



From The Desk Of **DEAN TRANTALIS**

Fort Lauderdale City Commission • District II

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Improvements to Las Olas proposed

Dredging begins for Intracoastal Waterway; reconstruction of A1A nears completion

As the winter season approaches and more developments are approved by the City Commission, we can expect to see a continued increase in traffic and congestion throughout the city.



In the meantime, efforts are underway to reduce the inconveniences that result from overcrowding.

For example, more changes are on the way to improve traffic flow between downtown and the beach on Las Olas Boulevard.

Transportation planners expect to come to the City Commission shortly with plans to add dedicated left turn lanes on Southeast 15th Avenue at its intersections with Las Olas and Broward boulevards. They also want to remove the four-way stop at 15th and Southeast 2nd Street.

These and other measures were discussed at a recent town hall meeting at the Riverside Hotel to review the progress of resolving Las Olas' traffic problems and what further steps should now be taken.

City staff said they chose their plan after evaluating another idea for one-way streets between Las Olas and Broward. While both options eased congestion, the planners believe one-way streets would more heavily impact the surrounding Colee Hammock neighborhood.

This is a complex problem because so many residents and businesses are concerned. People who live on the beach and the Las Olas isles need a convenient way to travel. Colee Hammock residents and the Las Olas businesses want to ensure a safe, walkable street.

For those wanting traffic to flow better, the city already has re-set the signals on 15th at Las Olas and Broward to expedite

left turns. To improve safety on Las Olas, the city has installed a radar speed sign west of 15th and in-ground pedestrian crosswalk lighting at Southeast 13th Avenue.

If my colleagues on the City Commission agree to the next step, on-street parking would be removed on 15th to create the dedicated left turn lanes. Drivers could turn either left or right or go straight from the outer lanes on 15th while the inner lane approaching Las Olas and Broward would be reserved for left turns.

This should help eliminate the traffic jams that drivers experience moving between Las Olas and Broward.

We want to ensure 15th remains safe if the four-way stop at 2nd is removed. The city would install a raised speed table and pedestrian crossing to keep traffic at safe speeds.

Intracoastal dredging

I'm pleased to announce the start of a very important maritime project for the city. The Florida Inland Navigation District is beginning to dredge the Intracoastal Waterway from the 17th Street Causeway to Sunrise Boulevard.

This dredging has been a decade in the making and is the result of a successful collaboration between numerous state, county and city agencies. The waterway is currently about 10 feet deep and will be dredged to 17 feet to allow navigation by larger yachts.

The marine industry is one of the largest parts of our local economy, and this dredging will help ensure we remain a premier yachting destination. The work should take two years to complete.

A1A overhaul

The reconstruction of the section of State Road A1A that was washed out three years

ago during Hurricane Sandy is nearing completion.

The Florida Department of Transportation expects to finish the restoration by late December. The \$11.8 million project extends from the finger streets north of Birch State Park to Sunrise Boulevard.

The rebuilt road will be one lane in each direction with a center turn lane in the residential neighborhood. There will be bike lanes, a wave wall, a beachfront promenade, sidewalks on the west side and pedestrian lighting. Most of the on-street parking will be restored.

Mockingbird Trail

A new two-mile walking route called Mockingbird Trail has opened in Flagler Village, offering a pathway that promotes walkability, neighborhood identity and habitat awareness in downtown Fort Lauderdale.

There are exercise routes, contemporary street furniture and public art as part of the trail.

The mockingbird is the state bird and is the featured symbol on the walk. Clues to the bird and its habitat are scattered throughout the neighborhood in



the form of large, handcrafted concrete and steel public art sculptures.

The official launch occurred during the sixth annual Art Fallout on Oct. 17. More details on the route can be found at www.mockingbirdtrail.com.

Sincerely,



Upcoming city holiday events

- Riverwalk Light Up Ceremony:
6 p.m. Nov. 12 at Esplanade Park.
- Light Up the Beach:
5:30 p.m. Nov. 24 at Las Olas and A1A.
- Christmas on Las Olas:
5-10 p.m. Dec. 1 on Las Olas Boulevard.
- Light Up Sistrunk:
5:30 p.m. Dec. 4 on Sistrunk Boulevard.



Commissioner Trantalis presents a key to the city to Mexico's Miami-based consul general during the recent Day of the Dead celebration on Riverwalk.



Commissioner Trantalis helps open Fort Lauderdale's first Trader Joe's store on Federal Highway. The complex will soon include a Nordstrom Rack.



Commissioner Trantalis joins residents of the South Middle River neighborhood in protesting the continued operation of the troubled Crescent House youth home.



Commissioner Trantalis discusses traffic issues around the Sunrise Boulevard area with residents during a recent meeting of the Lake Ridge Civic Association.