



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

# Turtle Lighting on the Barrier Island

## Lead Agency:

### City of Fort Lauderdale (City)

Ben Rogers, Transportation & Mobility  
Judy Erickson, Transportation & Mobility  
Enrique Sanchez, Parks and Recreation  
Corey Callier, Parks and Recreation  
Tom Green, CRA/Parks and Recreation

## Supporting Agencies:

### Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)

Robbin Trindell, Imperiled Species Management  
Tonya Long, Imperiled Species Management  
Rachael Stevenson, Imperiled Species Management

### District 4 Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)

Ann Broadwell, District 4 Environmental Manager  
Anson Sonnett, District 4 Consultant Management Section Leader  
District 4 Traffic Design Engineer  
Robert Lopes, District 4 Design Project Manager

### Florida Power & Lights (FPL)

Bob Horswood, Director, LED Lighting Solutions  
Alexander Acosta, Manager LED Lighting Solutions  
David Carroll, Power Delivery, Technical Services, Street Lighting Project Engineer  
Alexandre Alexseev, Power Delivery, Streetlight Restoration, Project Manager  
Jimmy Tann, Power Delivery, Technical Services, Street Lighting Project Engineer  
Jorge Jimenez, Power Delivery, Streetlight Restoration, Project Manager

### Broward County (County)

Stephanie Molloy, Natural Resources Division  
Stephanie Kedzuf, Natural Resources Division

## Stakeholders:

Ina Lee, TravelHost Media Group  
Dan Lindblade, Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce

## 1.0 Introduction

The Florida coast is the most popular nesting area in the world for loggerhead sea turtles. Sea turtle nesting season in Broward County and on Fort Lauderdale's beaches begins in early March with leatherbacks, followed by loggerheads in April, and green turtles in May and June. Approximately six to eight weeks later, the hatchlings will make their way from those nests to the ocean by orienting to the brightest horizon, which is naturally seaward. Therefore, to prevent any negative impacts to sea turtles the City of Fort Lauderdale adjusts street lighting on the barrier island during the nesting and hatching season.

Since 2018, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has hosted a monthly meeting with agencies to discuss turtle lighting season and the associated impacts. The FWC will no longer be holding these calls and the City of Fort Lauderdale will manage the efforts moving forward.

## 2.0 Project Description and Purpose

The purpose of this charter is to identify initiatives that would balance the needs of protecting sea turtles during nesting season and the associated day to day needs of the barrier island. During the sea turtle nesting and hatching season (March 1-October 31), the City of Fort Lauderdale must adjust the street lighting on the barrier island, specifically east of State Road A1A. During this time, many parts of the barrier island are dark to avoid disorienting sea turtles which may have unintended consequences to human safety. The milestones and deliverables identified in this project charter will mitigate these impacts while still maintaining the health and safety of the sea turtle population.

## 3.0 Project Goals

1. Minimize the safety impacts of limited lighting during turtle nesting and hatching season
  - a. Create standard operating procedures for lighting operations within the barrier island
  - b. Replace publicly operated lights affecting turtle nesting with FWC approved lighting fixtures
  - c. Install new turtle friendly pedestrian lighting at intersections to improve safety
  - d. Assess appropriate pedestrian lights to be used along west side of A1A from Bo's Beach, located at 600 Seabreeze Boulevard, to Sunrise Blvd
  - e. Ensure FDOT streetlighting is in compliance with USFWS Endangered Species Act (ESA).

2. Interagency project coordination to mitigate traffic and operational impacts
  - a. Create routine meetings with FDOT, City, County
  - b. Coordinate with Beach Improvement District to increase project awareness
3. Provide general updates on special events and other functions that may be affected during turtle lighting season
4. Utilize the monthly County lighting surveys to target problematic areas and implement better lighting solutions

#### 4.0 Project Risks

1. Multi-jurisdictional area with overlapping and competing priorities
2. Continual development that changes the utilization and demand
3. Funding restrictions which make large, immediate changes difficult
4. Scope creep into other projects, initiatives, and city activity

#### 5.0 Tasks, Milestones, and Deliverables

**Task #1: City, FPL, FWC, & FDOT Planning Meeting**

Project Lead: Enrique Sanchez (City)

Project Team: Representative (FDOT), Robbin Trindell (FWC), Bob Horswood (FPL)

Deliverable: Create a project schedule and map that identifies short- and long-term projects along the A1A corridor from SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street to NE 18<sup>th</sup> Street.

Frequency: Monthly

Goal Date: Create standardized process by July 2022

**Task #2: Create standard operating procedures for City lighting**

Project Lead: Corey Callier (City)

Project Team: Enrique Sanchez (City), Judy Erickson (City)

Deliverable: Document the process, locations, and methodologies on how the City energizes and de-energizes the streetlights during turtle season.

Frequency: Quarterly

Goal Date: First draft completed by May 2022

**Task #3: Coordinate with FWC for additional lighting options**

Project Lead: Robbin Trindell (FWC)  
Project Team: Rachael Stevenson, Casie Hain (FWC)  
Deliverable: Expand the existing catalog of options with economical products inclusive of street lighting and pedestrian lighting; coordinate with FDOT 4; update of FWC-certified Wildlife Lighting  
Frequency: Quarterly  
Goal Date: December 2021 (will update if earlier)

**Task #4: Conduct lighting audits and surveys**

Project Lead: Judy Erickson (City)  
Project Team: Ina Lee (Stakeholder), Stephanie Kedzuf (County)  
Deliverable: Conduct pedestrian path audits twice per year to identify areas for improvement and utilize Broward County lighting surveys to address non-compliant areas  
Frequency: Bi-Annually  
Goal Date: Ongoing

**Task #5: Create a City of Fort Lauderdale webpage to increase awareness**

Project Lead: Ben Rogers (City)  
Project Team: Judy Erickson (City)  
Deliverable: Create a webpage that provides general awareness of turtle lighting season and the associated efforts to mitigate the related safety impact  
Frequency: Quarterly  
Goal Date: Live webpage by August 2021

**Task #6: Permitting process for street and pedestrian lighting installations**

Project Lead: Judy Erickson (City)  
Project Team: Ben Rogers (City), Stephanie Kedzuf (County)  
Deliverable: Create a check and balance process for new lighting installations so that all turtle lighting considerations are approved in advance of the installation.  
Frequency: Quarterly  
Goal Date: First Draft completed by January 2022

**Task #7: Project Charter Team update meetings**

Project Lead: Ben Rogers (City)  
Project Team: All Charter Members  
Deliverable: Meet with all agencies and stakeholders to review the charter status and have an open forum for discussion  
Frequency: Quarterly meetings

Goal Date: January 2023

## 6.0 Summary Milestone Schedule

Task	Milestone	Lead Person	Target Date*
Task 1	City, FPL, FWC, & FDOT Planning Meeting	Enrique Sanchez	July 2022
Task 2	Standard Operating Procedures for Lighting	Corey Callier	December 2021
Task 3	Expansion of Approved Lighting Products	Robbin Trindell	December 2021
Task 4	Pedestrian Lighting Audits	Judy Erickson	Ongoing
Task 5	Create a City website	Ben Rogers	August 2021
Task 6	Permitting process for lighting installations	Judy Erikson	May 2022
Task 7	Project Charter Team Update Meetings	Ben Rogers	Ongoing

\*Updates on all projects will be provided at the Task 7 - Quarterly Meetings.