



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE**  
**City Commission Agenda Memo**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

**#21-0627**

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

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

**DATE:** June 15, 2021

**TITLE:** Resolution Accepting the Las Olas Boulevard Vision Plan – Western  
Corridor - **(Commission District 4)**

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**Recommendation**

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

**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 Commissioner Glassman and Commissioner Sorensen. 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.

On June 1, 2021 the City Commission heard extensive public input regarding the Las Olas Vision Plan. The Commission deferred CAM 21-0206 and requested that staff schedule a special Commission workshop on June 15<sup>th</sup> to continue discussions. Prior to the special workshop, the Commission directed staff to bifurcate the vision plan into two plans, one for the western corridor and one for the eastern corridor. The western corridor consists of the area between Andrews Avenue and SE 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the eastern corridor expands from SE 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the beach.

The Commission requested the following western corridor modifications be made:

- Downtown (SE Andrews Avenue - SE 3rd Avenue)
  - Removal of the dedicated bike lanes
  - Maintain the current configuration of two travel lanes in each direction and no median
- Downtown (SE 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue - Tunnel Top)
  - Modified the roadway design to include two vehicle travel lanes in each direction, with the outside lanes convertible to parking
  - Parking is to remain on both sides of Las Olas Boulevard
  - Utilize sharrows on Las Olas Boulevard and explore dedicated bicycle lanes on parallel streets
- The Shops (Tunnel Top - SE 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue)
  - One vehicle travel lane in each direction
  - Parking on both sides of Las Olas Boulevard, not alternating blocks, resulting in a reduction in the size of tree canopy on the expanded sidewalk areas
  - Modify the expanded sidewalk areas in connection with the vehicle travel lanes and parking lanes

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 – Las Olas Boulevard Vision Plan – Western Corridor

Exhibit 3 – Summary of Plan Modifications – Western Corridor

Exhibit 4 – Resolution

**Related CAM**

# 21-0607

# 21-0617

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