



LAUDERTRAC



PARKS AND PUBLIC PLACES UPDATE

Tracking Progress on Fort Lauderdale Commission Priorities for 2021

September 2021

FORT LAUDERDALE PARKS BOND PROGRAM

Tunnel Top Project Update



Overall Site Plan

The Tunnel Top Pedestrian Plaza Project is a joint initiative between the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the City of Fort Lauderdale to simultaneously rehabilitate the Henry E. Kinney Tunnel while expanding open space through the integration of a city park in the project plans. The multi-purpose collaboration will improve safety and mobility within the Las Olas area by upgrading the Tunnel to meet current infrastructure standards, removing barriers that create blind spots for vehicular and individual travelers, and transform one of the City’s key corridors into a pedestrian-friendly green space that seamlessly connects to the Riverwalk.

The Tunnel Top Plaza improvements include extending the top of the tunnel by 117 feet to create the needed space for the Pedestrian Plaza with enhancements including seating facilities, fountains, decorative concrete sidewalks and walkways, re-designed brick pavers, ground plantings and green areas, artificial turf, as well as landscape and lighting installation. Intersections will be reconstructed to improve mobility and ADA ramps will be added to improve accessibility. Renovations will also be made to the Laura Ward Riverwalk Plaza that will include water taxi improvements and other multi-use features.

In addition to overall tunnel rehabilitation, FDOT will incorporate technology enhancements with a focus on safety and real-time traffic monitoring; this includes the installation of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) elements from



Tunnel Top Plaza Northwest View



Laura Ward Plaza North View

Continued on page 2

I-595 to Broward Blvd and the utilization of Adaptive Traffic Signal Control (ATC) Systems at multiple points along US-1 to improve traffic flow along the corridor.

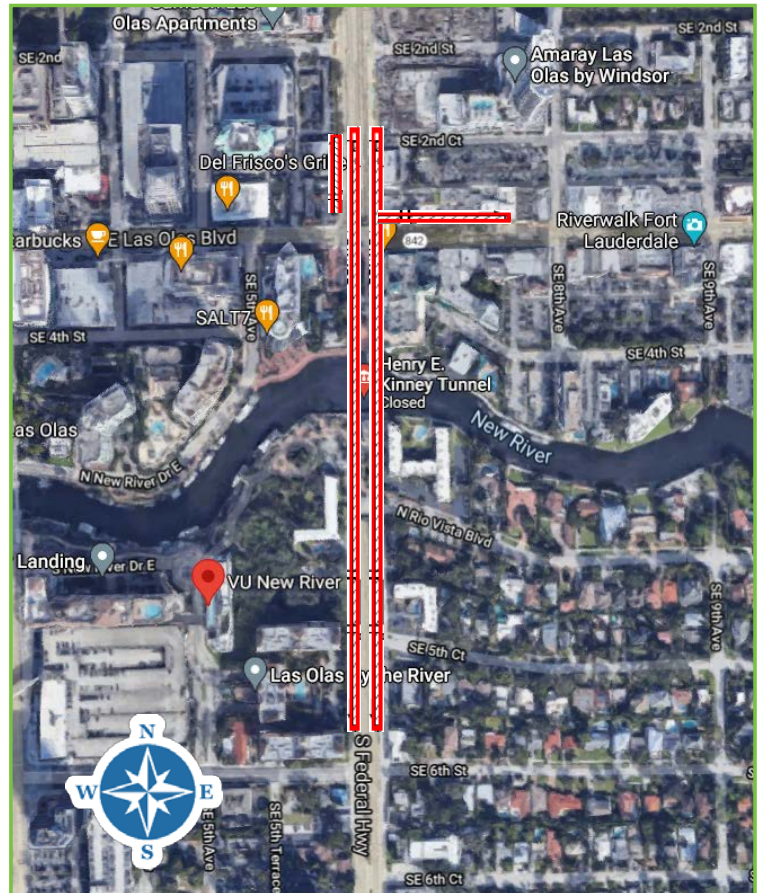
Extensive public outreach on the Pedestrian Plaza was completed by FDOT throughout the process, both in-person and virtually, to solicit feedback. The City's Parks, Recreation, & Beaches Advisory Board officially approved funding for final design and construction in January of 2020, and construction work was started by Lead Engineering Contractors on September 7, 2021, with project completion expected by late 2023.

Construction Traffic Impacts

Construction is expected to have some impact on traffic, predominantly along and within the Henry E. Kinney Tunnel, as well as along the US-1 corridor. Information on lane closures and detours will be provided by FDOT in advance of phased implementation. Currently, traffic has shifted to one tunnel portal with one lane in each direction. Additional traffic closures resulting from current construction and demolition activities include:

- ▶ Outside lanes of US-1 in each direction, from SE 5th Court to SE 2nd Street
- ▶ Outside lanes of SE 6th Ave from Las Olas to SE 2nd St
- ▶ Outside lanes along westbound Las Olas Blvd from SE 8th Av to SE 6th Ave

FDOT held a presentation at the September 9, 2021, Fort Lauderdale City Commission Conference meeting to provide an overview of the plans and address any questions or concerns. The exhibit presentation is available at ftlcity.info/38PotBY while FDOT information and ongoing traffic updates for the project can be accessed at <https://tinyurl.com/27h57vzy>. FDOT hosted a virtual project update meeting on September 24, 2021; links to this event, as well as citywide future events, can be viewed and accessed on the City of Fort Lauderdale's event calendar at <https://tinyurl.com/wje7fyks>.



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