



LAUDERTRAC

RESILIENCY UPDATE FORT LAUDERDALE

Tracking Progress on Commission Priorities for 2021



April 2021

CREATING A STRONGER COMMUNITY



Cordova Road Seawall under construction



After photo of Cordova Road seawall

Sea Level Rise and Seawalls

In May 2020, the City Commission adopted the Southeast Regional Climate Change Compact 2019, a unified sea level rise projection for the region to be used internally for planning purposes. From the 2000 baseline, 10-17 inches of sea level rise is possible by the year 2040 and 21-64 inches by 2070, the 50-year planning horizon for most infrastructure installed today. During 2019, the City experienced the highest tide on record for the last 20 years. In 2020, the City recorded 138 high tides that exceeded the threshold for flooding in the lowest lying areas of Fort Lauderdale.

Recognizing the impact of rising seas on a community with 165 miles of waterways, the City established a minimum elevation of 3.9 feet North American Vertical Datum (NAVD) for new seawalls to reduce tidal flooding. The ordinance is currently being revised as Broward County now requires a 5 foot NAVD minimum elevation for all new tidal barriers including seawalls built between now and 2050. The proposed amendment to the seawall ordinance is scheduled to be presented to the Planning and Zoning Board in May and will come before the City Commission for consideration later this summer.

The City developed a master plan to ensure that seawalls are built to address future sea level rise. Two City-owned seawalls were prioritized for immediate replacement and elevation to protect against the rising tides. The 900 linear feet of seawall on the Isle of Palms was raised to 5 feet NAVD and completed in August of 2020. Furthermore, the City recently completed elevating 2200 linear feet of the Cordova Road seawall between SE 7 Street and SE 11 Court to minimize roadway flooding. For this project, additional drainage improvements were proposed to reduce the frequency, intensity and duration of flooding on Cordova Road which impacted traffic and access to the Rio Vista Isles. Permits for additional seawall and stormwater improvements, north of SE 7 Street, were approved by regulatory agencies in February 2021. All improvements and road restoration work are scheduled to be completed prior to the start of the rainy season and in preparation for the fall King Tides.

In addition, the City will pursue seawall replacement and elevation of four city-owned seawalls on the south side of Las Olas Isles and along SE 10th Street. For calendar year 2022, the City will pursue replacements and elevation for two seawalls on the barrier island at the end of Sebastian Street and Seville Street.

