



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#21-0617

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 – Eastern
Corridor - **(Commission Districts 2 and 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission accept the Las Olas Boulevard Vision Plan – Eastern 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 15th 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 12th Avenue and the eastern corridor expands from SE 12th Avenue to the beach.

Based on the Commission discussion, staff modified the eastern corridor plan, prior to the workshop, as follows:

Colee Hammock (SE 12th Avenue to Isle of Capri)

- SE 15th Avenue: Explore further details to implement dual left turn at Las Olas Boulevard and SE 15th Avenue.
- SE 16th Avenue: Conduct study to determine optimal traffic solution for Las Olas Boulevard and SE 16th Avenue that supports flow of traffic and preservation of neighborhood character and quality of life.

The Isles (Isle of Capri to Coral Way)

- Crosswalks: Further study the placement of up to four crosswalks with use of pedestrian activated signals. Prior to plan implementation, the introduction of one crosswalk in the Nurmi and Hendricks Isle area is being considered.
- Isles Rest Nodes: Further evaluate resting node locations with up to three each on the north and south side of Las Olas Boulevard.
- Sospiro Bridge: Align City Capital Improvement Projects and Florida Department of Transportation work programs in the coordination of improvements and/or complete replacement of Sospiro Bridge.
- Bridge Site Visibility: Further study site visibility from the north side bridges of the Isles.
- East Isles Green Space: The transformation of Idlewyld Park includes connectivity to Merle Fogg Park which will feature a promenade along the shore. Additionally, Public Works, Parks and Recreation and Transportation and Mobility Department staff are aligned and working in coordination to determine the location and implementation of a pump station within Merle Fogg Park to be placed either on the north or south side.

The Beach (Coral Way to the beach)

- East of Bridge: Further study traffic patterns and medians east of bridge to supplement all Las Olas Corridor improvements including the parking garage and the marina.

Other Considerations:

- Underground Infrastructure: Evaluate underground infrastructure improvements to ensure recommended streetscape implementation occurs after flood mitigation improvements.

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 – Eastern Corridor

Exhibit 3 – Summary of Plan Modifications

Exhibit 4 – Resolution

Related CAMs

21-0206

21-0627

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