

**TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA
TOWN COMMISSION
WORKSHOP MEETING
Jarvis Hall
4505 Ocean Drive
Monday, December 8, 2014
7:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Scot Sasser called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Vice Mayor Chris Vincent, Commissioner Mark Brown, Commissioner Stuart Dodd, Commissioner Elliot Sokolow, Town Manager Connie Hoffmann, Assistant Town Manager Bud Bentley, Town Planner/Assistant Development Services Director Linda Connors, and Town Clerk Tedra Smith.

2. PRESENTATION – FDOT Schematic Design Options based on Public Input from the November 6 El Mar Greenway Workshop

FDOT and the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) are working to develop a continuous Greenway throughout Broward County. The El Mar Drive Greenway will be part of this network. Jennifer Fierman of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) explained that her team has worked for several months to develop Greenway schematics for El Mar Drive. A public workshop was held on November 6, 2014, at which they presented typical section options for El Mar Drive's main design elements, including lanes, sidewalks, medians, drainage, lighting, and utilities.

Ms. Fierman reviewed the options presented at the November 6 workshop, which included multi-use lanes, a greenway adjacent to the median, and a Greenway through the median. Based on public feedback, the team had concluded that the Greenway should run down the center of the median and would not be carried into the Downtown section of the roadway. She showed pictures of Greenways throughout the country that follow a similar design for illustrative purposes.

The team has continued to work with Town Staff and the Town Engineer to address specific issues for the Greenway, including drainage requirements, sidewalk width as it relates to engineering standards for back-out parking, and pedestrian-scale lighting. Ms. Fierman showed three schematics of Greenway alternatives, which showed what the Greenway might look like if its median remained the same width and featured a shared path in its center; if the inside lanes were converted to multi-use lanes; and an alternative that would apply only to the first half of the block at the north and south of El Mar Drive, reducing the roadway to one lane in that half-block area.

Ms. Fierman encouraged all present to visit different stations where the Greenway schematics were located, ask questions, and offer their comments and input. She concluded that her team would continue to work with Town Staff throughout the month of December to develop a typical section of the Greenway, which will be presented to the Town Commission in January 2015.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

After all present had visited stations with the renderings of the proposed Greenway, the meeting reconvened for public comment.

Sharon Romano, resident, asked if the El Mar Drive Greenway would belong to the Town, or if the State and/or Broward County entities would assume responsibility for its maintenance. She expressed concern that the State and County would be able to modify its design and purpose in the future without consulting the Town.

Ms. Romano recalled that at the previous public meeting to discuss the Greenway, residents had requested that a new traffic study be done for El Mar Drive during the Town's peak season. She pointed out that hotels on the north and south ends of this roadway were currently being redeveloped, with hotel entrance traffic reoriented to El Mar Drive, and advised that this should be estimated and included as part of the upcoming traffic study.

Ms. Fierman replied that the Greenway would belong to the Town. The project is a partnership between the Town, State and local agencies, and the MPO. The partnership is intended to fund projects that municipalities would not be able to fund on their own.

Ms. Fierman provided an overview of the public input phase, noting the following:

- The multi-use lane appears to be a popular alternative, although it will need to be determined whether the uses are primarily pedestrian, automotive, or parking;
- The concept of widening the median to create a park-like atmosphere on the north and south ends of El Mar Drive received very positive feedback;
- Each schematic also received some negative feedback related to separation and pedestrian safety; however, so did the roadway as it currently exists;
- The schematic of maintaining the status quo on traffic lanes but running the Greenway down the median had the most mediocre reception.

4. COMMISSION DISCUSSION

The Commissioners discussed the presentation, with Commissioner Brown noting that the meetings still currently focus on the conceptual design of the Greenway. More public meetings are planned to discuss both infrastructure and appearance.

Commissioner Sokolow pointed out that the proposed median Greenway is intended to meander, which could mean the space on either side of the walkway may be wider and

smaller in places. Ms. Fierman confirmed that this was the case, with amenities such as benches and trees included in some areas, depending upon width. She advised that these will be reflected in future renderings.

Mayor Sasser observed that some pedestrians currently walk in the street itself perhaps because they feel the asphalt is a more comfortable surface to walk on than the concrete sidewalk. He suggested that the pedestrian path be made of asphalt to encourage walkers.

Commissioner Dodd agreed that the pedestrian path should be of a softer surface. He spoke in favor of having the El Mar Greenway meander in order to include more green space, even if this meant reducing the roadway to one lane in some areas. He was also in favor of a reduced speed limit on this roadway in order to make it more compatible with pedestrian activity.

Commissioner Brown added that the best available technology should be used to replace the existing drainage infrastructure, in order to take sea level rise and climate change into account.

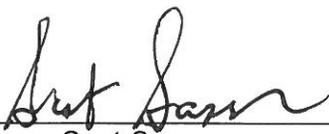
Town Manager Hoffmann advised that the developers working on hotels to the north and south of El Mar Drive have expressed interest in the concept of widening the median at the ends of the street, and feel this is an excellent idea if it can be achieved.

Ms. Fierman stated that the team will take tonight's feedback into consideration and put together a conceptual typical section, which will be presented to the Town Commission in January 2015 for a vote. If the section is approved, they will proceed with infrastructure and funding plans. It was decided that this presentation will be made at the Commission's first regular meeting in the New Year, including both a typical section and an overview of the Greenway.

Cristie Furth, resident, asked if the planned sidewalks would be wider than 5 ft. and might be colored to match other sidewalks on El Mar Drive. Ms. Fierman replied that there are constraints related to lighting on sidewalks due to space limitations. She was not certain thus far that the sidewalks could be either new or colored, as this would ultimately be determined by cost constraints. The asphalt swale will be replaced to install new drainage.

5. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.



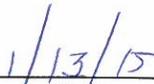
Mayor Scot Sasser

Lauderdale-By-The-Sea
Public Workshop Meeting
December 8, 2014

ATTEST:



Town Clerk Tedra Smith



Date

