



LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

LTC No: 26-086

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission
FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*
DATE: March 26, 2026
SUBJECT: **Traffic Management Efforts – Port Everglades and Broward County Convention Center**

The purposed of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to provide information on traffic management efforts related to activity at Port Everglades and the Broward County Convention Center. The City of Fort Lauderdale is experiencing mobility challenges in the southeast portions of the City associated with significant growth at Port Everglades and the Broward County Convention Center. As one of the world's busiest cruise homeports, the Port has experienced passenger volumes exceeding 50,000 passenger per day, contributing to an estimated 4.7 million passengers in 2025.

Simultaneously, the Broward County Convention Center has recently doubled in size and will further intensify demand with the recent opening of the 800-room Omni Fort Lauderdale hotel. The Convention Center exceeded 400,000 attendees in 2024 and is expected to increase with new large-scale events planned for the future.

Despite escalating demand, parking availability at Port Everglades and the Broward County Convention Center remains limited. As part of the Broward County Convention Center project, a new "bypass" or "connector" road was constructed to mitigate the traffic impacts on SE 17 Avenue. Although the bypass/connector road has added some operational flexibility, it has also introduced new challenges related to traffic distribution, access management, and wayfinding.

The convergence of these factors is affecting mobility to and from Port Everglades and the Broward County Convention Center and the surrounding roadway network. City staff recognized these concerns and convened a Traffic Management Taskforce that has been meeting since November 2025. This taskforce meets monthly and includes representatives from the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO), Broward County staff (Visit Lauderdale, Highway Design and Construction, Traffic Engineering, Venues Management), Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and City staff

(Transportation and Mobility, Fort Lauderdale Police Department (FLPD) and Strategic Communications).

The taskforce is actively working on initiatives geared toward enhancing communication, resource allocation, improving traffic flow and parking via multiple short, mid-term, and long-term efforts. Below is a summary of ongoing and upcoming efforts to help address mobility in the Port Everglades and Broward County Convention Center area.

Communication to Public

The taskforce coordinates and shares information among stakeholders related to scheduled cruise and event activity, holidays, and seasonal travel. This information is shared with the public for purposes of making trip planning decisions. Examples include expanding the distribution of the Port Everglades weekly e-newsletter, *Smooth Sailings*, that is sent to cruise stakeholders, community associations, and the public. The e-newsletter provides advanced notice of projected heavy traffic days. Additionally, the information is shared through social media and through a banner on the Ports' website (<https://www.porteverglades.net/>). The Broward County Convention Center sends out separate alerts to key stakeholders such as event organizers, registered attendees, the City of Fort Lauderdale, and impacted neighborhood groups. The City's Strategic Communications team also assists to enhance notifications to the public.

Allocation of Resources

During ongoing meetings, the taskforce reviews past operational periods and anticipated demand/challenges for the upcoming period. Each entity is responsible for securing and allocating the appropriate level of resources to properly accommodate the anticipated demand (BSO, Port Everglades security, FLPD, and the Broward County Convention Center security) to help direct traffic, expedite checkpoint screening requirements, and improve traffic flow entering/exiting parking facilities.

FLPD continues to provide staffing at the 17 Street/Eisenhower Boulevard and US-1/SR-84 intersections Friday through Monday. Police presence and traffic management have been instrumental to promoting orderly traffic flow during peak periods when vehicular volumes coming into the Port Everglades and the Broward County Convention Center area exceed the roadway and parking capacity.

Signage and Pavement Marking Improvements

City staff coordinated with Broward County to develop engineering plans for new and replacement signage and pavement markings. The plans are being reviewed as part of the permitting process with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for SE 17 Street, SE 20 Street, Eisenhower Boulevard, SR-84, and US-1, and Spangler Boulevard.

These improvements are intended to enhance roadway clarity and ensure motorists are better informed.

Road Capacity, Safety and Efficiency Improvements

Earlier this month, Broward County commenced construction on Eisenhower Boulevard to remove the center median north of 20 Street to extend the left turn lane from southbound Eisenhower Boulevard to eastbound 20 Street. This construction will create additional storage space for vehicles turning into the parking garage for the Broward County Convention Center and Port Everglades Terminals 2 and 4. Removal of the median will also allow for the center lane to be used as a reversible lane during peak periods. The work is expected to be completed by mid-April 2026.

With the goal of allowing vehicles to flow more freely into the area, County staff are working on preliminary designs to extend the bus lane in front of the new Visit Lauderdale Building for better access into Grande Avenue from eastbound 17 Street.

City and County staff are working on improving operational conditions at the Spangler Blvd/SR-84, US-1, and Miami Road intersections to facilitate traffic flow, and improve operational safety and capacity. The planned improvements are expected to commence in April 2026 and include:

- Closing the eastbound U-turn on Spangler Boulevard east of US-1;
- Allowing extension of the left turn lanes for westbound left-turn movement from Spangler Boulevard onto southbound US-1 to accommodate the additional westbound traffic resulting from the opening of the bypass/connector road; and
- Installing flexible tubular posts at Miami Road and Spangler Boulevard to restrict motorists heading southbound along Miami Road from accessing the westbound left turn at US1 to continue south.

Parking Capacity Improvements

In the short term, Broward County, through its Convention Center operator, is leasing the parking garage at the Art Institute to supplement parking capacity. Additionally, the County will be improving the Marshaling Yard (within Port Everglades) to create a surface parking lot. Construction completion is expected within a year.

In the long-term, Broward County is planning to construct up to three (3) additional parking facilities in the Port Everglades and Broward County Convention Center area.

- Port Everglades anticipates that a Request For Proposals (RFP) will be released within the next two (2) months for programming and design services for a new parking facility;
- The second parking facility is planned to be constructed as part of a major renovation/reconstruction of Cruise Terminal twenty-nine (29), with RFP for programming and design services for the entire project expected to be published in the next few months; and
- The existing Heron garage was designed to accommodate up to two (2) additional floors in the future. While this project was included in the ten (10) to twenty (20)-year project program in the most recent Master/Vision Plan approved by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners in November 2025, funding for this effort is not currently available in the five (5)-year CIP.

Transit Service and Park and Ride

City staff is requesting that Broward County consider implementing interim bus service along the alignment envisioned for the County's Premium Mobility Plan (PREMO) Airport–Seaport–Convention Center Connector, which, while planned, is expected to be delivered in 2032. As part of the taskforce meetings, park and ride options have been discussed. Further discussion will focus on feasibility of this concept.

Traffic Monitoring and Management

City staff are coordinating with FDOT on traffic monitoring and management efforts. Florida's Regional Transportation Management Centers (RTMC), including the Fort Lauderdale RTMC (which is co-located with Broward County Traffic Engineering Division (BCTED)), operate 24/7 to monitor highway conditions and disseminate real-time information to the traveling public. BCTED manages countywide traffic signal operations during weekday hours.

FDOT has expressed an initial willingness to assist with the monitoring of major arterials within the City, including routes serving the Port Everglades and Broward County Convention Center area. FDOT is defining the scope of work, with the goal of improving route-selection information, traffic signal timing decisions, and police-supported traffic management.

Summary

A comprehensive set of initiatives is underway across multiple agencies and jurisdictions to address mobility challenges in the Port Everglades and Broward County Convention Center area. Continued collaboration, monitoring of conditions, and strategic investments are essential to supporting the needs of those who live, work, and play in this area.

For further information, please contact Milos Majstorovic, PE, Director of Transportation and Mobility, at 954-828-5216 or mmajstorovic@fortlauderdale.gov.

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