



MARCH 2026

Dear Community Members,

In March we celebrated Women’s History Month, by honoring and thanking all the women in our lives who continue to make a mark on the world. As we enter April and celebrate all the wonderful things of the Spring season, I encourage everyone to enjoy the many activities throughout our County. Visit a [Broward County Park](#), [Library](#) or even our beautiful beaches. You can also check out your municipality’s website for ongoing community events. You can visit [Broward County's District 4 page](#) to find all the cities in District 4 and a link right to their site.

Transportation Surtax Projects in District 4

As many of you know, Broward County voters approved a one-cent transportation sales surtax in November 2018, known as the "Penny for Transportation," which took effect on January 1, 2019. The surtax funds the Mobility Advancement Program (MAP Broward), a 30-year project-based plan designed to enhance roads, bridges, transit, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and other transportation-related infrastructure. Over the last couple of years this program has really ramped up and provided District 4 with several noteworthy projects listed below. Additionally, last year, with the hard work of the cities, County staff and attorneys, we were able to come to an agreement for municipalities to have more flexibility for the use of the funds. This was especially important for our smaller cities like Lauderdale By The Sea and Hillsboro Beach, which want to use these funds for micro transit programs in their cities. Looking ahead, I’m also very excited to see these funds being used for the Broward County Transit (BCT) Connector Project. BCT began exploring a premium, high-capacity transit link designed to move people quickly, comfortably, and sustainably between Fort Lauderdale–Hollywood International Airport (Airport), Port Everglades (Seaport), and the Broward



County Convention Center (Convention Center). Residents are encouraged to visit the [Map Broward](#) website for more information and access to the [Dashboard](#), where you can find projects happening near you. Check out below a small snapshot of projects that have been completed, or will be coming soon in District 4.

TRANSPORTATION SURTAX PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS in BROWARD COUNTY
COMMISION DISTRICT 4

- S. Ocean Bridge Drive Improvement Project **completed** in Fort Lauderdale, awarded approximately \$2.2M in surtax funding
- 26 bus stops/shelters at various locations **completed**, awarded approximately \$1.6M total in surtax funding
- NE 26th St Multimodal Enhancements Project in Wilton Manors awarded approximately \$1.7M in surtax funding, **design completed** (managed by municipality) and recently transferred to Broward County Public Works for **construction delivery (expected to start soon)**
- NE 6th Ave Drainage Replacement Project in Oakland Park, **currently under construction**, awarded approximately \$8.4M in surtax funding

NE 6th Ave Drainage Project



Lauderdale by the Sea Bus Shelter



NE 6th Ave Drainage Project

Coming Soon!

- Five Points Intersection Redesign Project in collaboration with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Broward County Public Works has been awarded approximately \$5.2M (Wilton Manors); design programmed for 2026 and construction to begin 2030
- NE 26th St Mobility Project (Fort Lauderdale), awarded approximately \$10.2M in surtax funding for design and construction, with design starting in 2028

Again, please visit the [Map Broward](#) website for more information and access to the [Dashboard](#), where you can find projects happening near you.

District 4 TransitFORWARD 2040 Upcoming Meeting

BCT is currently working on the Transit2040 Vision Plan, a multi-phase strategy to strengthen and enhance the County's transit system through improved connectivity, expanded access, increased service frequency and hours, new microtransit service zones, and enhanced system amenities. The plan will guide the development of a more reliable, efficient, and future-ready transit network that supports Broward's growing and diverse communities. BCT wants to hear from everyone in the community who uses or would like to use public transportation. This is your chance to make your voice heard. I, alongside BCT staff will host a meeting on Tuesday April 21 from 6 to 7:30 pm at Hagen Park Community Center (2020 Wilton Drive) in the City of Wilton Manors and everyone is invited to attend. For more information on this project, please visit [Broward.org/BCT/COA](#).



UPDATE: 17th Street Causeway Traffic Concern

Below is the latest update from County Administration regarding efforts to improve traffic flow on the 17th Street corridor in Fort Lauderdale.

We deem the traffic challenges being experienced at the 17th Street Corridor, a critical matter that requires immediate and continued attention, but most importantly, a multifaceted, multilevel approach. At the end, the increased traffic levels reported cannot be attributed to a singular factor, but rather, are the net effect of the success being experienced by the Convention Center, Port Everglades, local businesses, and residential developments, all of which carry direct impact on the County's and the City's economic future. In addition to these factors are seasonal impacts of "snowbirds" and spring breakers which increase the demand in the area and let's not forget the bridge over the intracoastal that is raised periodically further creating delays. As requested, the following is an update of the various initiatives currently in progress to help address traffic concerns:

- **Multistakeholder Coordination:** *The Traffic Management Taskforce (which includes representatives from Port Everglades, multiple County agencies, the Convention Center, the City of Fort Lauderdale, Broward Sheriff's Office, and FDOT has met monthly since November 2025.*
- **Community Outreach:** *The Port Everglades website and Smooth Sailings newsletter are routinely updated to notify the public about projected high-traffic periods.*
- **Law Enforcement Field Support:** *The Fort Lauderdale Police Department (FLPD) has committed to staffing the 17th Street/Eisenhower intersection Fridays through Mondays, with up to four personnel depending on staff availability and cruise ship/Convention Center event schedules. FLPD indicated that they have been providing an officer for traffic management on the north side of 17th Street when resources are available. Please note that officer availability might be impacted by the need to address other priority posts during Spring Break.*
- **Traffic Management:** *Real-time monitoring and field adjustments are taking place during high traffic days, to optimize the system whenever feasible.*
- **Leased Parking:** *The County, through the Convention Center operator, is leasing the parking garage at the Art Institute to supplement parking capacity.*
- **Road Improvements:** *On March 2, the County commenced construction on Eisenhower Boulevard to remove the center median north of 20th Street to extend the left turn lane from southbound Eisenhower to eastbound 20th Street and create additional space for vehicles turning into the Convention Center or Cruise Terminals 2 and 4. The removal of the median will also allow for the center lane to be used as a reversible lane during busy days. The work is expected to be completed by mid-April 2026.*
- **Improvements to Secondary Roads:** *While not directly related to the 17th Street corridor, County staff continues to work with FDOT on options for the Spangler Blvd./SR-84, US-1, and Miami Road intersections to facilitate traffic flow through that intersection. Options being considered include closing the U-turn on Spangler Blvd. east of US-1 and extending the left turn lanes from westbound Spangler Blvd. to southbound US-1 to accommodate the additional westbound traffic resulting from the opening of the Connector Road. Construction commencement is expected in April.*
- **Improved Signage:** *Coordination continues to improve signage on 17th Street, 20th Street, Eisenhower Blvd, US-1, and Spangler Blvd./SR-84 for the Connector Road. County staff has modified the plans for additional signage, road markings, and variable messaging signs based on comments from FDOT, and revised plans were submitted to FDOT on March 9th for permitting.*
- **Convention Center Campus Improvements:** *With the goal of allowing vehicles to flow more freely into the Campus, staff is working on preliminary designs to extend the bus*

lane in front of the new Visit Lauderdale Building for better access into Grande Ave. from eastbound 17th Street. County staff is also redesigning the larger island on 20th St. just east of Eisenhower Boulevard to add another lane going into the Convention Center Northport Garage. Lastly, Convention Center management is reviewing proposals to eliminate the booths at the entrance/exit of the Convention Center Northport Garage.

- **Increased Parking Capacity:** County staff will be further improving the Marshaling Yard within Port Everglades to increase the overflow parking capacity in the area. This project is proceeding to design in short order, with construction completion expected in a year.

Two additional nascent efforts warrant highlighting: 1. Short-term, we are pursuing leveraging our existing infrastructure (i.e., downtown parking garages) to provide offsite parking and reduce the volume of cars traveling along the 17th Street Corridor. This may require the City's collaboration and engagement is underway. 2. Long term, we are also pursuing the construction of a new parking garage to support the operations of the Convention Center Campus.

UPDATE: Port Sand Bypass Project

I have received hundreds of emails from the community regarding their concerns about Port Everglades Sand Bypass Project. Below is the latest update about the project from the Public Works and Environmental Services Department, specifically Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Chief Resilience Officer and Deputy Director.

Almost six months have passed since construction started on the Port Everglades Sand Bypass Project. Therefore, it is most appropriate to provide an update on the scope of the project and our progress thus far.

The [Port Everglades Sand Bypass Project](#) in Broward County is a multi-year, \$110 million initiative to combat severe beach erosion south of the Port Everglades inlet, thereby enhancing local tourism and protecting approximately \$13 billion in coastal infrastructure. The project involves dredging a 10.8-acre underwater sand trap north of the inlet as well as additional infrastructure improvements. The sand trap ranges in depth from -29 to -50 feet and has been designed to trap beach-quality sand for placement on southern beaches including Dr. Von D. Mizell-Eula Johnson State Park, Dania Beach, Hollywood Beach, and Hallandale Beach.

Additional project components include artificial reef mitigation and north jetty improvements. The latter will reduce sediment migration into the federal Port Everglades Inlet channel, enhancing navigation safety and reducing the need for future inlet maintenance dredging events.

Key Details of the Project:

- **Purpose:** To mitigate the interruption of natural north-to-south sand migration by the Port Everglades inlet and its jetties.

- **Method:** A sand trap is dredged and trapped sand is transferred to beaches south of the Port Everglades Inlet every 2-4 years.
- **Timeline:** Project construction began in 2025 and involves phased work over approximately four years. The first stage of the project (sand trap dredging) is approximately 66% complete to date; sand trap completion is expected in January 2027.
- **Project Phases:** Includes dredging of the sand trap, improvements to the north jetty, construction of an artificial mitigation reef, and rubble shoal removal. The first maintenance dredging event is anticipated to occur in approximately 2031.
- **Key Partners:** Broward County, Great Lakes Dredge and Dock (contractor), and Foth / Olsen (engineers).
- **Goal:** To establish a sustainable, consistent, and local source of sand for beach renourishment. The project will reduce the County's reliance on large-scale, disruptive truck haul beach nourishment projects.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and our Public Works and Environmental Services Department have worked through the logistics of this project for decades to ensure that it is constructed in an environmentally responsible manner. Our team is actively monitoring the project and documenting things like water quality (also known as turbidity) and sedimentation, at and surrounding the project area. We continue to meet or exceed the standards required by the state and federal regulatory agencies. All monitoring conducted for the project to date remains in full compliance with all applicable permits.

As previously advised, I will continue to provide updates as they become available in my monthly newsletters for both the 17th street corridor issues and the Sand Bypass Project. I appreciate everyone's dedication and concerned effort, and I thank you for your patience on these matters.

Upcoming Events and/or Reminders:



Broward County **Small Business Micro-Grant Pilot Program** application portal will launch on April 27, 2026. This program provides working capital of up to \$5,000 for eligible expense reimbursements to the smallest of small businesses based in Broward County. For more information, please visit [OESBD Small Business Micro Grant Program](#).



Sea turtle nesting season runs through October 31 along Broward County's 24-mile coastline. Last season, 3,341 nests were recorded. Residents and visitors can help protect these threatened species by limiting the use of artificial light on the beach, observing hatchlings from a distance, filling in holes dug in the sand, and avoiding marked nesting areas. Report sea turtle emergencies to the Broward County Sea Turtle Conservation program at 954-328-0580.



Visit Lauderdale will proudly host the **U.S. Travel Association's IPW** May 17-21 at the Broward County Convention Center. Volunteers are needed to greet attendees, staff welcome stations, assist at information desks, and support tours. This is an opportunity to witness world-class hospitality in action and connect with tourism leaders from across the globe. Visit VisitLauderdale.com/IPW/Volunteer for more information.

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. 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
- Parks: Broward.org/Parks
- Business Assistance: Broward.org/EconDev
- Broward's Official Hurricane Site: Broward.org/Hurricane
- Mosquito Control Services: Broward.org/Mosquito
- Fort Lauderdale International Airport: Broward.org/Airport
- Port Everglades: PortEverglades.net