



**DECEMBER 2023**

### Dear Community Members,

The holiday season is here! While our community enjoys the many festivities this time of year, it is also a great opportunity to remember those who are less fortunate. Broward County offers the chance for residents to donate food through the [County's 365 Year-Round Food Drive](#). Additionally, I encourage all to share in the holiday spirit by spreading kindness to those that may not be near their families. Check in on your neighbors, the elderly, local service workers, local small businesses, and others in your community as we celebrate the spirit of the season.





### New River Crossing Update

The Broward County Commission and the City of Fort Lauderdale held a joint workshop meeting to discuss the New River Crossing for the Broward Commuter Rail Project on December 5, 2023. The workshop provided us the opportunity to review the Joint Study of the New River Crossing alternatives, which was agreed upon between the County and City. Commissioners from both boards asked questions and shared their preferred option. It is important to note that this is not the first study both the City and the County have seen. Several studies have been conducted throughout the years. After much discussion, many of the Commissioners agreed that while we all prefer a tunnel under the New River, we must make a choice now of the most fiscally responsible option while keeping in mind timelines, environmental impacts and much more.

#### SUMMARY



**Complexity adds time and costs; there is much work to do to address the many complexities and set the stage for a successful project.**

	 <b>ALTERNATIVE 1</b> LOW-LEVEL BASCULE BRIDGE	 <b>ALTERNATIVE 2</b> MID-LEVEL BASCULE BRIDGE	 <b>ALTERNATIVE 3</b> HIGH-LEVEL FIXED-SPAN BRIDGE	 <b>ALTERNATIVE 4</b> TUNNEL
<b>Capital Cost</b>	<b>\$303 million</b>	<b>\$572 million</b>	<b>\$585 million</b>	<b>\$3.0 billion</b>
<b>50-year Operations &amp; Maintenance Cost</b>	<b>\$45.7 million</b>	<b>\$80.7 million</b>	<b>\$55.3 million</b>	<b>\$3.3 billion</b>
<b>Funding Options</b>	Most flexibility for funding and best range of grant options	Challenging to secure grant funding—would likely need the FEC rail corridor to be designated a Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) facility to provide more flexibility for FDOT to support a match amount		Very limited grant options due to high cost; bulk of funding would fall to state and local government
<b>Brightline Perspective</b>		Preferred alternative; concerns about long-term ridership impacts for all alternatives		Not evaluated; not considered financially feasible
<b>FEC Perspective</b>	Would not oppose leaving existing freight line in place and building one-track passenger rail crossing on either side			Utility relocation would be prohibitively complex
<b>Project Delivery Timeframe</b>	<b>7.5 years</b>	<b>8.5 years</b>	<b>10.5 years</b>	<b>10.5 years</b>

Additionally, and one of the most important factors, is that we must think about this project as a regional project. Municipalities and transportation planning organizations along southeast Florida are all waiting in anticipation for commuter rail along the coast. Many of these municipalities are in development around the commuter rail stations as they plan for the future of their communities. For all information provided at our workshop, visit [Commission Meetings Documents](#). Additionally, you can watch all comments made at the workshop.

#### [December 5, 2023: New River Crossing Workshop](#)



#### **Affordable Housing 10-Year Plan**

On December 5, the Broward County Commission also held a workshop to discuss the County's Affordable Housing 10-Year Plan. The Commission has made great progress by implementing the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, which provides funds for gap financing affordable housing projects in our community. Since its inception in 2018, the funds placed in the trust helped increase the affordable housing units by 2,668 units with about \$123.1M in gap financing and 4,870 total units with other funding sources. Additionally, the County Commission has made land-use changes that provide opportunities for developers and municipalities to receive incentives for building affordable housing. Broward County is a leading force with these innovative solutions, but more needs to be done. The 10-year plan provides planning and policy recommendations which include densification ideas, funding opportunities and possible legislation/programs. I'm hopeful by the discussion my colleagues and I had during the workshop and look forward to finalizing the 10-year plan in the upcoming months. To view the presentation made at the workshop, visit [Commission Meetings Documents](#). To watch the meeting visit [December 5, 2023: Affordable Housing Workshop](#).



#### **Broward County's Port Everglades Gantry Cranes**



Recently, Port Everglades received three additional Super Post-Panamax container gantry cranes as we continue to make progress for larger cargo ships at our Port. The three 175-foot (53 meters) high Super Post-Panamax container gantry cranes, valued at \$15.1 million each, can handle containers stacked eight high on a ship's deck and reach 22 across. The new cranes



are expected to be fully operational in 60 - 90 days. These investments are key for the vitality of our Port. We've already seen a massive jump in The World Bank's Container Port Performance Index 2022 ratings after the installation of the last cranes, classifying the Port as a top five port in North America. For information and news from Port Everglades, visit [Porteverglades.net](https://Porteverglades.net).

### **Holiday Travel at FLL**

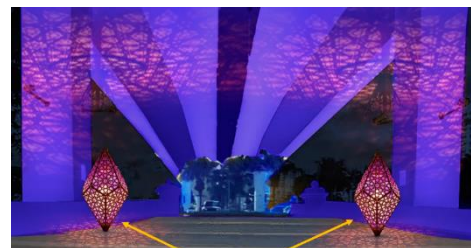
The Broward County Aviation team reminds residents and visitors that this is one of the busiest times of year at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL). The year end holiday season is poised to be very active. With airport business and travel activity in full swing, services like onsite parking and curbside valet are filling up quickly and will likely sell out during the holiday season. As such, make contingency plans for getting to/from FLL just in case such as a ride-share, taxi, or getting dropped off. Additionally, terminal roadways will be busier with drop-off and pick-up activity, so allow more time to complete check-in and security screening processes if you're flying from FLL.



As a reminder, we recommend travelers arrive at FLL at least two hours before a domestic flight and three hours if flying internationally, or follow the airline's holiday guidance if different. Add extra time if planning to park onsite in our garages or at our offsite Overflow Lot (if activated). Please pack a little extra patience during this merry season. For more information, visit [Broward.org/Airport](https://Broward.org/Airport).

### **Recent County Commission Action:**

On Tuesday, December 12 the Board of County Commissioners approved the design proposal for the E. Clay Shaw, Jr. Bridge (17<sup>th</sup> Street bridge) Artistic Lighting Project which will be funded through restricted funds with the possibility of private funding solicitation.



On Wednesday, December 13, Broward County held the "Topping Out" Ceremony for the Convention Center East Expansion and Headquarters Hotel. To be completed late 2025, the project is well underway, and this event allowed us the opportunity to commemorate the safe, successful end of the completion of the construction projects structural work. An exciting moment as we thank the entire construction team that is making this vision become a reality!



## Reminders/Events:



**The Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade** is this weekend December 16 at 6:30pm. This is a reminder that several bridges in our community will be closed for vehicle traffic between the hours of 6pm-11pm. For information on ways to watch the parade and more visit [Winterfest.com](http://Winterfest.com).

**The 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Pompano Holiday Boat Parade** is tonight, Friday December 15, 2023, at 7:00pm at Sullivan Park, 1701 River Road. The bridges on Atlantic Blvd, 14th St. Causeway & Hillsboro Blvd will be in the upright position from 6:15pm until the Parade passes by, so please plan accordingly.



**The Holiday Fantasy of Lights** held at Tradewinds Park & Stables in Coconut Creek, runs nightly from 6-10pm through January 1. The drive-through light extravaganza includes old favorites and brand-new displays. Visit [HolidayLightsDriveThru.com](http://HolidayLightsDriveThru.com) for more information.



**Manatee Season** runs from November 15- March 31. As part of the [County's Manatee Conservation Program](http://County's Manatee Conservation Program), the Natural Resources Division reminds boaters to look out for manatees on County waterways (including the Intracoastal Waterway and side canals).



NatureScape Broward is now accepting **2024 NatureScape Emerald Award applications** for businesses, municipalities, schools, government facilities and homeowners that have demonstrated extraordinary efforts to promote or implement environmentally friendly landscape programs and practices. Applications are due by Friday, January 5, 2024. For more information, visit [Broward.org/NatureScape](https://Broward.org/NatureScape).

**Wishing everyone a wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!**



As always, I am truly thankful to serve you and Commission District 4. If I can ever be of assistance, please contact me at 954-357-7004 or [LFisher@broward.org](mailto:LFisher@broward.org). Also, follow me [@LamarPFisher](https://twitter.com/LamarPFisher) on X (Twitter) and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/LamarPFisher).

Best regards,

Lamar P. Fisher  
Broward County  
Commissioner  
District 4

**Additional Resources:**

- Libraries: [Broward.org/Library](https://Broward.org/Library)
- Parks: [Broward.org/Parks](https://Broward.org/Parks)
- Business Assistance: [Broward.org/EconDev](https://Broward.org/EconDev)
- Mosquito Control Services: [Broward.org/Mosquito](https://Broward.org/Mosquito)
- Fort Lauderdale International Airport: [Broward.org/Airport](https://Broward.org/Airport)
- Port Everglades: [PortEverglades.net](https://PortEverglades.net)