



President: Melinda Bowker
Vice President: Lianne Rubbo
Recording Secretary: Bob Cerrone
Communications Secretary: Elijah Manley
Treasurer: Daniela Mairowitz
Director: Cathy Crossgrove
Director: Al Dechellis
Director: Greg Madonna
Director: Lorena Melgarejo
Director: Bill Ott
Director: Steven Yaro

December 15, 2025

Via Email To: Mayor Dean Trantalis, Vice Mayor John Herbst, District 2 City Commissioner Steven Glassman, District 3 City Commissioner Pamela Beasley-Pittman, District 4 City Commissioner Ben Sorensen, City Manager Rickelle Williams, Deputy City Manager Chris Cooper, Assistant City Manager Yvette Matthews, Assistant City Manager Ben Rogers, Director of Transportation and Mobility Milos Majstorovic; **cc:** Downtown Fort Lauderdale Civic Association Board
From: Melinda Bowker, President, Downtown Fort Lauderdale Civic Association

Re: 12/16/25 Commission Item R-4: In Support of Resolution #2 (Keep Shops Median with modifications)

Dear Elected Officials and City Staff:

The Downtown Fort Lauderdale Civic Association (“DFLCA”) Board of Directors and various DFLCA Members were active participants of the Las Olas Mobility Working Group described in the City Manager’s memo since its inception and provided formal feedback on the Las Olas Corridor section of the Downtown in previous letters (see hyperlinks on dates) dated [January 18, 2021](#) and [June 13, 2021](#).

More recently, Milos Majstorovic, City of FTL Transportation & Mobility Director, Catherine Prince, SE US Leader VP- Climate Resilience and Sustainability, WSP, and Erica Echeverri, Outreach Manager, Brizaga, were the featured guests at the DFLCA Board Meeting held on November 5, 2025, where a quorum was present, and they officially presented the Downtown and Shops sections of the Las Olas Blvd (Western Corridor) Preliminary Design Plan. Multiple board members and Downtown residents were also present at the public town hall meeting that was held on Thursday, November 13, 2025, at the FAU MetroLab.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our formal feedback on the item before you, specifically, the resolution that you are voting on at the Regular Agenda meeting,

At the DFLCA Board Meeting held on December 11, 2025, where a quorum was present, the Board unanimously voted to provide the following feedback to the relevant parties:

Downtown Section of Las Olas (Andrews Ave going east to Tunnel Top)

The DFLCA Board is **overall in favor of the design concept provided for the Downtown Section** and in particular supported the following improvements: substantial increase in tree canopy, traffic islands at the intersection of Las Olas and Andrews Ave, the widening of the sidewalk along Huizenga Park, the raised mid-block crossing between the NSU Art Museum and Huizenga Park, the raised intersection at SE 1st Ave (with appreciation for the current implementation of the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (“RRFB”), the median extension from Andrews all the way to SE 1st Ave, and the median extensions and raised pedestrian crossings at the intersection of SE 5th Ave and Las Olas.

With that said, the Board differs from the concept in that it **strongly supports the removal of on-street parking** in the entire right-of-way from SE 3rd Ave to the Tunnel Top due to the availability of city and private garages open to the public, surface lots, and on-street parking on side streets that provide **in excess of 7,000 parking spots within 1.5 blocks of the Downtown section of Las Olas**. Publicly available data does not support the need for 60 spots for on-street parking for the downtown section of Las Olas and accommodating this sacrifices our multimodal possibilities. We suggest that the City look for alternatives to the lost on-street



president@dflca.org



www.dflca.org



P.O. Box 2024, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

parking revenue by partnering with digital wayfinding groups such as IKE Smart City (interactive kiosks) that provide a needed service and supply revenue sharing opportunities.

Finally, the Board still moderately supports the addition of east and west bound bike lanes on the north and south sides of the Las Olas Corridor, respectively, for the entire boulevard between Andrews Ave and the Tunnel Top. Though not supported by the Commission's vote in 2021, we want to still support this item particularly with the proliferation of e-bikes and scooters in our neighborhood and in line with the city's desire to promote multimodal, car-free transportation alternatives.

Shops Section (Tunnel Top east to SE 12th Ave) and Resolution on Median in this Area

The DFLCA is in favor of the Resolution supporting Alternative 2 that keeps the Median in this section of Las Olas. We are in support of the widening of the sidewalk, the doubling of the tree canopy with flowering and shade trees (with discernment given to root systems impacting buildings) and the 'higher emphasis' raised mid-block crossings at each block. We differ on this option where it comes to the Alternating Side On-Street Parking and support the complete removal of on-street parking in the Shops section. The seismic increase of our Downtown population in the last 15 years will ensure that a Las Olas without on-street parking is still a vibrant and frequented boulevard. Again, there are alternatives for lost parking revenue and the opportunity for increased sidewalk widening and accommodating alternative multimodal transportation trumps maintaining any on-street parking. We are in support of cut-outs on Las Olas or adjacent side streets for ride-sharing pick-up and drop-off as well as deliveries.

We are likewise still in favor of accommodating cyclists within this section of Las Olas with official bike lanes either on Las Olas or behind the Riverside Hotel on SE 4th St. Recent survey results of voting paid DFLCA membership trend to support the latter option. Regardless, we must be a bike friendly city and work to ensure an official and safe bike route to the Beach from Downtown for cyclists.

Downtown Civic Voting Members Survey: Summary of Results on this Topic

The Board of the Downtown Fort Lauderdale Civic Association stays educated and informed on matters that impact our Downtown quality of life. We also live in a diverse cross-section of multi-family residences in Downtown and garner feedback from our communities. Although not a referendum, on this particular issue we also recently distributed a brief survey to voting residents only. As of this writing, the results are as follows and mirror our recommendations to the Commission.

On Las Olas do you want:	YES	NO	OTHER	
Bike Lanes in Downtown Section	52%	36%	12%	
On-Street Parking in Downtown Section	33%	58%	9%	
On-Street Parking in Shops Section	32%	56%	12%	
To keep the Median in the Shops Section	88%	6%	6%	
	PUT BIKE LANES ON SE 4TH ST (BEHIND LAS OLAS)	PUT BIKE LANES ON SE 4TH ST (BEHIND RIVERSIDE HOTEL)	NO BIKE LANES	OTHER
Re: Bike Lanes in Shops Section	18%	62%	15%	6%

We appreciate the efforts of all involved in making this an inclusive conversation and the time and attention given to this matter. Please contact me at the email below with any comments or questions.



Melinda M. Bowker
President
Downtown Fort Lauderdale Civic Association
president@dflca.org



president@dflca.org



www.dflca.org



P.O. Box 2024, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301