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## May 2018 Government Affairs Update

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### Transportation

**Transportation Surtax:** The Broward County Commission is moving forward with another try at getting voters to pass a 1% sales tax increase to fund transportation projects in the County. The Commission voted this month on a request to hold a public hearing on an ordinance to place the surtax on the 2018 ballot and invited input from municipal elected officials. If passed, the surtax is expected to generate \$357.4 million in 2020 (first full fiscal year.) The plan includes traffic light synchronization, major intersection improvements, road expansions, new sidewalks, drainage along roadways, resiliency improvements, and greenways. The detailed plan, including a municipal level breakdown of identified projects, can be found here: <http://www.broward.org/pennyfortransportation/Pages/default.aspx>

The Commissioners amended the ordinance at the hearing to give even greater discretion to the County as to which projects are eligible for submission to the independent oversight board that will be ultimately in charge of approving or rejecting funding requests. The amendment requires applications from municipalities or the MPO must be submitted first to the County, who will then decide whether or not to submit the application or request revisions.

The voters narrowly passed a transportation surtax in 2016, however the measure ultimately failed due to being tied to a separate infrastructure surtax that did not pass. The County will hold the first public hearing on June 5th.

**WAVE Downtown Streetcar Project:** Broward County officially joined the City this month in voting down the WAVE Downtown Streetcar, effectively killing the project. The City voted on May 1st 3-2 to request the County not assent to a contract between FDOT and the winning bidder, the County unanimously agreed on May 8th, and the Department rejected all bids. The decision still carries unknown legal and financial ramifications as to whether or not we can recoup tens of millions already invested in the project. The decision also potentially impacts the City and County's relationship with the Federal Government and FDOT, who are partners in the project along with the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority.

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**City of Fort Lauderdale Transportation Summit:** The City hosted its 7th Annual Transportation Summit this month. The summit featured state & local leaders, urban planners, chief innovation officers, and others who gathered to discuss various ideas and challenges for the City as it prepares for the future. Mayor Trantalis kicked off the day long summit. State Sen. Jeff Brandes spoke on state policy makers approach to emerging technology in transportation. Columbus Ohio's Chief Innovation Officer highlighted projects being undertaken as part of the city's participation in the U.S. Smart City program. The summit also featured a panel of Fort Lauderdale mobility department staff who shared recent road transformation and other projects around the city.

**10th Annual Port Everglades Economic Engine Report:** Port Everglades Association released its 10th Annual Economic Engine Report at an event at the Broward County Convention Center that featured Convention & Visitors Bureau CEO Stacy Ritter, Airport Director Mark Gale, and Port Everglades Director Steve Cernak. The event and report focuses on the state of Broward's trade, transportation and tourism industry.

### **Broward Leaders Roundtable on Climate and Resilience**

Broward County hosted a roundtable that included County and municipal officials/staff and the business community on resiliency issues. The roundtable heard from county administrative staff on efforts to address flood protection, which is becoming increasingly expensive as rainfall and sea level rise combine to increase risks and damages. The County is undergoing a redo of its flood map as FEMA also undertakes changes to the NFIP. They stressed the need for municipalities to have a resiliency plan and to work together and noted the Broward MPO has crafted a helpful resiliency plan. The County also mentioned that it plans to request Federal funding for raising sea walls. The roundtable also heard a business panel that included the Broward Workshop, Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, and Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, all of which expressed that resiliency was now one of their top priorities. The final hour of the meeting was dedicated to brainstorming and discussion on how to move forward with resiliency plan.

### **Broward County Budget - FY 2019**

Broward County held its first budget workshop on May 15th for the FY 2019 Budget, which begins October 1st. The County heard from BSO, the Airport Director, the Supervisor of Elections, and human resources staff. The next budget workshop is scheduled for June 5th.

<http://www.broward.org/Budget/Documents/FY18/BSOFY19Presentation.pdf>

[http://www.broward.org/Budget/Documents/FY18/BSO\\_Budget\\_Presentation\\_2018\\_2019%205\\_14\\_18%20Final.pdf](http://www.broward.org/Budget/Documents/FY18/BSO_Budget_Presentation_2018_2019%205_14_18%20Final.pdf)

<http://www.broward.org/Budget/Documents/FY18/BenefitsFY19Presentation.pdf>

<http://www.broward.org/Budget/Documents/FY18/AirportMasterPlanPresentation.pdf>

<http://www.broward.org/Budget/Documents/FY18/SOEFY19Presentation.pdf>

### **2018 Elections**

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## **Tri-County Elections:**

Miami Dade County Commission A special election to fill the vacancy of Bruno Barreiro on Miami-Dade County Commission, who retired from the County to run for a Congressional seat, resulted in a runoff election between Zoraida Barreiro, a healthcare worker (and the outgoing Commissioner's wife,) and Eileen Higgins, a local entrepreneur. While the race is technically non-partisan, Barreiro is generally being supported by Republicans and Higgins is generally being supported by Democrats. The run-off is June 19, 2018.

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