



# LAUDERTRAC

## TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC UPDATE

Tracking Progress on Fort Lauderdale Commission Priorities for 2021

April 2021

### REIMAGINING DOWNTOWN URBAN CORE MOBILITY

The City of Fort Lauderdale has experienced a substantial amount of development and growth in the downtown urban core. This growth, which has largely been in the form of residential units, has created a mixed-use downtown where people can live, work, and play. However, the streets in this area were primarily designed to support the movement of people by car. This reliance on individual vehicles has created operational challenges in mitigating traffic congestion. Additionally, there are safety challenges due to excessive speeding in off-peak times when there is not congestion. These challenges reveal opportunities to improve walking and biking infrastructure as well as access to transit in order to reduce traffic backups and provide safe mobility options.

Transportation and Mobility staff has identified initiatives that could assist in creating a future multi-modal environment including larger planning initiatives and implementation items. An Urban Core Mobility Study and Sidewalk Master Plan would focus on policy and capital improvements that could be implemented in downtown. The LauderTrail initiative is moving forward and will provide downtown connections as part of a citywide trail system. Finally, the City’s community shuttle service and Water Trolley both provide alternative forms of transportation and serve the downtown area.

#### Water Trolley

The Riverwalk Water Trolley connects neighbors and visitors to the City’s most popular destinations along the New River daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. The City has contracted with Water Taxi of Fort Lauderdale to provide this free service along eight stops that are split evenly on each side of the river:

- |                                |                         |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Riverwalk Laura Ward Park   | 5. Tarpon River         |
| 2. Huizenga Plaza/ Bubier Park | 6. New River Yacht Club |
| 3. Riverfront Plaza            | 7. Downtowner Saloon    |
| 4. Esplanade Park              | 8. Smoker Park          |

For additional information, visit [www.fortlauderdale.gov/watertrolley](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/watertrolley).

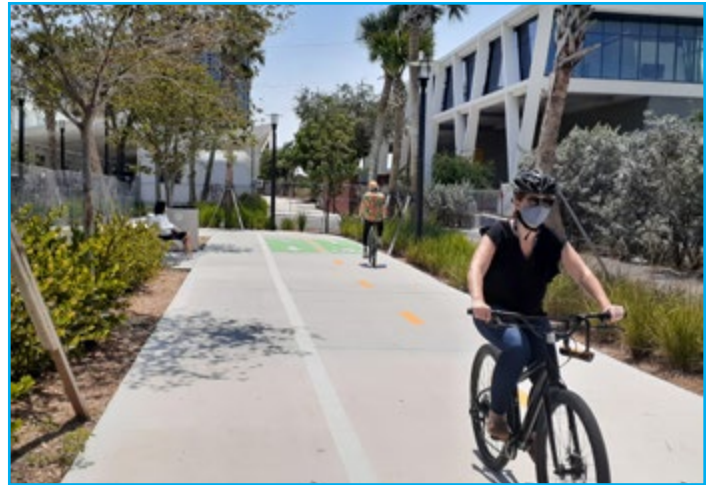


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## LauderTrail

The LauderTrail project seeks to create a comprehensive trail network with ten miles of connected urban trail facilities throughout the city. In December 2020, City staff identified the PATH Foundation as the not-for-profit trail organization to assist the community with the development of the trail master plan. The trail currently plans to connect:

- ▶ 17 neighborhoods,
- ▶ 26 parks,
- ▶ 11 K-12 schools,
- ▶ 7 entertainment districts,
- ▶ 14 government services,
- ▶ 3 higher education centers,
- ▶ and over 30 cultural centers.



The initiative began several years ago with the Commission appointment of a Working Group made up of City residents to identify the initial vision. That vision is now being taken to the next level through a master plan that began in February 2021 and is expected to be completed by the end of this year. So far, the focus has been on public outreach with PATH Foundation representatives meeting with residents and stakeholders and gaining first-hand experience of the existing conditions to imagine what can be.

The next steps include data collection analysis; additional field visits; meetings with the Florida East Coast Railway (FEC), Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and Broward County to discuss various land acquisition concerns and collaborative efforts; and additional advisory panel meetings to continue to engage the trail system's stakeholders and receive feedback. Deliverables will include trail type renderings, trail branding and renaming of the trail, signage concepts and design standards for the model trail and the overall trail system, and public outreach presentations to assist with the education and promotion of the City's trail system.



## Urban Core Mobility Study and Sidewalk Master Plan

To address downtown congestion, Transportation and Mobility staff are evaluating solutions such as conducting an Urban Core Mobility Study aimed at identifying the barriers to moving freely through the downtown core without using a car. The study would focus on both infrastructure and operational policies that hinder that goal and include elements like walking audits to identify needs related to infrastructure, micromobility support, signal operations, shade, transit, and bicycles. A funding request for this initiative has been submitted to Broward County through the Transportation Surtax Mobility Advancement Program (MAP) as part of the second application cycle for municipal capital projects. A citywide Sidewalk Master Plan has also been submitted for consideration of surtax funding and if approved would evaluate existing sidewalk infrastructure and serve as a guide to expand the City's sidewalk network for the benefit of pedestrians in downtown and beyond.

## GET INFORMATION AND UPDATES



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**24-hour Neighbor Call Center:** 954-828-8000

**Website:** [www.fortlauderdale.gov](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov)

**LauderStreet:** [www.fortlauderdale.gov/lauderstreet](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/lauderstreet)

**Email Updates:** [www.fortlauderdale.gov/enews](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/enews)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/CityofFortLauderdale](http://www.facebook.com/CityofFortLauderdale)

**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/FTLCityNews](http://www.twitter.com/FTLCityNews)

**Nextdoor:** [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com)

**YouTube:** [www.youtube.com/CityofFortLauderdale](http://www.youtube.com/CityofFortLauderdale)

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