

November/December 2022

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

The City Commission's Infrastructure and Resilience priority encompasses all of Fort Lauderdale's robust and vast infrastructure, including roadways and bridges and the City's stormwater, water distribution, and wastewater collection systems. Across all these items, the Commission priority calls for an emphasis on climate resilience to mitigate the impacts of sea level rise and extreme rainfall on our City now and into the future.



Application of Road Soup's asphalt repair product along SW 11 Court and SW 10 Street in Melrose Manors.

Roadways and Bridges

This past year, the City took an innovative approach to roadway repairs and maintenance through a pilot study with Road Soup starting along SW 11 Court and SW 10 Street in Melrose Manors. This study is evaluating two products: an asphalt repair product and an asphalt renewal product. The rapid repair product will allow the City to quickly repair potholes; the material simply needs to be poured into the pothole and then be compacted by walking or driving over the area. The repair process can be completed in the rain, a frequent occurrence in our City's subtropical climate. Road Soup's Road Renew product acts as a sunscreen to protect roads from ultraviolet (UV) rays and water. The product can be applied as a coating on existing asphalt surfaces and dries within an hour. The product will continue to be used and evaluated over the coming years.

Other key successes this past year include the completion of emergency repairs to reinforce the West Lake Drive bridge and the initiation of a first-of-its-kind project in the City to underground utilities in the Las Olas Isles neighborhood. To date, underground directional drilling for Florida Power & Light, AT&T, and Comcast primary conduits has been completed on all isles within the neighborhood. Completion is expected in February 2023.



Crews prepare the directional boring machine to pull underground pipe in the Las Olas Isles neighborhood.

Water Distribution and Wastewater Collection Systems

As current infrastructure ages and the City grows, water distribution and wastewater collection pipes will need to be repaired, rehabilitated, or replaced. This past year, several projects were completed to replace undersized and deteriorating water mains to support delivery of higher volumes of water. Similarly, multiple wastewater pump stations and sewer force mains were upgraded and rehabilitated to increase capacity and improve reliability.

Key Projects Completed:

- Port Condo Large Water Main Improvements
- Victoria Park Water Main Improvements
- Coral Shores Water Main Improvements
- Pump Station (B-4) Replacement as part of the South Redundant Sewer Force Main Project
- Pump Station (A-7) Replacement and Rehabilitation in Downtown
- Pump Station (B-22) Replacement along NE 65th Court
- Bayview Drive Gravity Sewer Repairs

Stormwater Management

In January 2018, the City finalized the Stormwater Master Plan. This plan identified Fort Lauderdale's seven most floodvulnerable neighborhoods and drainage improvements that can improve conditions in these areas. A citywide stormwater model created during the development of the Stormwater Master Plan was used to run future climate change scenarios to account for potential extreme rainfall and sea level rise projections. Based on that modeling, seven additional neighborhoods were identified for Phase II. Construction for the comprehensive drainage improvements identified in Phase I of the plan has begun in the Edgewood and River Oaks neighborhoods. To date, over five miles of drainage pipe has been laid within these two neighborhoods. Design of stormwater improvements in Melrose Manors, one of the neighborhoods in Phase II of the plan, is underway and has been expedited due to significant need identified after Tropical Storm Eta.

Additionally, construction to replace two public seawalls along Hendricks Isle started in late August and is expected to be completed in February 2023. Construction to replace several seawalls on the south side of Las Olas Boulevard and along SE 10th Street is expected to begin January 2023.



Control panel placement at Pump Station A-7 in Downtown.



A 72-inch energy dissipater that will protect the New River from erosion is one of the components of the new River Oaks Stormwater System.



Crews vacuum debris from a new drainage manhole during the installation of a 36-inch concrete pipe.