

**APRIL 2015 DISTRICT 1 NEWSLETTER
COMMISSIONER BRUCE G. ROBERTS**



NOISE CONCERNS:

-WORKING TO MINIMIZE THE IMPACTS OF SEASONAL AIR TRAFFIC: During winter months, from November through April, seasonal air traffic can increase significantly at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE). This time of year is also when neighbors like to save energy by turning off their air conditioners and opening their windows, which makes aircraft noise more noticeable. The City would like to remind neighbors that we are aware of the potential increase in noise that season air travel may have on our neighbors. As a result, the Noise Abatement Office distributes notices and contacts aircraft operators to remind them of the program's guidelines to help lessen aircraft noise that may occur in neighborhoods during this time. To report excessively loud aircraft you may do so by calling FXE's Noise Abatement Hotline at 954-828-6666 24-hours a day, seven days a week. Also, in the near future we will set a neighbor meeting with our City staff and FAA officials to discuss this issue.

-REPORTING TRAIN NOISE 850-414-4500 Many people have called to report that the train horns have gotten louder. Our staff spoke with the FDOT Rail Office who stated that when individuals call they should have the following information for follow up: which track the train is using – FEC (East-railroad tracks along Dixie Highway) or TriRail/CSX (West-railroad tracks along I-95); which train is causing the noise (cargo train or TriRail); the date/time and travelling northbound or southbound. If the noise is late at night or early morning so that you are not observing, just call with date/time/approximate location. We hope this helps. Transportation officials are investigating the matter. If you would like a copy of City Manager Lee Feldman's memorandum regarding this issue, please let me know and I can email it to you.

TECNOLOGY:

-ENHANCED ONLINE NEIGHBOR RESOURCE: The City is continually trying to expand online services for our neighbors to promote an informed and engaged community. We are proud to announce the release of the new Property Reporter. Formerly known as the Property Information Reporter, this enhanced tool features a modern interface, is mobile-friendly, and provides access to more information than the previous version. The upgraded version provides access to Public Works First Responder crews, FEMA Flood Zones, property tax assessments and aerial or topography maps. And, you can still use the Property Reporter to look up neighborhoods, Commission Districts and sanitation schedules. We invite you to explore the Property Reporter today. [HTTP://gis.fortlauderdale.gov/propertyreporter/](http://gis.fortlauderdale.gov/propertyreporter/)

LEWIS LANDING: As a City, we are committed to protecting, preserving, and enhancing our green space. This commitment was echoed by our neighbors during our citywide Visioning process when they identified expanding parks and green space, developing unique and inviting gathering places, and creating active healthy lifestyles, as key priorities for the future of Fort Lauderdale. On January 24th, we took another step toward fulfilling this shared Vision when we opened Lewis Landing, our newest City Park. Located at 630 NW 9th Avenue, the 1.3-acre property is situated on the south bank of the New River in the Tarpon River neighborhood. The park features a pavilion, walking path, boat dock, benches and picnic tables. As part of the grand opening ceremony, a plaque was unveiled dedicated to Surles and Frankee Lewis, the first permanent non-native residents of our area who arrived here in 1792. In addition, award-winning sculptor Nilda Comas unveiled an original commissioned statute of a Tequesta Indian, which proudly stands atop a five foot base near the park's entrance. The bronze sculpture was created as a tribute to the Tequestas, Fort Lauderdale's first inhabitants whom historians believe lived on the park property from approximately 800 - 1200 AD. If you have an opportunity, please stop by Lewis Landing. It is one of our City's most picturesque parks and a place filled with a fascinating history dating back centuries!

BICYCLE FRIENDLY AMERICA PROGRAM: As part of the League of American Bicyclists Bicycle Friendly America program, representatives from the League, Broward County, Florida Department of Transportation, Broward B-cycle, Neighborhoods, and the City's Parks and Recreation, Police, Public Works, and Transportation and Mobility Departments joined together to discuss best practices for improving bicycling conditions in our City. The meeting focused on educating neighbors on bike safety, encouraging more bicycling, and also included a group ride around Fort Lauderdale to assess the City's biking infrastructure and the challenges bicyclists face. The League will now provide the City with a Bicycle Friendly Community Report Card and an action plan that identifies priorities that will have the greatest impact on helping us become a safer, more comfortable bicycle community.

PROJECT ASSESSMENTS: In order to better assess, prioritize and finance major infrastructure and capital improvements, your City has evaluated several areas of concern. To keep our neighbors informed of that process which has been ongoing for several years, we will introduce a series of reports over the course of our next newsletters.

-BRIDGE MASTER PLAN: In an effort to develop a Comprehensive Bridge Master Plan and to identify funding needs, on July 1, 2014, the City Commission approved the finalized agreement between the City and TranSystems to begin the inspection, evaluation and documentation of the 46 roadway bridges identified for the study. Five City owned bridges were not included in this study because they are currently being replaced by the FDOT. On November 17, 2014, TranSystems submitted a comprehensive bridge assessment plan, outlining the conditions of the 46 bridges and recommending a repair and replacement schedule. These recommendations are based on bridge deficiencies which are broken into six categories: concrete pile deterioration; deteriorated beam concrete superstructure; concrete delamination with exposed reinforcement; concrete delamination with non-exposed reinforcement; expansion joint deterioration; and non-compliance functionally obsolete. Based on the findings, TranSystems has provided both short term and long term recommendations. Short term recommendations are meant to address minor structural issues this year which, if unaddressed, will result in additional structural damage to the bridge. Short term repairs have been recommended for seven bridges at a total of \$86,000. Long term, to be completed over the course of the next 20 years, in five year increments, fall into two categories: repair: significant structural repairs intended to extend the service life of the bridge over 20 years; and replacement: if necessary repairs cannot extend the service life of the bridge over 20 years, the bridge will be demolished and replaced. Long term repairs have been recommended for 25 bridges and replacement has been recommended for 17 bridges at a total cost of \$35,136,308. Considering the short and long term recommendations for the initial five years of the master plan, 19 bridges have been identified for repair and two for replacement at a total cost of \$4,152,600. Currently, \$5,747,741 has been included in the Community Investment Plan (CIP) for bridge repair and replacement for Fiscal Years 2015-2019. As such, staff intends to move forward following the schedule outlined by TranSystems.

AWARD:

-CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY DEPARTMENT for its recent Transit Priority Award presented at the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization's (Broward MPO) Safe Streets Summit on January 22nd. The City was selected for the award by peers from other municipalities, transportation organizations, boards, and our neighbors for its close work with partner agencies to prioritize access to transit within our community. Voting for this award was an open process that enabled anyone to nominate and vote for the City on the Safe Streets Summit website. With the Water Trolley, Sun Trolley, Uptown Link, Tri-Rail, and the upcoming Wave Streetcar and All Aboard Florida high speed rail, Fort Lauderdale is working with all of our stakeholders to connect people to our City through alternative modes of transportation to achieve our goal of being a fully connected, multimodal community that offers safe access for all users of all ages and abilities.

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In addition to hosting two pre-agenda meetings twice a month, I am also available to attend your HOA meetings to update your neighborhood on what is going on in the City as well as answer any questions/concerns you may have. Please contact Robbi to schedule.

EMAIL LIST: If you would like to be on our email list so that you receive information pertaining to the City – especially District 1 (i.e. news releases, meeting notices, events), please let Robbi know and she will add you.