

December 10, 2025

The Honorable Dean J. Trantalis, Mayor
John C. Herbst, Vice-Mayor / Commissioner, District 1
Steven Glassman, Commissioner, District 2
Pamela Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner, District 3
Ben Sorensen, Commissioner, District 4

City of Fort Lauderdale
1 E. Broward Blvd., Suite 444, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Dear Mayor Trantalis and Commissioners Herbst, Glassman, Beasley-Pittman, and Sorensen:

Subject: Letter of Support for the “No-Median Option” for the Las Olas Boulevard Corridor

On behalf of Broward Workshop, I am writing to express our strong support for the adoption of the **No-Median Option** for the redesign of the Las Olas Boulevard corridor.

Our **Urban Corridor Committee**, charged with evaluating proposals affecting downtown Fort Lauderdale, conducted a comprehensive review of the submitted plan. Based on our analysis of the proposal's findings, the No-Median Option offers the most beneficial balance of mobility, pedestrian safety, business access, and long-term functionality. Specifically:

- The proposal demonstrates that **traffic flow and vehicular access will be improved** under the No-Median design, reducing potential bottlenecks while preserving flexibility for turning movements and deliveries.
- It shows that **curbside access for parking, loading, and service functions** — vital for the many small businesses, boutiques, restaurants, and mixed-use properties along Las Olas Boulevard — is better maintained under the No-Median configuration.
- The design preserves **pedestrian safety and accessibility**, while avoiding the operational constraints and unintended consequences (e.g., restricted mid-block movements, forced detours, or access limitations) associated with a median barrier.
- It recognizes the importance of **retaining a vibrant, accessible urban corridor** to support downtown economic vitality, tourism, and property investments.
- Retaining the existing median to preserve the Black Olive trees is not a sustainable or responsible approach. The City's own arborist assessment concludes that the 16 Black Olive trees located in the median are in poor to failing condition and have a limited remaining lifespan and are unlikely to survive the next decade. Moreover, future replacements would be restricted to species with small root balls, most likely palms, which would not replicate the shade canopy.

Under the No Median Plan, **the existing 16 Black Olive trees, whose shade primarily benefits moving vehicles, would be replaced by more than 60 Oak trees planted along the sidewalks.** This approach meaningfully improves the pedestrian experience by providing continuous, long-term shade where it is most needed.

- **Existing on-street parking generates more than \$1 million annually in revenue.** In addition to its fiscal importance, on-street parking serves a critical safety function by safeguarding pedestrians from moving traffic. It also enhances accessibility and convenience for visitors, supports retail activity, and contributes to a more lively, welcoming, and walkable streetscape.

Moreover, we find it critically important to highlight that the **majority of property owners along Las Olas Boulevard have communicated their support for the No-Median Option.** They understand that the No-Median design best preserves the character and functionality of the Boulevard, while supporting ongoing business operations, property access, and long-term property values.

Given that Las Olas Boulevard is a defining economic corridor for Fort Lauderdale — essential not only for downtown but for the city's broader economic health — we believe the No-Median Option strikes the appropriate balance between mobility, business vitality, safety, and flexibility. We respectfully urge the City Commission to approve and adopt the No-Median Option for the project.

The Broward Workshop stands ready to continue working in partnership with the City, property owners, business stakeholders, and community leaders to support implementation and help ensure that the outcome strengthens downtown Fort Lauderdale for decades to come.

Thank you for your leadership and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Petrillo

Tim Petrillo, Chairman
Broward Workshop

cc: Rickelle Williams
Milos Majstorovic

Mission Statement

The Broward Workshop is a forum of 117 business leaders and professionals committed to facilitate solutions to Broward County's most critical issues. We Identify, prioritize, communicate, and act on the most important business-related issues facing Broward County. We create coalitions between the private and public sectors which enable us to enhance our effectiveness and commit resources to achieve meaningful results. We maintain an effective voice in local government and the community, while measuring, monitoring, and communicating our collective progress.



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