



## Memorandum

**Memorandum No: 21-116**

**Date:** December 6, 2021

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

**From:** Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

**Subject:** Potential Conflicts Crossing the New River on SE Third Avenue

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Transportation and Mobility staff have been working closely with Broward County Traffic Engineering Division (BCTED) and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) on upcoming Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plans. Specifically, there are two projects, the Andrews Avenue Bridge renovation and the Henry E. Kinney Tunnel renovation, in which the two MOT plans have an overlapping detour route which will utilize the SE Third Avenue bridge to cross the New River. The MOT plan could be detrimental to vehicle flow in downtown with specific concern to EMS access to Broward General Hospital.

City staff shared concerns about the overlapping detour routes and coordinated a meeting with BCTED, FDOT, and City staff, including Fire Rescue, to discuss the Maintenance of Traffic potential impacts. During the meeting, it was agreed that non-emergency work would not be permitted on SE Third Avenue during the time that there are lane closures on the Andrews Avenue Bridge. Additionally, there would be no full closures within the Tunnel during this same time. For that reason, previously scheduled cleaning of the Tunnel, by FDOT, was cancelled.

During this time of added lane closures, BCTED committed to closely monitoring signal timing and vehicle delays to adjust to any increased areas of concern during construction.

**Andrews Avenue Project Overview:**

Broward County is in the process of completing work on the rehabilitation of the Andrews Avenue Bridge. The work began in 2018 and included mechanical and aesthetic improvements to the bridge. There was a delay during COVID that caused the project not to be fully completed.

The work that was completed to date, includes the replacement of electrical, mechanical, hydraulic, and emergency response systems, upgrade of the pedestrian ramp on the south side of the bridge, renovation of the bridge tender house, upgrading of the bridge deck including the installation of concrete wheel paths, concrete in the

shoulder of the open grate bridge area, new roadway lighting, new lighting under the bridge, and painting began.

Broward County has begun the major work necessary to complete the project over the next month, weather permitting. During this time, there will be periodic lane closures of Andrews Avenue. These lane closures will include closing one lane in each direction throughout the day and/or night to complete the painting and repaving of the bridge. The bridge will be closed over a two-day period in mid/late December. Advanced notification of the final dates for the closure will be shared when finalized.

Below is the tentative work schedule for the Andrews Avenue Drawbridge Rehabilitation Project for the next several weeks, subject to change:

- December 6-10: Single lane closures in the northbound lane at night
- December 12-16: Single lane closures in the southbound lane at night
- December 19-20: Full lane closures overnight

For further information on this initiative, please contact Ben Rogers, Director of Transportation and Mobility, at [brogers@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:brogers@fortlauderdale.gov).

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