



LAUDERTRAC

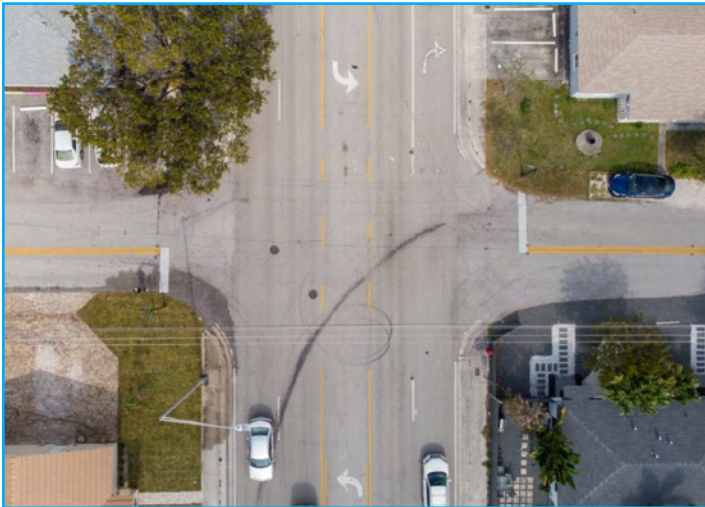


TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC UPDATE

Tracking Progress on Fort Lauderdale Commission Priorities for 2022

August 2022

FINE DESIGN: IMPROVEMENTS MAKE SAFER ROADS



NE 15th Avenue before improvements



NE 15th Avenue after improvements

Speeding vehicles. Narrow sidewalks. No bike lanes. Not enough crosswalks. Residents of the Lake Ridge neighborhood were concerned about these issues and what it meant for the safety of pedestrians and cyclists along NE 15th Avenue. At the time, the roadway had four lanes for vehicles and little else for those who walked or biked in the area, creating a barrier in their community.

Fort Lauderdale's City Commission heard these concerns and took action. Funding was allocated to be able to complete a Neighborhood Mobility Master Plan with the Lake Ridge neighborhood to develop solutions to their transportation challenges. Since that time, staff has continued to work with the neighborhood and agency partners in the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization, Broward County, and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) on implementing their priority project on NE 15th Avenue, both for the short term and long term.



Transportation and traffic are among the Commission's top priorities, and the City of Fort Lauderdale is committed to improving safety for everyone on our roadways. This includes new and enhanced crosswalks, reconfiguring and restriping the streets, and adding temporary fixtures such as bright paint, planters, and delineators. NE 15th Avenue is just one example of the work that staff does every day to address our neighbors' transportation concerns. Staff works to complete projects like this, as well as advocate to the state and county for improvements on streets under their jurisdictions. These strategies improve our overall transportation network to be able to move around more safely and efficiently.

Now, the new configuration of NE 15th Avenue between NE 11th and NE 13th streets includes two vehicle lanes, buffered bike lanes, planters in the medians, and buffer areas near the new crosswalks at NE 11th and NE 12th streets. More than 100 volunteers came out to help with the installation that is not just a transportation project, but a placemaking project with beautiful art of native birds and greenery in planters. For this project, City staff collected data on vehicle speeds and the number of pedestrians and bicyclists before and after the work started. Staff visited the site to see how people were using the roadway and joined neighborhood meetings to hear resident feedback. This information will be used to adjust the current configuration as well as influence the final design.

Getting Results

Following completion of the project, data showed that vehicle speeds were reduced from an average of 40 mph down to the posted speed limit of 35 mph. Not only that, both pedestrians and cyclists naturally started taking safer routes. Instead of crossing the street at any location because of the lack of crosswalks, people on foot and bike created safer paths. Check out the images below. The red lines represent the movement of cyclists, and the yellow lines are pedestrians. Neighbors who live on the street have shared that it has changed their life to no longer be scared to cross the street.



How It Was Funded

The City used Community Improvement Project funds dedicated to the implementation of the Lake Ridge Master Plan to implement a striping project to reconfigure the street. At the same time, the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (BMPO) released a call for projects to partner with cities to implement Tactical Urbanism projects to add paint, planters, and delineators. Fort Lauderdale was selected for the 2022 project and the BMPO provided technical support to complete what is seen there today.

The project was only able to be a success through the strong support of the Lake Ridge neighborhood and donations from them, as well as the sweat equity that more than 100 volunteers put in to the project, including not only residents of Lake Ridge but from other neighborhoods within the city supporting their project. That is one of the reasons why Fort Lauderdale is so great, with neighbors supporting neighbors to create a better community for us all. The City is still pursuing various funding sources for the long-term permanent project.

Projects Currently Under Way

▶ Las Olas Isles Crosswalk

The Las Olas plan recommends the installation of two crosswalks in the Las Olas Isles, including one between S. Gordon Road and Bontona Avenue and another between Fiesta Way and Coral Way. The crosswalks will incorporate signage with rectangular rapid flashing beacons to alert drivers to stop to allow pedestrians to cross Las Olas Boulevard. The crosswalk design should be completed by the end of 2022 with construction planned for spring 2023.

▶ FDOT Roadway Improvements

City staff is working with FDOT to review upcoming projects for opportunities to enhance pedestrian safety elements. This includes coordination with surrounding neighborhoods to tap local area expertise to better understand the challenges. Some key locations for potential new pedestrian crossings include A1A near the Shore Club, A1A at NE 27th Street, Commercial Blvd at NE 26th Avenue, Broward Boulevard at NW 33rd Avenue, and Broward Boulevard near NW 28th Way.

More Information

For more information on the pedestrian safety, please call (954) 828-4826 or email transportation@fortlauderdale.gov.

Neighbors can also alert the City of areas where speeding is a concern by contacting the City of Fort Lauderdale's 24-Hour Customer Service Center at 954-828-8000 or by visiting fortlauderdale.gov/lauderserv.