

## Las Olas Beautification Plan

May 2017

Las Olas Isles was one of the most beautiful, picturesque streets in America, however the years have taken its toll on the corridor and there is a strong desire and groundswell of support that it is vital to our community to restore its reputation and make all that travel, on that road, smile at its beauty.

As a result of this groundswell of support within the community, **Godart Florida Real Estate Investments, PNC Bank, Patrick McTigue, and Corporate Insurance Advisors (Mark Schwartz)** have pledged design funding for EDSA, an internationally renowned planning, landscape architecture and urban design firm, founded and located in Fort Lauderdale; to examine potential improvements along the Las Olas Boulevard corridor. The study area is from approximately NE 15th Avenue on the west side to the west side of the Las Olas Intracoastal Bridge on the east. We call this area the Gateway Las Olas area, connecting Retail Las Olas to the Beach Las Olas. The intention of these improvements is to create a cohesive pedestrian and vehicular roadway corridor that functions, is safer for all modes of traffic and has an aesthetic that the residents and community can be proud of.

In early Fall, surveys went out to all the Las Olas Associations, and their members, as well as City of Fort Lauderdale personnel, asking them what they considered were the most important issues on Las Olas Blvd. the results were as follows:

- Slow down the cars
- Make it pedestrian friendly for walking and bicycles
- Make the streetscape aesthetically pleasing, with lots of shade

EDSA took this information and created a plan based on this information. They looked at Las Olas Blvd. and focused on the north side, since that is where all the open water view vistas are. Their idea was to create a lineal park, stretching from the eastside of the bridge to just east of 15<sup>th</sup> Street.

In order to get the space they needed for the northside, they did the following:

- Eliminated the on street bike lanes
- Narrowed each of the 4 lanes of traffic from 12 feet to 10.5 feet
- Moved the median slightly to the south
- Narrowed the median slightly

As a result, the following is a description of the proposed improvements (please keep in mind that this is only the concept, which can be fine tuned):

**Northside:**

- Starts with a curb and then a landscape buffer between the street and the lineal park
- 2 lanes for bicyclists, roller bladers, and pedi cabs
- Another landscape buffer
- Meandering pedestrian side walk, called Canal Walk that will have trellises and benches for people to sit and enjoy the views.

**Southside:**

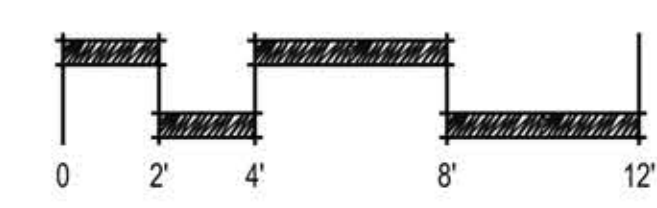
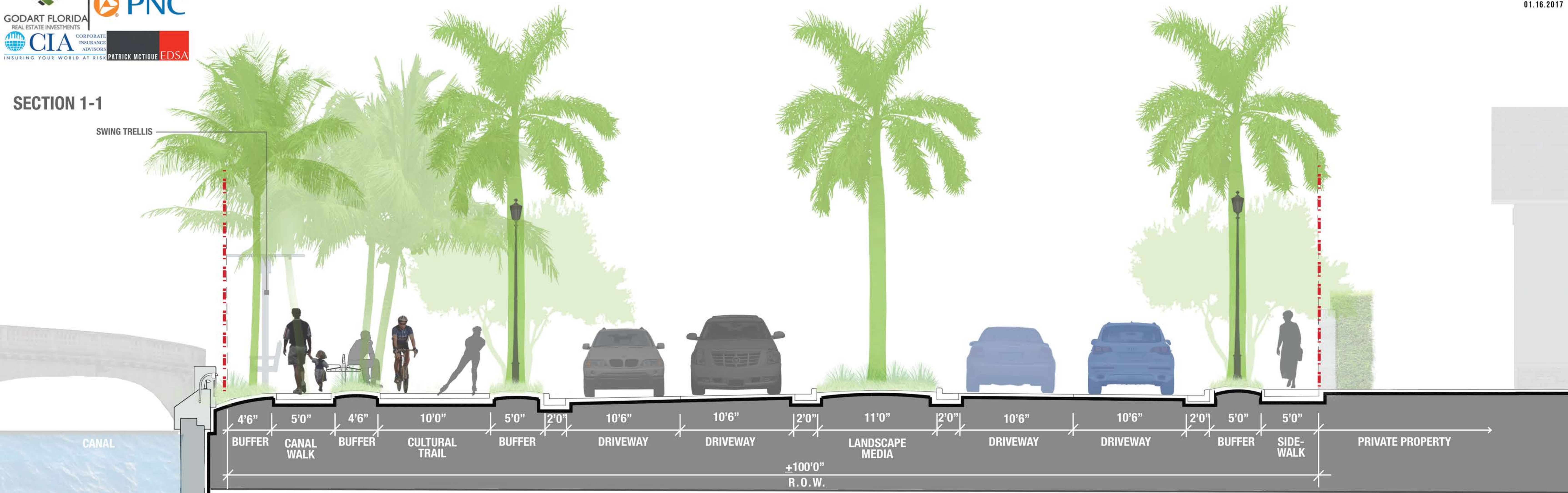
- Currently, the only buffer between the street and the side walk is a patch of grass. As a result of the plan, the area separating the sidewalk from the street will be widened to 5 feet to allow a landscape buffer of trees between the sidewalk and the street.

**East of where the median ends (near Chima and Gas Station):**

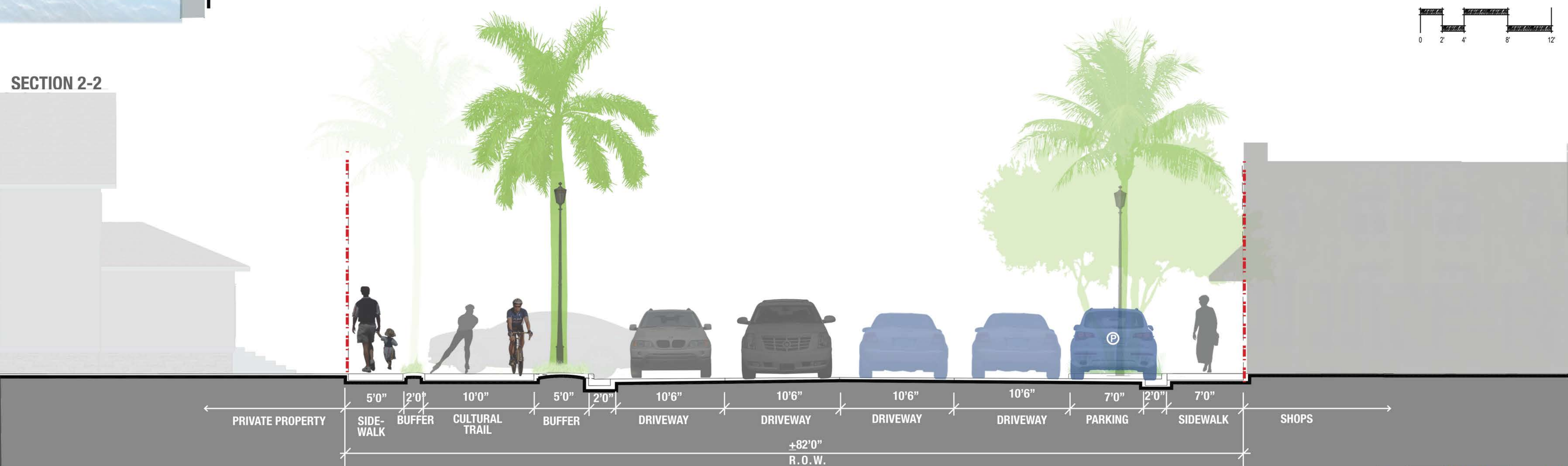
- The plan still allows for continuity to continue the lineal park to the bridge.

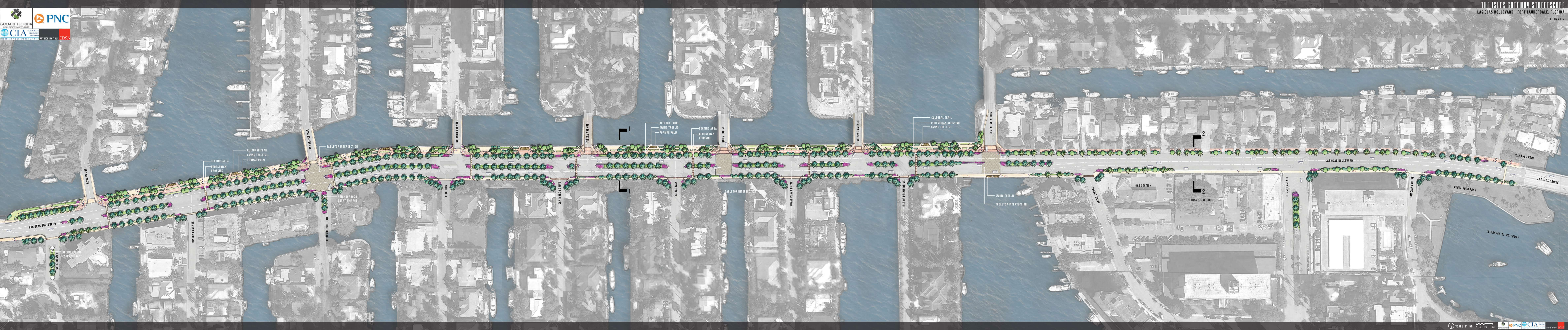
**All of this will create a signature, pedestrian friendly environment that will encourage people to walk, run, and bicycle from the beach into Retail Las Olas.**

SECTION 1-1



SECTION 2-2





SEATING AREA  
PEDESTRIAN  
CROSSING

CULTURAL TRAIL  
SWING TRELLIS  
FORMAL PALM

TABLETOP INTERSECTION

NEIGHBORHOOD  
ENTRY STORAGE

SEATING AREA  
PEDESTRIAN  
CROSSING

CULTURAL TRAIL  
SWING TRELLIS  
FORMAL PALM

SEATING AREA  
PEDESTRIAN  
CROSSING

CULTURAL TRAIL  
SWING TRELLIS  
FORMAL PALM

SEATING AREA  
PEDESTRIAN  
CROSSING

CULTURAL TRAIL  
SWING TRELLIS  
FORMAL PALM

CULTURAL TRAIL  
PEDESTRIAN  
CROSSING  
SWING TRELLIS

SWING TRELLIS  
TABLETOP INTERSECTION

GAS STATION  
CHIMA STEAKHOUSE

MERLE FOGGO PARK  
INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY



July 15, 2016

### **Las Olas Boulevard (the “jewel of Fort Lauderdale) Streetscape Conceptual Master Planning**

Las Olas Isles was one of the most beautiful, picturesque streets in America, however the years have taken its toll on the corridor and there is a strong desire and groundswell of support that it is vital to our community to restore its reputation and make all that travel, on that road, smile at its beauty.

As a result of this groundswell of support within the community, **Godart Florida Real Estate Investments, PNC Bank, Patrick McTigue, and Corporate Insurance Advisors** have pledged design funding for EDSA, an internationally renowned planning, landscape architecture and urban design firm, founded and located in Fort Lauderdale; to examine potential improvements along the Las Olas Boulevard corridor. The study area is from approximately NE 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the west side to the west side of the Las Olas Intracoastal bridge on the east. The intention of these improvements is to create a cohesive pedestrian and vehicular roadway corridor that functions, is safer for all modes of traffic and has an aesthetic that the residents and community can be proud of.

The sponsors named above have formed an organization, named Las Olas Isles Beautification Plan, LLC. F. Thomas Godart will be the official officer of the organization. Mr. Godart will be the prime contact for the project and can be reached via email at [tom@godartflorida.com](mailto:tom@godartflorida.com).

At the onset of the study, EDSA prepared a survey so that they could collect information from the residents that live near or on Las Olas Boulevard. The intention of this data collection is to have a greater understanding of the community’s wants and desires related to the improvements along the Las Olas Boulevard Corridor. Now with this information, EDSA can initiate the planning and design process to produce a preliminary conceptual master plan. Then based on feedback from the community and the City of Fort Lauderdale, EDSA will finalize the Conceptual Master Plan.

Attached to this document are the results of the survey that was sent out. In summary the survey indicated that:

- Pedestrian safety is a priority with a score of 3.96 out of 5
- Vehicular safety is also a priority with a score of 4.05 out of 5
- Traffic calming measures should be utilized to slow traffic down, with a score of 3.42 of 5
- There is concern about sea level rise and the King tides, with a score of 4.56 out of 5
- The order of prioritization of modes of travel are as expected, Vehicles with the highest priority, followed by Pedestrians, then Bikes and last other forms (skateboards, rollerblades, runners/joggers)

- Infrastructure improvements is also important, with a score of 4.3 out of 5
- However, wider sidewalks were not as important with a score of 2.45 out of 5, just a little below a neutral vote of 2.5
- Bike lanes are desired, but only with a score of 3.19 out of 5
- Landscape improvements are desired with a score of 4.32 out of 5
- Overall aesthetics is important with a score of 4.49 out of 5
- 93% of the respondents (57 people) were full time residents, with only 7% being part time residents

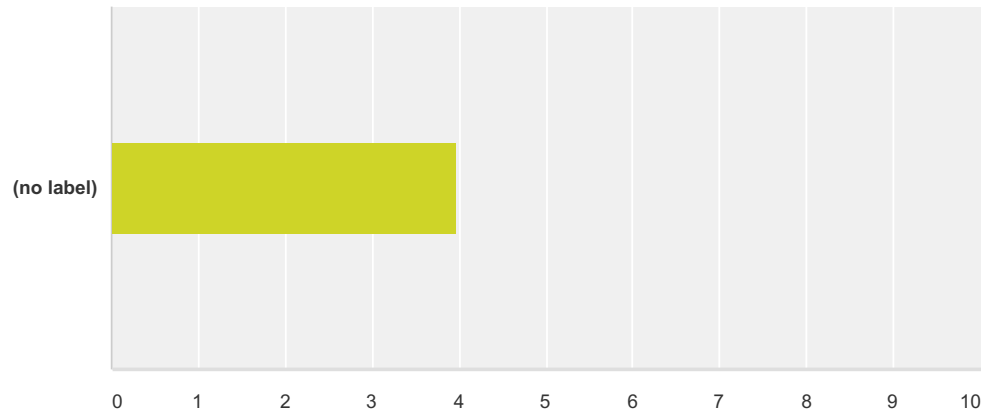
In summary, the two most important elements of the project, according to the survey results are infrastructure improvements (dealing with sea level rise) and aesthetics, which as planners opens up a lot of opportunities for creating an updated, safe corridor that all can enjoy.

In addition to the data presented above, there are also a number of comments that people also supplied. Both the data from the survey and the comments are included for your review.

Thank you very much for your participation and we look forward to beginning the creative process and keeping you all apprised of the progress.

### Q1 Is the pedestrian safety along the corridor a priority?

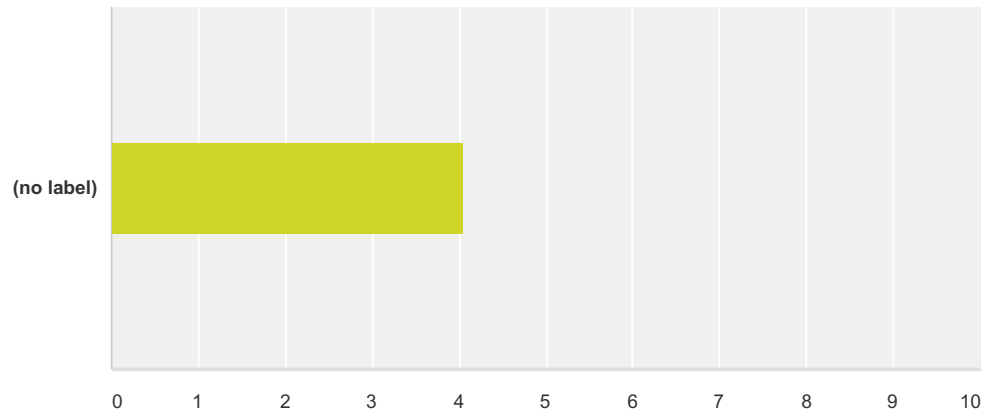
Answered: 56 Skipped: 1



	1 Least Important	2	3	4	5 Most Important	Total	Weighted Average
(no label)	3.57% 2	8.93% 5	14.29% 8	33.93% 19	39.29% 22	56	3.96

## Q2 Is the vehicular safety along the corridor a priority?

Answered: 56 Skipped: 1

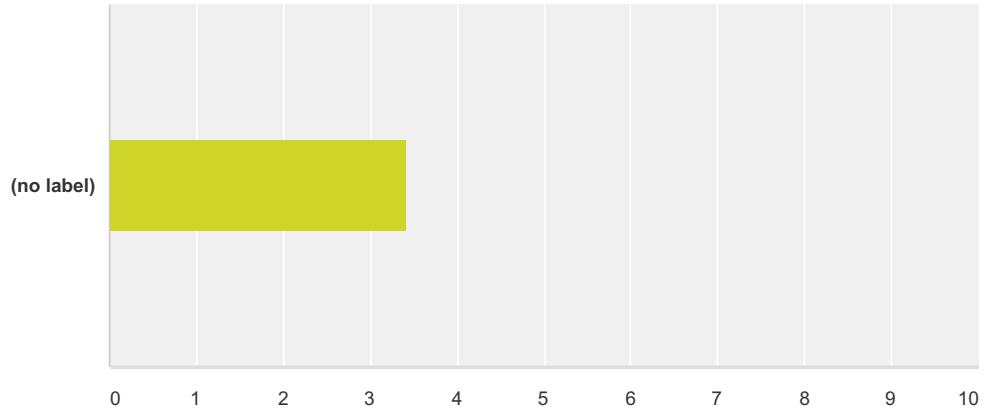


	1Least Important	2	3	4	5Most Important	Total	Weighted Average
(no label)	3.57% 2	1.79% 1	16.07% 9	42.86% 24	35.71% 20	56	4.05



### Q3 Do you believe that traffic calming measures should be utilized along the corridor to slow traffic down?

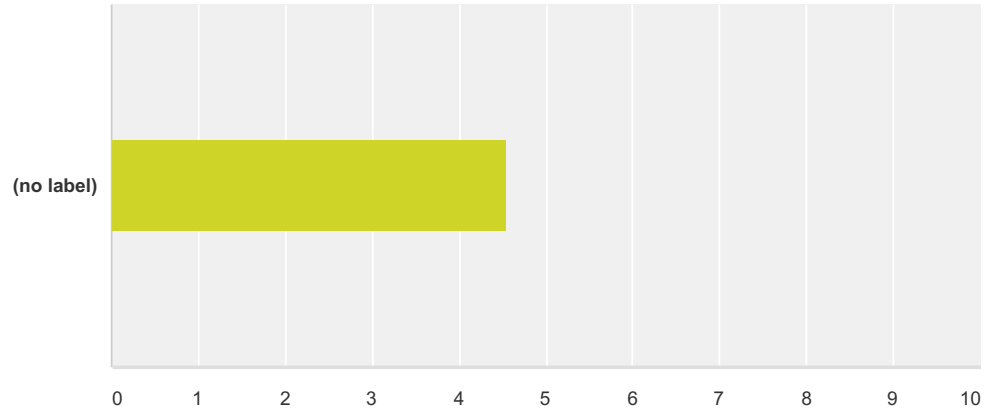
Answered: 55 Skipped: 2



	1Least Important	2	3	4	5Most Important	Total	Weighted Average
(no label)	18.18% 10	12.73% 7	16.36% 9	14.55% 8	38.18% 21	55	3.42

### Q4 Are you concerned about sea level rise and the King tides that periodically flood out the street?

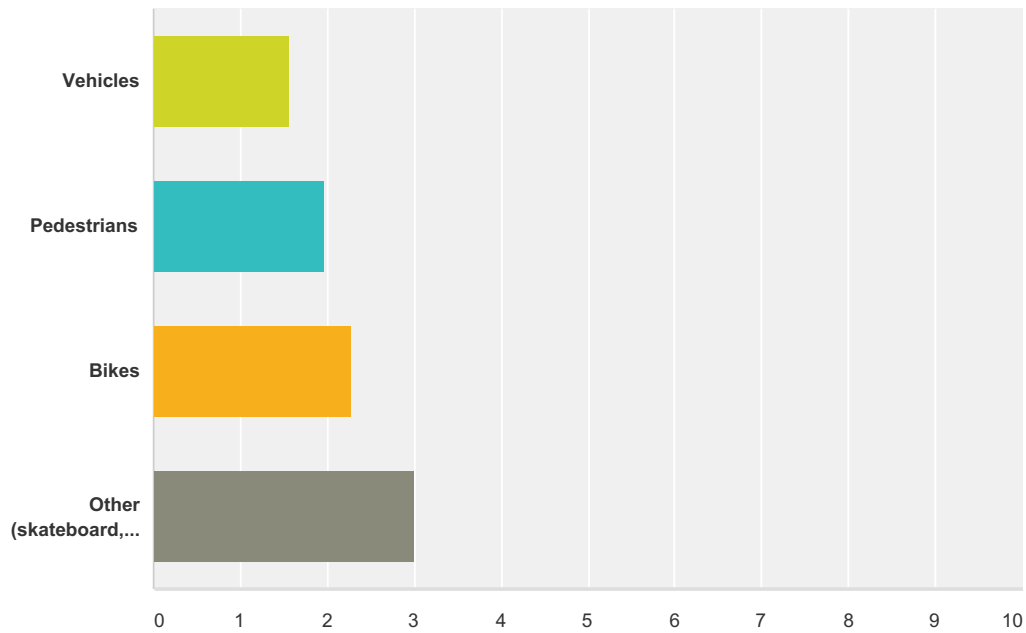
Answered: 57 Skipped: 0



	1Not Concerned	2	3	4	5 Concerned	Total	Weighted Average
(no label)	3.51% 2	1.75% 1	7.02% 4	10.53% 6	77.19% 44	57	4.56

### Q5 Please prioritize the modes of transportation

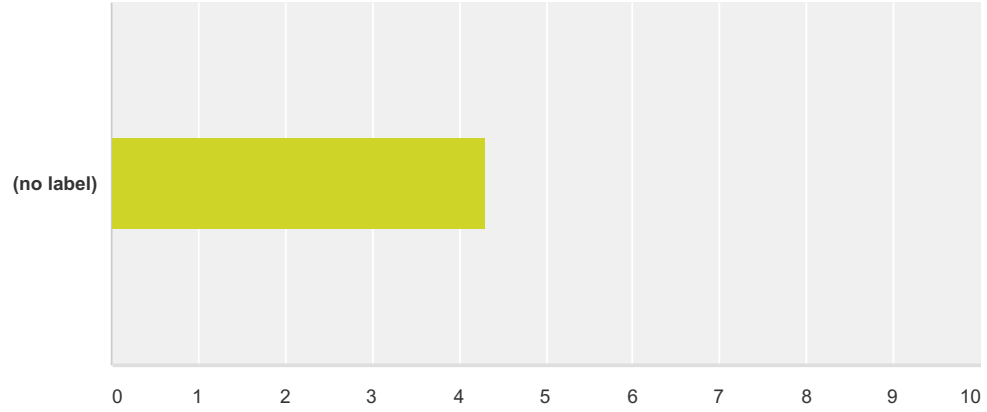
Answered: 56 Skipped: 1



	1 Highest Priority	2	3	4 Lowest Priority	Total	Weighted Average
Vehicles	65.45% 36	20.00% 11	7.27% 4	7.27% 4	55	1.56
Pedestrians	32.14% 18	46.43% 26	14.29% 8	7.14% 4	56	1.96
Bikes	21.43% 12	37.50% 21	33.93% 19	7.14% 4	56	2.27
Other (skateboard, rollerblades, runners/joggers)	9.80% 5	21.57% 11	27.45% 14	41.18% 21	51	3.00

### Q6 Is infrastructure improvements along the corridor a priority (sea wall height, storm drainage, lighting)?

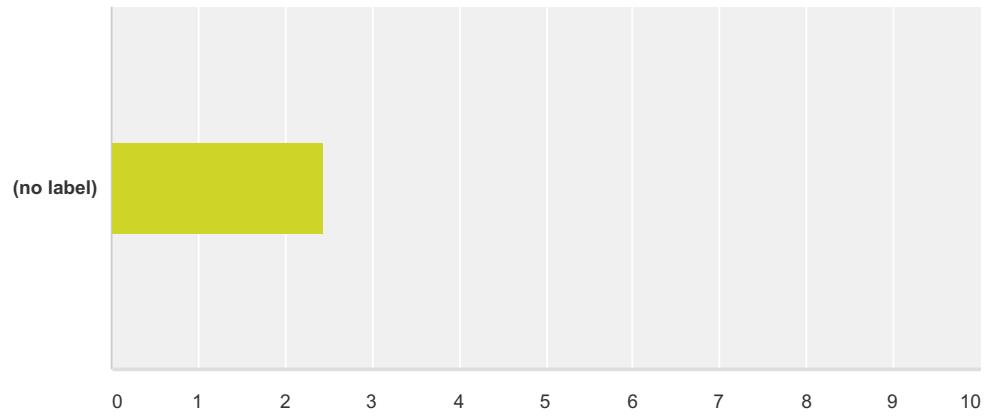
Answered: 57 Skipped: 0



	1 Least Priority	2	3	4	5 Most priority	Total	Weighted Average
(no label)	5.26% 3	3.51% 2	8.77% 5	21.05% 12	61.40% 35	57	4.30

### Q7 Are including wider sidewalks along the corridor a priority?

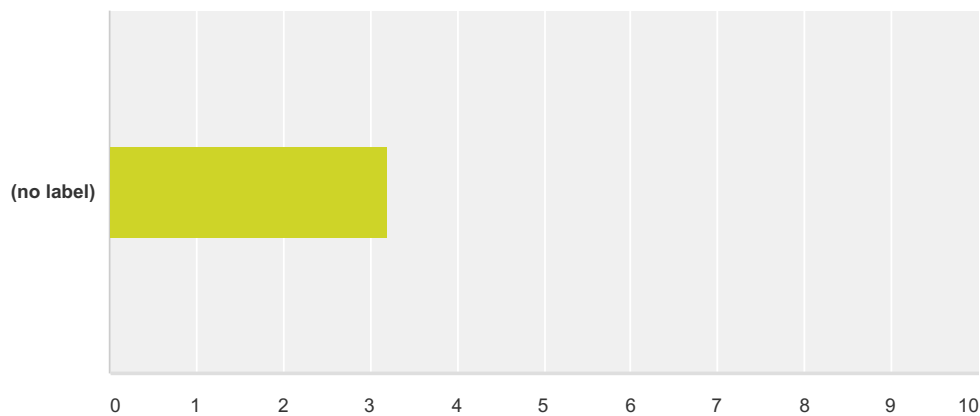
Answered: 56 Skipped: 1



	1Least Important	2	3	4	5Most Important	Total	Weighted Average
(no label)	42.86% 24	12.50% 7	14.29% 8	17.86% 10	12.50% 7	56	2.45

### Q8 Are including bike lanes along the corridor a priority?

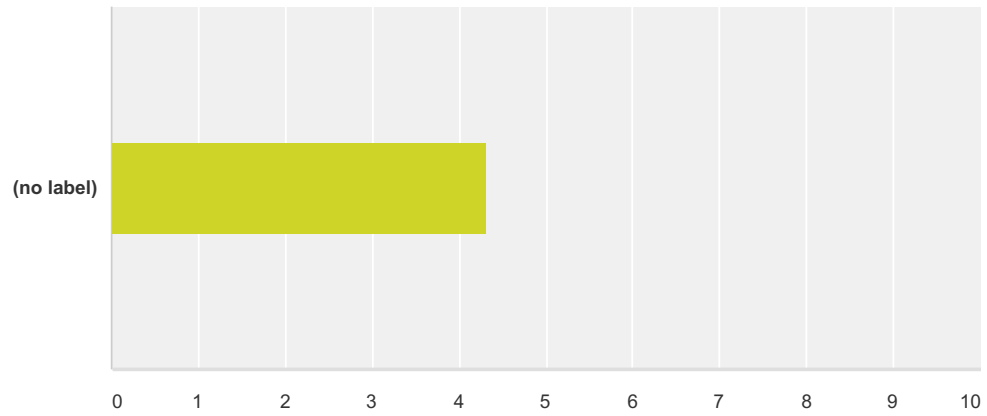
Answered: 54 Skipped: 3



	1Least Important	2	3	4	5Most Important	Total	Weighted Average
(no label)	11.11% 6	20.37% 11	27.78% 15	20.37% 11	20.37% 11	54	3.19

### Q9 Are landscape improvements along the corridor a priority?

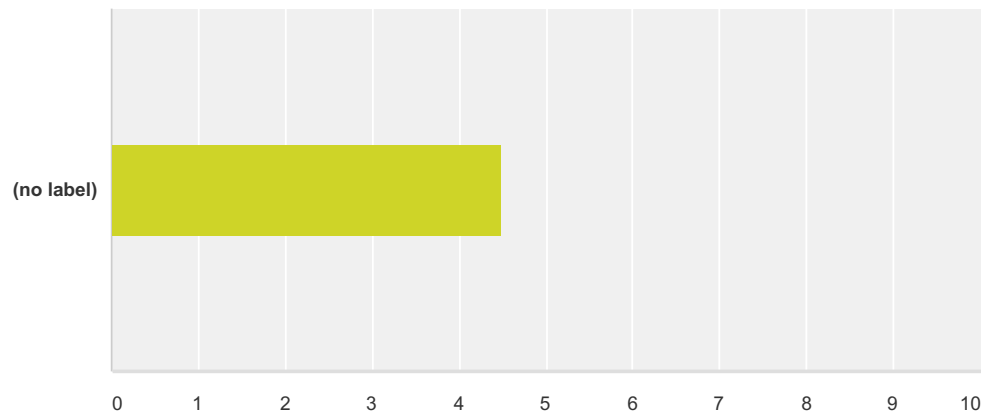
Answered: 56 Skipped: 1



	1Not A Priority	2	3	4	5A Priority	Total	Weighted Average
(no label)	0.00% 0	5.36% 3	14.29% 8	23.21% 13	57.14% 32	56	4.32

### Q10 Are overall aesthetics important along the corridor?

Answered: 57 Skipped: 0



	1Not Important	2	3	4	5 Important	Total	Weighted Average
(no label)	1.75% 1	1.75% 1	10.53% 6	17.54% 10	68.42% 39	57	4.49

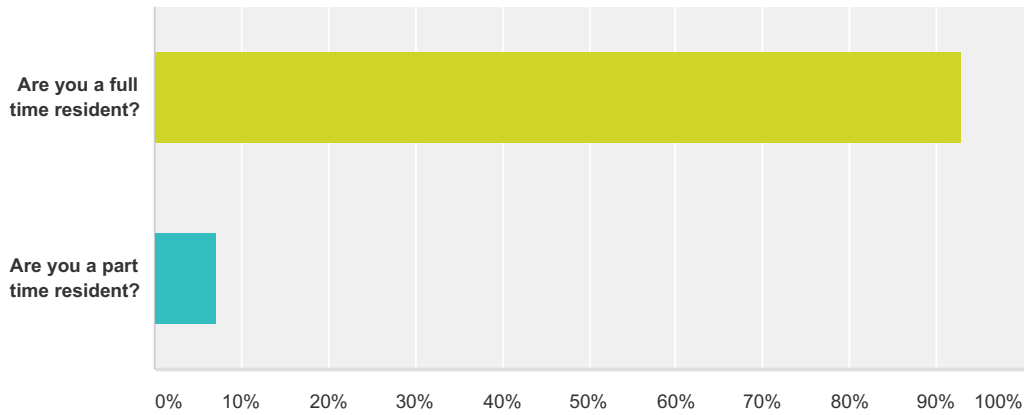


**Q11 Is there anything else that you would like to comment on?**

Answered: 31 Skipped: 26

### Q12 Demographics

Answered: 57 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Are you a full time resident?	92.98% 53
Are you a part time resident?	7.02% 4
<b>Total Respondents: 57</b>	

**Q11: Is there anything else that you would like to comment on?**

Auto traffic often travels too fast for a neighborhood. There is quite a bit of bike traffic that needs to be separated from auto traffic. Sidewalks appear to be adequate.

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**Q12: Demographics**

Are you a full time resident? ,

Which homeowners association do you belong too?

Las Olas Isles Homeowners' Association

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**Q11: Is there anything else that you would like to comment on?**

Flooding and vehicle traffic are huge and growing problems that require significant and drastic measures to solve. Most urgent to plan now and put into action ASAP.

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**Q12: Demographics**

Are you a full time resident? ,

Which homeowners association do you belong too?

Las Olas Isles HOA

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**Q11: Is there anything else that you would like to comment on?**

The street itself is in really bad condition, due to the constant large equipment on the street and also on the streets off Las Olas. Most of us drive luxury cars and the streets contribute to the deterioration and maint problems to our autos. Need street repaved and LIMITING large trucks on Las Olas.

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**Q12: Demographics**

Are you a part time resident? ,

Which homeowners association do you belong too?  
LAIHOA

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**Q11: Is there anything else that you would like to comment on?**

Drainage solution is critical due to tides. Increasing the height of the North side lanes presents a problem to South lanes. Further there is a need for a visually pleasing corridor.

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**Q12: Demographics**

Are you a full time resident? ,

Which homeowners association do you belong too?

LOIHA

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**Q11: Is there anything else that you would like to comment on?**

Sounds like you want to close auto traffic lanes and put in bicycle lanes(used by very few in population). You will do anything to make traffic worst in favor of mass transit. SEE I-95 and other areas A1A.

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**Q12: Demographics**

Are you a full time resident?

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**Q11: Is there anything else that you would like to comment on?**

Cleanliness is a big issue on las Olas and the homes on the side of the street . We need to provide more garbage containers everywhere.

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**Q12: Demographics**

Are you a full time resident? ,

Which homeowners association do you belong too?

LOHIA

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**Q11: Is there anything else that you would like to comment on?**

My name is Dr. George Galluzzo and I live at 325 Isle of Capri and have the lot where Mola and Capri split. I had king tide issues and the only way I could successfully fix this was to fill the lot so the grass was well above the waterline. As I run las olas every day and see the trash floating in , the wasted sod that will be dead fro the salt water I think how simple it would be to raise the grass to the level of the cap of the seawall and landscape. There is no othe way to keep water out and if you dont believe me drive by my lot, Its always dry w landscape that survives

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**Q12: Demographics**

Are you a full time resident? ,

Which homeowners association do you belong too?  
LOHOAI

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**Q11: Is there anything else that you would like to comment on?**

More shade trees would be nice. We get a lot of pedestrian traffic from the cruise lines, and the heat is unbearable in the summer months especially for people unaccustomed to South FI weather.

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**Q12: Demographics**

Are you a full time resident? ,

Which homeowners association do you belong too?

loiha

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**Q11: Is there anything else that you would like to comment on?**

I live at 300 Isle of Palms Drive on the corner of Las Olas and Isle of Palms. I don't want speed bumps but I would like to see our police crack down on the cars that race down Las Olas on motorcycles and exotic cars. In addition, at the corner of Las Olas and Royal Plaza Drive, there is a city owned wall that is broken down and in very poor repair. The trees and bushes in that area are impeding on the new house that was built there. These issues should be addressed so that this (2 year unsold) new home has a chance of selling. If work is going to take place to enhance Las Olas I hope it will be done in a way that will not create yet another major construction grid-lock situation for the residents. We have been dealing with many traffic delays for years due to the Las Olas Intercostal Bridge repairs as well as the isle bridges nearing completion. Thanks, Chris Gleason

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**Q12: Demographics**

Are you a full time resident? ,

Which homeowners association do you belong too?  
Las Olas Isles Homeowners Association

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**Q11: Is there anything else that you would like to comment on?**

since this is a walkable community and we embrace healthy living, making Las Olas Blvd safer for pedestrian and bicycle traffic is a top priority

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**Q12: Demographics**

Are you a full time resident? ,

Which homeowners association do you belong too?

Reflections of Las Olas

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**Q11: Is there anything else that you would like to comment on?**

Las Olas Boulevard is the gateway to and from the beach and the business district. The importance of the aesthetics and visual impact of the corridor cannot be overstated. Consideration should be given to decorative themed street signage and signalization, replacement of the existing street lighting fixtures( the current ones are deteriorating due to being made partially of cast aluminum which is corroding in the salt air environment. Also they don't make much of a visual statement)with substantial cast iron or high grade aircraft quality aluminum street light fixtures(perhaps the city saved the cast iron ones they removed from A1A that could be repurposed on Las Olas. Although they may rust and need repainting they will last hundreds of years), visually impressive mature landscaping( consider replacing the Royal Palms in the medians with mature canary island date palms and relocate the existing royal palms to the swales. The coconut palms could be relocated to the beach), the remaining landscaping should be native and compliment larger statement landscaping. Understory plants such as coontie and saw palmetto and flowering plants that are low on maintenance. Groupings of cabbage palms with naturally curvy trunks could be considered as well in the Swales.

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**Q12: Demographics**

Are you a full time resident? ,

Which homeowners association do you belong too?  
LOIHA

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**Q11: Is there anything else that you would like to comment on?**

since the design of the new bridges block the vision of pedestrians and cyclists for those on cars (not SUV's or trucks), what is the plan to fix that problem

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**Q12: Demographics**

Are you a full time resident? ,

Which homeowners association do you belong too?

LOIHA

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**Q11: Is there anything else that you would like to comment on?**

When the stoplight(traffic light) was installed on Coral Way, it was wonderful for the traffic especially in season. The middle landscape areas are so important for us to get onto our streets. I would love to see a stoplight(traffic light) put back up.

The sidewalks for the bikers, walkers, and runners are very tight over the small bridge near 15th but I don't know if anything can be done about that.

We love living off Las Olas and are all for making it attractive and safe. With the many new hotels on the beach, the traffic will become very heavy and we need safe sidewalks and safe driving.

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**Q12: Demographics**

Are you a full time resident? ,

Which homeowners association do you belong too?

No association in our area

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**Q11: Is there anything else that you would like to comment on?**

The heads of our streets have been flooding for 40 years. Blaming the flooding on climate change is just not the case however convenient for the politicians. The LOIHOA has the letters to prove flooding for 40 years. Don't believe the city's lies.

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**Q12: Demographics**

Are you a full time resident? ,

Which homeowners association do you belong too?  
LOIHOA

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**Q11: Is there anything else that you would like to comment on?**

The flooding at the top of San Marco is so bad that I can not go walking off our street during high tides which is much more frequent.

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**Q12: Demographics**

Are you a full time resident? ,

Which homeowners association do you belong too?

LOIHA

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**Q11: Is there anything else that you would like to comment on?**

City should keep side walks clean, maintain landscape regularly, regular clearing canal basins against seawall of trash and waste.

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**Q12: Demographics**

Are you a full time resident? ,

Which homeowners association do you belong too?

LOIHA

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**Q11: Is there anything else that you would like to comment on?**

I would be in favor of traffic calming DEPENDING on what the traffic calming entailed. Some traffic signals - yes.  
Speed bumps or other obstructions - no.

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**Q12: Demographics**

Are you a full time resident? ,

Which homeowners association do you belong too?

Las Olas Isles Homeowners Association

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**Q11: Is there anything else that you would like to comment on?**

Make the look of the north and south sides of Las Olas match. Why has the north side had even trimmed hedges and the south side looks like a swamp in many places? Please landscape the south side so it looks manicured and semetrical with the north side.

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**Q12: Demographics**

Are you a full time resident? ,

Which homeowners association do you belong too?  
LOHIA

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