



**TO:** Honorable Mayor & Members of the  
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

**FROM:** Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

**DATE:** June 1, 2021

**TITLE:** Resolution Accepting the Las Olas Boulevard Vision Plan – **(Commission Districts 2 and 4)**

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**Recommendation**

Staff recommends the City Commission accept the Las Olas Boulevard Vision Plan.

**Background**

In 2019, the City Commission began an initiative to develop a new vision for Las Olas Boulevard that would create a consistent feel from Andrews Avenue to the beach. To date, smaller projects have been completed on segments of Las Olas Boulevard but there has not been a comprehensive effort to look at the entire length together.

The Las Olas Working Group was created in 2018 and includes members representing the neighborhood civic associations and business associations along Las Olas Boulevard. Their mission is to provide input on the future vision for Las Olas Boulevard. The group is led by Vice Mayor Glassman and Commissioner Sorenson. The City hired The Corradino Group in October 2019 to assist with the creation of the vision. The mission statement created by the Working Group for the vision plan is that Las Olas Boulevard will serve the role of “Connecting residents, businesses and visitors of Fort Lauderdale through the enhancement of this iconic boulevard representing our history and future.”

The process has included the collection of data, analysis, concept design, and a significant amount of outreach with stakeholders along the corridor. Since October 2019, the Corradino Group has attended more than 90 meetings to gather input from Working Group members, neighborhood, and business associations. The gathering input process included in-person walks, as well as virtual walking tours, attendance at neighborhood meetings, attendance at business association meetings, individual stakeholder meetings, a city-wide public survey, and regular Working Group meetings.

The input gathered has been coupled with engineering and technical analysis to develop the final proposed vision plan for Las Olas Boulevard. The vision’s goal is to create one consistent feel throughout the Boulevard, proposing enhancements to right-of-way widths and land uses for future design. The vision plan divides the corridor into five distinct

character areas as part of the study. Each section is slightly different, but the main themes of prioritizing improving space for pedestrians, creating a more consistent bicycle connection, and moving vehicles efficiently at a safe speed have been carried through.

The primary recommendations include the following by segment:

- *Downtown (Andrews Avenue – Tunnel Top)*: described area enhancements include the addition of bike lanes in each direction. A new pedestrian crossing is proposed at NE 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- *The Shops (Tunnel Top – NE 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue)*: described area enhancements include the addition of parallel bike facilities to the north on SE 2<sup>nd</sup> Ct and on the south to SE 4<sup>th</sup> Street, the elimination of the existing median, widening of the sidewalk space, creation of a meandering roadway with one lane in each direction and parking on one side with curbs, mature landscaping along the sidewalk area.
- *Colee Hammock (NE 12<sup>th</sup> Ave – Isle of Capri)*: described area enhancements include expanded pedestrian space, bike lanes in each direction, improved landscaping to provide shade, intersection improvements by adding a dual left turn lane southbound on SE 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue to eastbound Las Olas Boulevard, widening of the Sospiro Canal Bridge, and retaining the one-lane in each direction between SE 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and SE 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- *The Isles (Isle of Capri – Coral Way)* – described area enhancements include the narrowing of the travel lanes to allow additional space for bike lanes in each direction, pedestrian crossings, addition of landscaping including flowering trees, benches, site triangle extensions at the Isles bridges on the north side of Las Olas Boulevard.
- *The Beach (Coral Way – Beach)* – described area enhancements include proposing a cantilever along the bridge. Proposed cantilever will add bicycle space, pathway under the west side of the bridge to allow for safe crossing from the north to the south, continuing the bike lanes on each side of the roadway.

The Transportation and Mobility Department has submitted the Las Olas Streetscape project for funding consideration through the Broward County Municipal Advancement Program, the federal appropriations process, and the City’s Community Investment Plan.

### **Resource Impact**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action. The implementation of recommendations in the plan that require financial resources will be brought forth to the Commission for approval, as appropriate.

### **Strategic Connections**

This item is a Top 2021 Commission Priority, advancing both the Transportation and Traffic and Parks and Public Spaces initiatives.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024 Strategic Plan*, specifically *advancing*:

- The Infrastructure Focus Area

- Goal 2 - Build a multi-modal and pedestrian friendly community.
- Objective - Improve roads, sidewalks, and trails to prioritize a safer, more walkable and bikeable community

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale Vision Plan 2035: We Are Connected*

**Attachments**

Exhibit 1 – Las Olas Boulevard Vision Plan

Exhibit 2 – Resolution

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