



LAUDERTRAC



INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

Tracking Progress on Fort Lauderdale Commission Priorities for 2021

May 2021

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

The City Commission Infrastructure Top Priority covers a breadth of topics. This month is focused on Advanced Metering Infrastructure, (AMI) aimed at improving the accuracy of water meter reading.



Sample customer portal

Current Meter Infrastructure

Current water meters that measure the volume of water flowing from the City’s water distribution system to each residential and commercial meters are old and fail to accurately account for the property’s actual usage. Every month, all meters are manually read and these readings are used by the Utility Billing Division to determine usage and issue utility bills.

Pilot Programs

The Public Works Department is preparing to pilot test Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) from six water meter providers. The pilot program is expected to begin in July 2021 and will take place over a period of six months. During the pilot program, staff will evaluate each provider’s product based on the following criteria:

- ▶ Installation software and services;
- ▶ Meter performance;
- ▶ Communication technology;
- ▶ Meter data management technology (software that performs data storage and analysis);
- ▶ Customer portals (the interface used to view usage).

Potential Benefits of AMI Implementation

- ▶ Eliminates manual reading of utility meters and could potentially save the City \$500,000 annually;
- ▶ Automated alerts for leaks, high consumption, reverse flow and tampering;
- ▶ Improved data availability to neighbors and staff (shows time frames where peak usage occurs);
- ▶ Reduced water loss and increased opportunity for conservation;
- ▶ Improved accuracy, which may result in either higher or lower readings than the current measurements.

Cost of AMI Implementation

An accurate estimate of the upfront cost to implement AMI city-wide cannot be developed until after the pilot program is completed. However, staff expects the upfront cost of implementation to be approximately \$30 million for which funding will need to be identified.

Path Forward

- ▶ July 2021 – Implement Pilot Programs
- ▶ July 2021 to January 2022 – Data Collection
- ▶ February to March 2022 – Product Evaluations and Selection
- ▶ July 2022 – Solicitation and Bid Award
- ▶ September 2022 – September 2024 – Meter Installation