



September 2021

## PEDESTRIAN SAFETY INITIATIVES



*Pedestrian utilizing updated crosswalk in Galt Mile*



*Pavement marking improvements at SW 15 Ave. and SW 9 St. in Riverside Park*

Improving pedestrian safety has been a City priority since the adoption of the Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale Vision Plan in 2013. This plan identified a vision of a connected community where pedestrians come first and are able to move safely throughout Fort Lauderdale. Since then, we've made significant progress starting with the creation of the Transportation and Mobility Department that aims to 'connect the blocks' as funding opportunities allow.

Transforming a transportation system that was created with a focus on vehicles is a tremendous undertaking. To accomplish this, the City collaborates with our partners at the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Broward County. This is especially important since the main arterial roadways in our City are not City-owned. We have created a portfolio of projects utilizing City funds and leveraging a variety of alternative funding sources. While major projects have been highlighted in previous editions of this newsletter, it is important to also recognize smaller projects that provide much-needed connections. This edition will highlight a few of those small wins that greatly impact pedestrian safety.

### ✓ Completed:

#### **3800 Galt Ocean Drive Signalized Crosswalk**

Earlier this year, City staff completed repairs to damaged cables that service the signalized crosswalk at 3800 Galt Ocean Drive in the Galt Mile neighborhood to ensure that the signal is operational and safe for all users. The crosswalk, pedestrian push button, and crosswalk signal are now in good working order.

#### **Riverside Drive and SW 9 Street Crosswalk Pavement Markings**

The City has been working in partnership with Broward County to refresh pavement markings across Fort Lauderdale. The City's Road Services Team recently assisted in refreshing the crosswalks in Riverside Park at the intersection of Riverside Drive and SW 9 Street to improve safety for students walking to Stranahan High School.

#### **New Crosswalks in Central Beach**

City staff works closely with FDOT to improve pedestrian crossings along roadways that fall under their jurisdiction. These requests are often initiated by our neighbors who are most familiar with the roads in their neighborhoods. Following a cursory review by City staff to ensure that requests are supported by preliminary data, requests are forwarded to FDOT for detailed engineering review and ultimately the implementation of a new crossing if it is warranted. A recent example of a successful request are the new crosswalks across A1A north of Birch State Park and at NE 27 Street in Central Beach.

## Underway:

### **Galt Mile Intersection Improvements**

Mobility access improvements are underway at the intersection of NE 33 Avenue and NE 34 Street. The project includes American with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodations in the form of detectable warning pads at each crosswalk opening and a mid-block crossing which consists of new pavement markings and Rectangular Reflective Flashing Beacons (RRFBs). The new pavement markings and RRFBs will provide additional visibility to pedestrians crossing the street from the nearby residential buildings, shopping center, and Beach Community Center. The project began in August 2021 and is scheduled to be completed in November 2021.

### **Henry E. Kinney Tunnel Pedestrian Plaza**

Construction is underway at the Henry E. Kinney Tunnel where the area above the tunnel will feature a raised crosswalk that was designed to connect the pedestrian plazas on both sides of Las Olas Boulevard with a contiguous walking surface. The new raised crosswalk will also function as a traffic calming measure to slow vehicular traffic in this pedestrian-focused environment. The project began in September 2021 and is scheduled to be completed in 2023. During the construction period, there will be ongoing roadway and sidewalk closures and it is vital that pedestrians utilize the detours to avoid the construction areas.

### **Made to Move**

The City received one of only five Made to Move grants from Degree/Unilever and Blue Zones to improve connectivity between the Flagler Greenway and businesses in the Music and Arts South of Sunrise (MASS) District. The grant project includes traffic calming along Flagler Drive, ADA connections, bike racks, and realigning the intersections of NE 2 Avenue and NE 4 Avenue with Flagler Drive to improve vehicular safety. A key element of this project is painted intersections that will add to the current sense of place in this creative district. Following a recent call to artists, a committee is in the process of selecting an artist for this important project that began in 2020 and is scheduled to be completed in early 2022.



*Pedestrians walking along the Flagler Greenway*

## Upcoming:

### **Las Olas Isles Crosswalk**

The recommendations of the Las Olas vision plan included the installation of two crosswalks between SE 15 Avenue and the SE 25 Avenue. The City has allocated \$500,000 in the upcoming budget year for staff to plan, design, and construct the two crosswalks. These crosswalks will incorporate signals to stop or slow traffic to allow ample time to cross Las Olas Boulevard.

### **Broward Health Imperial Point Crosswalk**

Collaboration is key when it comes to improving pedestrian safety. The upcoming new signalized crosswalk at Broward Health Imperial Point Hospital is a prime example. Through the City's Vision Zero efforts, this location was identified as a priority due to vehicle and pedestrian interactions. Staff worked together with FDOT, Imperial Point Hospital, and the Imperial Point Civic Association to identify a solution: a new traffic signal and crosswalk that will allow vehicles to safely make left turns while accommodating pedestrians. This project is scheduled to be completed in the upcoming fiscal year.

### **FDOT Roadway Improvements**

City staff is continuously working with our partners at FDOT to influence their projects in a way that helps achieve our neighbors' vision. Staff reviews upcoming projects for opportunities to enhance pedestrian safety elements and coordinates with surrounding neighborhoods as local area experts to understand any known challenges in these corridors and share them with FDOT for consideration. Through these collaborations, the City is able to advocate for new pedestrian crossings, completion of missing sidewalks, and improved lighting. FDOT has been incredible partners in our efforts to improve safety with over 20 projects currently in the design phase that include input from Transportation and Mobility staff with the goal of making Fort Lauderdale a safer place to walk and bike.



*New pedestrian crossing planned for A1A south of NE 14 Court*