarded \$78M in Grant Funds

Broward County agencies will jointly receive nearly \$30 million to advance flood mitigation and other water management improvements including multiple projects at Broward's Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport and within Broward County Parks. Additionally, the cities of Dania Beach, Hollywood, Lauderdale Lakes, Miramar, North Lauderdale, Oakland Park, Sunrise and Weston were awarded nearly \$48 Million for critical infrastructure and stormwater upgrades that will play a significant role in the resilience of our community. This is great news for

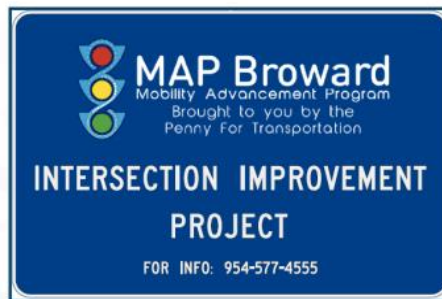
Broward County as we continue to address climate change and sea-level rise impacts to ensure a more resilient environment for generations to come. To learn about all the incredible things our Resilient Environmental Department is working on, visit Broward.org/EnvironmentAndGrowth.

Your Transportation Surtax Dollars at Work

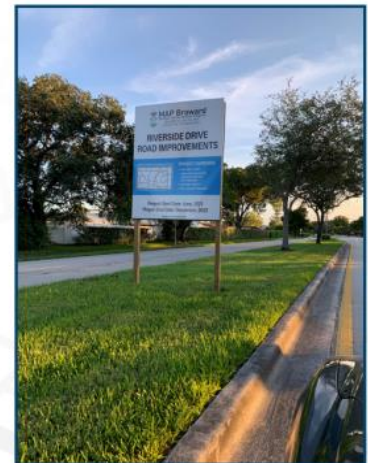
The Mobility Advancement Program (MAP Broward), funded by the Penny for Transportation, has made significant advances with projects throughout our community, dashboard updates and updates on the Five-Year Plan. Over \$330 million has been spent or programmed for transit operations and capital investments, over \$120 million has also been spent or programmed for County highway improvements. Municipal projects and 20 community shuttles have received funding allocations of over \$16 million.



Actual roadway construction sign



Actual roadway construction sign



Actual roadway construction sign

Most recently, on February 22, 2022, the County Commission voted to increase the commitment of funding for municipal projects from \$147 million to \$162 million. Staff continues to assure compliance with program regulation, including keeping local dollars local (30% small business goal on eligible aspects of the program). For more information on the Penny for Transportation, to view the annual report or to find specific information on projects please visit MapBroward.Broward.org.

**For more information on surtax-funded projects,
please visit the Public Project Dashboard:**



Sea Turtle Nesting Season



Sea Turtle Nesting Season is here! March 1st was the start of Sea turtle nesting season in South Florida. More than 3,000 sea turtle nests have been documented along Broward County's 24-mile coastline. We are expected to see an increase in local nesting populations as suggested by long-term trends which indicates that residents and visitors are doing an excellent job at adhering to the lighting criteria and not intervening when a nest is spotted.

As a reminder, lighting near the beach should follow all three criteria established by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC):

- Keep It Low – Mount fixtures as low as possible to achieve their purpose, and make sure they produce the lowest light output needed for the task.
- Keep It Shielded – Bulbs, lamps, and glowing lenses, including interior lights, should be shielded from the beach, and curtains, shades, and blinds should be closed after sunset.
- Keep It Long – Use fixtures and bulbs that produce long-wavelength light (560 nm, or nanometers, or longer) without filters, gels, or lenses. Amber and red LEDs are good choices.

For more information, visit Broward.org/NaturalResources/BeachAndMarine/SeaTurtle.

Water Matters Month

Broward County is celebrating its 20th Annual Water Matters Month in March with this year's theme "Saving Water Together." Water Matters Month provides virtual activities designed to make water conservation fun for the entire family, with scavenger hunts, live stories and even prizes. Check out watermatters.broward.org for more information.



Water Conservation Game

In addition to celebrating Water Matters Month, you can play the County's Water Conservation Game! Splash is a game where water matters, which started March 1st. Players can show their knowledge of conservation, climate change and sustainability. Quizzes and quests are designed for every age. The winners will be randomly selected so anyone can win, but the more you play and the more points you collect, the better your chances. The first-place winner will receive \$500, second place will receive \$250 and third place \$150. The first-place winner will also be included in an animation, a cartoon and a coloring sheet. Visit ConservationPays.com and sign up today!

Out in the Community

1. Port Everglades Unified Command accepts an award for supporting Coast Guard at the onset of the pandemic
2. Broward Workshop discussion on Tunnel vs. Bridge
3. The city of Lighthouse Point holds dedication ceremonies for LHP Fire Rescue (Station 22) and LHP Community Center
4. County Commission recognizes March as Women's History Month
5. County Commission welcomes new County Administrator Monica Cepero
6. Mayla Pompano Beach Groundbreaking
7. Harbor Beach Association Annual Meeting
8. Vice Mayor Fisher presents Bicycle Month Proclamation



Broward County Resources

- COVID-19 Resources: [Broward.org/Coronavirus](https://www.broward.org/Coronavirus)
- Emergency Rental Assistance: [Broward.org/RentAssistance](https://www.broward.org/RentAssistance)
- Broward County Libraries: [Broward.org/Library](https://www.broward.org/Library)
- Broward County Parks: [Broward.org/Parks](https://www.broward.org/Parks)
- Pet Adoptions: [Broward.org/Animal](https://www.broward.org/Animal)



I am truly thankful to serve you and Commission District 4 and to serve everyone in Broward County as your Vice Mayor. If I can be of any

assistance, please contact me at 954-357-7004 or LFisher@broward.org. Also, follow me ([@LamarPFisher](https://twitter.com/LamarPFisher)) on Twitter and Facebook ([@ViceMayorLamarFisher](https://www.facebook.com/ViceMayorLamarFisher)).

Best regards,



Lamar P. Fisher
Broward County Vice Mayor
Commission District 4