

CLOSING THE LOOP

Q3 2026 TOWN HALL *Infrastructure Projects in North Port*

BACKGROUND

In 2025, during the City's Brand Refresh surveys and broader community engagement efforts, residents were invited to share feedback not only about the City's visual identity, but also about how they prefer to receive information and engage with their local government.

While many comments focused on branding, residents also expressed interest in better understanding City services, infrastructure and how to prepare for local challenges.

After reviewing that feedback, four key engagement themes emerged and directly shaped the City's 2026 Community Engagement Plan. As a result, a structured Town Hall series was developed to address those interests.

The 2026 Town Halls are designed to move beyond one-way presentations by creating opportunities for transparency, clarity and meaningful public conversation.

This approach reflects the City's commitment to listening first and building engagement opportunities around the topics residents told us matter most.



TOWN HALL SUMMARY

On August 19, 2026, the City of North Port hosted a Town Hall focused on Infrastructure Projects in North Port. This session was designed to provide residents with a clear overview of major infrastructure projects underway across the City, explain where those projects currently stand and provide greater insight into the planning, funding and coordination required to deliver them.

The presentation walked through several significant infrastructure investments, including the Price Boulevard widening project, improvements to the Sumter Boulevard and Toledo Blade Boulevard interchanges, Fire Stations 81 and 87, the new Emergency Operations Center and Utilities projects. Presenters outlined project progress, anticipated timelines and next steps.

PARTICIPATION

Questions and Answers

The presentation was followed by a live Q&A session, where residents had the opportunity to ask questions directly and engage in open dialogue with City leadership.

To uphold our commitment to transparency and “Closing the Loop,” we are sharing the questions and answers in full below. By documenting and publishing this discussion, we aim to ensure that every resident (whether in attendance or not) has equal access to the information shared.

What is the latest on River Road?

River Road is not maintained by the City of North Port.

The South River Road/Winchester Boulevard widening is a Sarasota County project. Information and updates can be found at:

[SCGov.net/Government/Capital-Projects/Selected-County-Projects](https://scgov.net/Government/Capital-Projects/Selected-County-Projects)

North River Road, from north of U.S. 41 to south of Interstate 75, is being widened by the Florida Department of Transportation. For more information, visit: **[SWFLRoads.com/Project/445059-1](https://swflroads.com/Project/445059-1)**

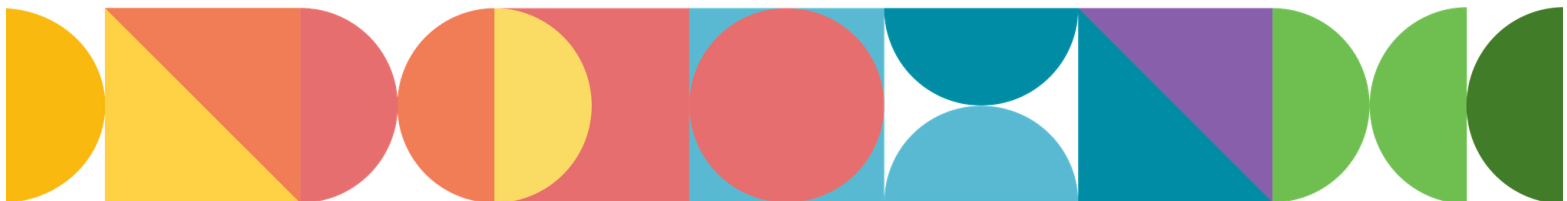
How will the Cranberry Boulevard and Hillsborough Boulevard roundabout help reduce traffic backups?

Additional improvements are planned for U.S. 41 to improve traffic flow in the area, including an additional southbound turn lane. The goal of the roundabout is to reduce traffic stacking up in both directions and keep vehicles moving more efficiently. Traffic signal timing will also be adjusted to improve the flow of vehicles through the corridor.

What will be part of the consideration for adding a new Interstate 75 interchange in the Yorkshire Street area?

The Florida Department of Transportation is continually evaluating the existing road network to determine whether additional I-75 interchanges make sense. Any potential project would need to consider many factors, including environmental and socioeconomic impacts, existing roadway capacity and whether nearby roads have already been improved to their practical limits.

The City has identified the Yorkshire Boulevard/Raintree Boulevard location as a future I-75 interchange and has included it on the list of recommended regional transportation improvements, in coordination with Charlotte and DeSoto counties. However, no specific alignment has been identified, and there is currently no funded construction plan at this time. Continued coordination will be necessary, and the City will work to keep needed improvements on future planning lists.



Are there plans to make traffic changes near the Cocoplum shopping center expansion at U.S. 41 and Sumter Boulevard?

The proposed commercial development includes adding a turn lane from Sumter Boulevard into the shopping center, as well as other improvements. There are no direct changes to the U.S. 41 and Sumter Boulevard intersection.

Why is Toledo Blade Boulevard between U.S. 41 and State Road 776 in poor condition?

The section of Toledo Blade Boulevard from U.S. 41 to State Road 776 is a Charlotte County roadway. It is not located in the City of North Port limits. Residents should contact the county regarding maintenance and repairs on that portion of the roadway.

With so many roads under construction, how will residents evacuate safely during a hurricane?

Construction contracts require contractors to prepare project sites for approaching storms. Equipment and materials must be secured or removed as necessary, and roadways and evacuation routes must be cleared of obstructions to help ensure they remain accessible.

When will residents in eastern North Port transition from private wells and septic systems to City water and wastewater service? Will connecting be mandatory?

State legislation requires local governments to identify areas that need to transition away from septic systems. When wastewater service is extended, properties are also required to connect to water service. The City does not currently have sufficient funding to expand wastewater service throughout all areas identified in its master plan. We have received approximately \$7.5 million in grant funding for the first phase of improvements in the Salford area.

The City Commission has instructed staff to draft updates to the City Code that would change water connections from mandatory to voluntary. Those code changes are undergoing legal review and are expected to return to the City Commission for further discussion.

When will more properties receive access to City water and wastewater service?

Much of the expansion of City utilities occurs in conjunction with new development, with developers responsible for constructing infrastructure needed to serve their projects.

The City's utility system operates as an enterprise fund and does not receive ad valorem property tax revenue. Instead, it is primarily funded through rates and fees paid by utility customers. The City has long-range utility master plans, but significant expansion requires a funding source. Grants are one option, but relying solely on existing ratepayers can lead to costly time delays.

At this time, the City does not have broader expansion plans beyond areas being addressed through state requirements related to septic-to-sewer conversion.



With all the new houses, apartments and commercial development being approved, will North Port eventually run out of water capacity? Will we be able to properly treat it so that it is safe to drink?

Developers of new commercial projects and large platted residential communities are required to address the impacts their projects have on the utility system and provide or fund improvements necessary to maintain adequate capacity. This can include expanding treatment capacity, upgrading water and wastewater lines and making improvements needed to maintain adequate flow and fire protection. If a development affects the capacity of an existing force main or other infrastructure, the developer may be required to make the necessary improvements. Often that new infrastructure is then conveyed to the City.

We don't expect to run out of water, and there are multiple sources in our region to meet future needs. However, as the community grows, the cost of treating and delivering water may increase. Residents with concerns about their individual water quality or service can contact the Utilities Department to have their concerns evaluated.

Are water mains being upgraded as part of the Price Boulevard project? Will that be done before the road widening?

Yes. The City is installing larger 12-inch and 8-inch water mains in advance of the Price Boulevard roadway improvements.

How long does it take to purchase a new ladder truck or other fire apparatus?

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, a fire engine or ladder truck could typically be ordered and delivered within 12 to 15 months. Today, lead times are significantly longer. Ladder trucks can take approximately 40 months, and fire engines can take up to three years. Ambulance lead times can be shorter, while different manufacturers may have significantly different delivery schedules.

The City plans well in advance, particularly when new fire stations are scheduled to open. The City has historically used the same manufacturer to help maintain consistency in parts and maintenance but continues to evaluate opportunities for savings and other advantages.

Where will future fire stations be located?

The City does not generally announce specific future station locations until plans are more certain, because development patterns and other conditions can change.

The City is currently working with a developer in the northeast quadrant of I-75 and Toledo Blade Boulevard and is also evaluating future needs related to the Winchester Ranch annexation area in Wellen Park. The Yorkshire area will require at least one station, but it could be more in that area depending on how Activity Centers 6 and 10 develop and how the road network facilitates travel/response times.

Future station needs are guided by development, concurrency studies, emergency call volume and response times. Other areas of the city may emerge as higher priorities over time.

Why doesn't the City build multi-story fire stations?

Building vertically can significantly increase construction costs. Multi-story public facilities require additional features such as elevators for ADA accessibility, and hardening a taller structure can also be more expensive. In many cases, including the new Fire Station 81, expanding the building footprint is more cost-effective.

Where is the City's Emergency Operations Center?

The new EOC will be located next to the new Fire Station 81 being built on the City Center campus. For project updates and more information, visit NorthPortFL.gov/EngageHub

What about a new Police Department Headquarters? Is it needed?

Additional Police Department space remains an important need as North Port continues to grow. The department will soon begin using portable facilities, and it will continue adding officers as staffing needs increase with the City's growth.

The City will continue exploring all funding opportunities, including grants, while evaluating design and construction options through the budget process and future City Commission discussions.

Are there plans to bury power and cable lines, including along Crittendon Street? What do the flags along roadways mean?

The flags generally mark the location of underground utilities before excavation work begins. Florida Power & Light, rather than the City, is responsible for much of the electrical infrastructure and has undertaken hardening projects to move power lines underground following Hurricane Ian, particularly along major boulevards. Much of that work has been completed.

When utility companies perform work in the public right-of-way, they are generally required to obtain the appropriate permits through the City. Residents can contact the Department of Public Works if they have questions about any digging that they see taking place.

Why isn't the City cleaning up vegetation in the Cocoplum Waterway?

Extended drought conditions and low water levels have made aquatic vegetation more visible and allowed it to accumulate in some waterways. The City's canals are primarily part of the stormwater and water supply system, and they continue to function as intended.

The City prioritizes vegetation management when it is needed to maintain drainage and waterway operations. Spraying during drought conditions can also affect water quality and aquatic life, so environmental conditions must be considered. Mechanical harvesting is also an option, but it requires a large area for staging the equipment. The City continues to evaluate the waterways and management options, but increased seasonal rainfall and water flow should help restore more typical conditions.



What are impact fees and the infrastructure surtax? Are they connected to property taxes?

Impact fees are one-time charges paid in connection with new development to help fund the additional infrastructure needed to serve growth. They fall into specific categories such as transportation, schools or utilities, and must tie directly to the specific infrastructure needs created by the new development. They cannot be used for routine maintenance or general operations. They are the most legally restricted funds the City receives.

The surtax, also known as a penny sales tax, is a voter-approved 1-cent sales tax used for eligible capital projects. It is collected by Sarasota County and distributed among its municipalities and the school board.

Neither is the same as ad valorem property taxes.

Why did the multifamily development along North Chamberlain Boulevard seem to come out of nowhere?

Development projects go through many years and multiple layers of review before construction begins. City staff review projects through the Development Review Committee process and evaluate impacts on roads, utilities and other public infrastructure.

Concurrency requirements help ensure that adopted levels of service can continue to be met. If a proposed development would create deficiencies, the developer is required to make improvements such as widening roads or expanding water and wastewater infrastructure. You can find more information about developments by visiting:

NorthPortFL.gov/Building-Planning/Projects/Current-Development-Map

Are data centers coming to North Port?

The City Commission is scheduled to hold multiple meetings on a proposed data center moratorium, as well as a public workshop on data centers on September 3 at 6 p.m. The purpose of the workshop is to gather information, hear from experts and help answer questions from the public and City Commission about data centers and their potential impacts. For more information, visit **NorthPortFL.gov/DataCenterInfo**.



CLOSING THE LOOP

Thank you for engaging with us. Government works best when it operates in the open and when residents feel informed, heard and respected. This “Closing the Loop” report is part of our ongoing effort to ensure transparency; not only in decision-making, but in how we communicate about it.

This report reflects our commitment to transparency. By documenting the questions asked and the answers provided, we aim to ensure that the conversation remains accessible to all residents and not just those who were able to attend. Please note that questions included in this report have been adapted from live verbal discussion to improve readability and clarity. Effort has been made to preserve the original intent, context and key points raised, however wording may not appear exactly as spoken during the event.

We recognize that trust is built over time through consistent communication, accountability and follow-through. That is the purpose of our “Closing the Loop” reports: to demonstrate that engagement does not end when the meeting adjourns.

We encourage you to stay involved. Attend future Town Halls, participate in surveys, review public meeting materials and continue sharing your perspectives. Your voice matters, and it plays a meaningful role in shaping North Port’s future.



"Great turn out and awesome information from a very knowledgeable panel! Thank you!"

Town Hall Attendee

