

**TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA
TOWN COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Jarvis Hall
4505 Ocean Drive
Tuesday, January 12, 2021
6:30 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Chris Vincent called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Also present were Vice Mayor Alfred “Buz” Oldaker, Commissioner Edmund Malkoon, Commissioner Elliot Sokolow, Commissioner Randy Strauss, Interim Town Manager/Development Services Director Linda Connors, Assistant to the Town Manager Neysa Herrera, Town Attorney Susan Trevarthen, Finance Director Lucila Lang, Municipal Services Director Ken Rubach, Town Engineer Jay Flynn, HR Manager Lisa Slagle, Public Information Officer/IT Administrator Steve d’Oliveira, and Town Clerk Tedra Allen.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

3. INVOCATION

Rabbi Benzion Singer gave the Invocation.

4. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, DEFERRALS OF AGENDA ITEMS

Interim Town Manager/Development Services Director Linda Connors advised that Item 8a, the Town Manager Report, would be postponed until the next Commission meeting due to time constraints.

Mayor Vincent advised that the Commission held a special meeting on Friday, January 8, 2021, at which the previous Town Manager’s contract was terminated. He thanked Interim Town Manager/Development Services Director Connors for her efforts to provide a smooth transition until a new Town Manager is hired.

5. PRESENTATIONS

None.

The following Items were taken out of order on the Agenda.

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6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Vincent advised that both written and video public comments on Item 12a submitted in advance of tonight's meeting would be limited to three minutes in the interests of time and fairness. Public comments submitted which address Item 12a would be read following the presentation on that Item.

At this time Mayor Vincent opened public comment.

Town Clerk Tedra Allen read the following public comment:

- Michael Ferrara, resident, congratulated the Commission on the recent demolition of the former Holiday Inn structure; he asked if there are plans to beautify the area around the Hibiscus Portal

With no other individuals wishing to speak at this time, Mayor Vincent closed public comment.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY DISCUSSION

a. AMR November & December 2020 Report (Chief Brooke Liddle, AMR)

Vice Mayor Oldaker made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Malkoon, to approve the report. Motion carried 5-0.

8. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

a. Town Manager Report (Neysa Herrera, Assistant to the Town Manager)

This Item was deferred to the January 26, 2021 meeting.

9. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT

None.

10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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a. December 8, 2020 Town Commission Meeting Minutes (Tedra Allen, Town Clerk)

Vice Mayor Oldaker made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Malkoon, to approve. Motion carried 5-0.

11. CONSENT AGENDA

None.

12. OLD BUSINESS

a. El Mar Design (Linda Connors, Interim Town Manager / Development Services Director)

Interim Town Manager/Development Services Director Connors clarified that the Town is not proposing removal of the median from El Mar Drive. It is moving forward with this project because meetings were held in fiscal years (FY) 2014 and 2016 regarding the condition of this roadway. The community has made it clear that they want lighting, sidewalk, and drainage improvements to El Mar Drive. She emphasized that any decision made at tonight's meeting will not result in immediate action upon the project.

The decision before the Commission tonight is approval of a typical design, which would give consultants EDSA the ability to move forward with a clear understanding of what that design would look like from Pine Avenue to Palm Avenue. If approval is granted, EDSA will bring back a more specific design for the Commission's review at the end of March 2021. This time frame will allow for seasonal residents to provide input. The earliest date at which construction might begin is no earlier than April 2022.

At this time Mayor Vincent opened public comment on Item 12a.

Seasonal resident, spoke in favor of maintaining current median plantings. She did not favor a standard design.

Larry Behar, resident, felt the plans provided by EDSA took the community's interests into consideration, and recommended their approval.

Byron Lavan, resident, stated that he favored no changes to El Mar Drive except improvements to the sidewalks and drainage.

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John Helmer, resident, suggested that only the sidewalks and swales on El Mar Drive be improved.

Sam Caruso, resident, suggested that many residents do not perceive a number of the roadway's existing conditions as problematic, which contributed to their opposition to the plans.

Charles Shaman, resident, did not believe the sidewalks or drainage on El Mar Drive were in need of significant repairs.

Caral Ann Sharkey, resident, supported Plan 1, as it increases green space and provides wider sidewalks; she recommended adding a botanical garden at the Town's southern gateway.

Cristie Furth, resident, opposed EDSA's plans for El Mar Drive, and recommended postponing the project until Staff and residents can work together.

Wes Shelton, resident, spoke in favor of Plan 1 submitted by EDSA, which proposes improvements and amenities for pedestrians, cyclists, residents, and visitors.

Pat Krumanacker, resident, noted that the existing sidewalk is in need of repair and better lighting, but felt there were no documented safety issues.

Kelly Byron, resident, recommended against changes to El Mar Drive in order to preserve the Town's small-town charm.

Ted Taft, representing the board of directors of the Leisure Mar Condominium, emphasized the need to maintain the Town's small-town atmosphere.

Nick Boar, resident, asked the Commission to make no significant changes to El Mar Drive.

Paul Novak, resident, recommended retaining two lanes of vehicular traffic and a center median, 8 ft. sidewalks, and lighting improvements.

Nancy Demko, resident, was not in favor of increased parking or changes to the El Mar Drive median and recommended retention of green space.

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Tom Lutzy, resident, was not in favor of pull-outs for delivery vehicles.

Jeff Yocom, resident, requested that the El Mar Drive project be kept simple, focusing on sidewalk repairs and preventing speeding.

Stuart Dodd, resident, recommended improvements only to drainage, lighting, safety, and swales on El Mar Drive.

Barbara Cole, resident, felt the proposed changes to El Mar Drive would run counter to the Town's mission statement, policies, and branding.

Alex Fenech, representing EDSA, showed a PowerPoint presentation on the El Mar Drive project. Existing conditions of the roadway include an 8 ft. right-of-way, a sidewalk approximately 5 ft. wide, 25 ft. of driving lanes and buffers, and a 20 ft. median. At a certain point, drainage/lighting improvements and sidewalk mediation can trigger the need for a Code-compliant design. The industry standard for this trigger is improvement of 50% of a facility: for example, if 50% of the sidewalks are improved, the entire sidewalk must be made Code-compliant.

Mr. Fenech pointed out that if the Town wishes to maintain the same character of the roadway, with two lanes, a median, and a perimeter sidewalk, the requirement for Code compliance would trigger a specific type of design. He strongly emphasized that this design is not proposed for El Mar Drive. At present, the roadway does not meet Broward County development requirements, which include wider sidewalks and a clear zone separating traffic lanes from pedestrian circulation.

The dimensional layout of the project is based on a combination of Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Broward County, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Code standards. Mr. Fenech pointed out that no clear zone currently exists: the implementation of this component presents a dimensional challenge. FDOT requires a 6 ft. clear zone, which provides a minimum of 6 ft. of separation between vehicular traffic lanes and pedestrian circulation. This component must be implemented into any modification of El Mar Drive as a safety standard.

The El Mar Drive project was discussed by the City Commission in 2014 to address deteriorating sidewalks, lighting, and drainage. Mr. Fenech advised that the following safety and infrastructure concerns have been identified:

- Catch basins below the road surface, which can create tripping hazards for pedestrians

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- Deteriorating sidewalks and adjacent asphalt, which contribute to hazardous walking conditions
- Proximity of signage to traffic lanes
- “Alligator cracking” of asphalt, which deteriorates the roadway surface
- Encroachment of utility poles on the eastern 5 ft. sidewalk
- Deterioration of curbs
- Drainage impeded by poor grading along the median and other areas
- Unsafe conditions created by poor lighting

Mr. Fenech noted that while EDSA is mindful of the public comments regarding pull-out areas for delivery vehicles, a survey of businesses, hoteliers, and condominiums along El Mar Drive raised this issue as a concern. He encouraged continued discussions to refine how stacking issues on El Mar Drive might be alleviated. In addition, drainage issues, including standing water, are apparent on El Mar Drive after even a light rain.

Mr. Fenech recalled that EDSA presented three design concepts to the Town’s residents, businesses, and Commission, identifying Option 1 as their preferred design. This option would expand the median from 20 ft. to 22 ft. and represent a 9% increase in green space from Palm Avenue to Pine Avenue. The use of pull-outs for service vehicles in this option is still to be determined.

Option 2 is similar to Option 1, but includes a service lane. Option 3 was developed in response to the community’s desire to keep two lanes of traffic. This option was not recommended by EDSA. Mr. Fenech continued that banners were printed in September 2020 and a survey was conducted, which showed significant support for Option 1.

Mr. Fenech briefly reviewed the details of Option 1, which would expand the sidewalks to 9 ft. in width. It also considers the possibility of a bike or multi-use lane of roughly 4 ft. and would include a 2 ft. valley gutter to provide a clear zone of 6 ft. Traffic lanes would remain 12 ft. in width, which would allow for circulation around a stalled or emergency vehicle. The median would increase to 22 ft.

In Option 2, the sidewalk width would remain the same and the multi-use lane would expand to 8 rather than 4 ft. and include the clear zone. Travel lanes would be reduced from 12 to 10 ft., with a slight reduction in the median width. Option 3 would reduce the median by 60% or more and would include a bike lane and clear zone.

The construction timeline for the proposed project would be as follows:

- Upon design selection, EDSA returns with a more detailed design in March 2021

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- Construction would begin in April 2022

If necessary, construction could be postponed for up to one year in order to align this phase with the season. EDSA would work closely with the Town and the selected contractor to minimize the impact of construction on residents, businesses, and visitors. Mr. Fenech concluded that EDSA's recommendation is Option 1, and emphasized that this is only a concept: the design team would continue to study it and provide more detail.

Commissioner Strauss reiterated that Option 1 would actually increase the El Mar Drive median by 9% rather than decrease it. He added that moving forward with a design concept at this time would not rush the project into construction, and there is sufficient time to review details more closely and make changes if necessary.

Commissioner Sokolow requested further clarification of what removal of the 19 proposed service vehicle pull-outs would mean. Mr. Fenech explained that EDSA's concern is without regulation, these vehicles could block the bike lane and/or sidewalk, creating a hazard for pedestrians as well as other vehicles backing out of parking spaces. At present, most of these vehicles park against the median in the second lane.

Vice Mayor Oldaker was not certain that delivery vehicles would require the accommodation of a number of pull-out spaces. He suggested that the community may not yet have a clear understanding of the proposed project.

Mr. Fenech advised that there are three key aspects to the project:

- Sidewalk improvements
- Drainage improvements
- Addition of lighting

He reiterated that the work necessary to accomplish any one of these three goals would trigger the requirement for Code compliance, which would not permit the roadway's current dimensional profile to be retained.

Commissioner Malkoon asked if the standards to which Mr. Fenech had referred were best practices or true Code requirements. Town Engineer Jay Flynn confirmed that these are legal requirements, noting that if improvements do not meet these standards, the Town could be exposed to liability.

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Commissioner Sokolow commented that the individuals advocating for an “option 4” which would make only drainage, sidewalk, and lighting improvements may not fully understand that these changes alone would be sufficient to trigger a Code upgrade. Mayor Vincent pointed out that there is no requirement at this time for the Town to make any improvements at all, which is also an option.

At this time Mayor Vincent reopened public comment. Written public comments were read by Town Clerk Allen, Finance Director Lucila Lang, and HR Manager Lisa Slagle.

Kevin Mahoney, resident, opposed the three proposed designs for El Mar Drive, which he felt did not address the issues raised by residents during the public input process.

Linda Aaronowitz, resident, asked that no changes be made to El Mar Drive.

Suzanne Maurice, resident, expressed concern with the proposed designs for El Mar Drive and asked that no changes be made.

Harry and Patricia Neal, residents, requested that no changes be made to El Mar Drive except basic maintenance.

Leslie and Judith Cole, residents, requested that no significant changes be made to El Mar Drive.

Renee Oneal, resident, asked that no changes be made to El Mar Drive.

Constantine Xanthos, resident, asked that no changes be made to El Mar Drive other than sidewalk repairs.

Jim Mendillo, resident, asked that no changes be made to El Mar Drive.

Sean Scott, resident, asked that no changes be made to El Mar Drive.

Robert and Peggy McHale, residents, felt no changes should be made to El Mar Drive except sidewalk repairs and installation of additional lighting.

John Walsh, resident, asked that no changes be made to El Mar Drive other than necessary repairs/improvements.

Steve and Debbie Hartley, residents, felt no changes should be made to El Mar Drive.

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Tim Spesick, resident, expressed concern with the proposed changes to delivery truck parking on El Mar Drive, and recommended that trucks be parked on the same side of the road as the delivery location.

Shelley Kirchner, resident, requested that no changes except necessary improvements be made to El Mar Drive.

Irena Xanthos, resident, asked that no changes be made to the median or traffic flow on El Mar Drive.

Susan Walker, resident, expressed concern with parking on El Mar Drive if changes are made to the traffic lanes. She was in favor of sidewalk and lighting improvements only.

Cynthia and Raymond Mattia, residents, was not in favor of changes to El Mar Drive other than sidewalk repairs, turtle-friendly lighting, and drainage improvements.

Sharlene [last name not provided], resident, did not want changes made to El Mar Drive.

Raymond Robin, resident, opposed any changes to El Mar Drive.

Cathy Menniti, resident, asked that El Mar Drive be left "as is."

Marissa Greenberg, resident, stated a preference for no or very few changes to the roadway.

Bengt and Monalisa Pettersson, residents, asked that only required regular maintenance be performed on El Mar Drive.

Bill and Mary Davis, residents, opposed any reduction to the El Mar Drive greenway or removal of trees or shrubs.

Chiefswife@728@comcast.net, requested that no changes be made to El Mar Drive.

John Capitumini, resident, requested that the El Mar Drive median be left as is.

At this time the Commission and speakers took a brief recess and reconvened at 9 p.m.

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Christina Archila, resident, opposed any changes to El Mar Drive and saw no issue with the current practice for service vehicles.

Don Troutman, resident, was not in favor of changes to El Mar Drive.

Sally Musser, resident, requested that no changes be made to El Mar Drive or its median, and asked if the public could see the projected costs of the proposed options.

Victoria Weidenthaler, resident, did not feel the proposed options for El Mar Drive met residents' needs. She recommended that pavement repairs and undergrounding of utilities be prioritized as improvements.

Jeff Creary requested that no changes be made to El Mar Drive.

Richard Mueller, resident, stated that he supported no changes El Mar Drive.

Jamie Leblanc, resident, opposed changes to El Mar Drive other than repairs to sidewalks.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Tjarksen advised they were not supportive of any changes to the El Mar Drive median.

Lynn, resident, was not in favor of changes to El Mar Drive.

Paul Clifford, resident, recommended that no changes be made to El Mar Drive.

Alena Alberani, resident, opposed parking spaces for service vehicles on El Mar Drive.

Kevin Kelleher, resident, asked that Staff and the Commission be permitted to move forward with what is best for the Town, even if it is not what many individuals want.

Hanna Hempstead, resident, felt El Mar Drive should remain as is.

Lois Schmatz, resident, asked that no changes be made to El Mar Drive except "what needs to be fixed."

Stephen Courtney, resident, objected to any changes that might impair the safety of El Mar Drive.

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Dean Hively, resident of Sea Ranch Lakes, opposed any changes to El Mar Drive or its median.

Roger Lucas, resident, asked that no changes be made to El Mar Drive other than repairs.

Comment forwarded by Alex Fenech resident, asked that damaged sidewalks on El Mar Drive be repaired and that the roadway be made one lane in each direction.

Darren Smith, resident, spoke in favor of no major changes.

Jim Van Damme, resident, felt the multi-use character of El Mar Drive should not be changed.

mosull8235@aol.com requested that only repairs be made to El Mar Drive.

Debra Marten, resident, did not want changes made to El Mar Drive.

Bob and Sheri Kimball, resident, wanted no major changes to El Mar Drive.

Becky Weist, resident, recommended no changes to El Mar Drive.

Chris Dietrich, Sr., resident, opposed changes to El Mar Drive.

Shelley Hagerty-Rahn, resident, felt no changes other than repairs should be made to El Mar Drive, and described the roadway as sufficiently safe already.

Marie Briggs, resident, requested that El Mar Drive remain two lanes in each direction and was in favor of necessary upgrades to the sidewalk, and opposed other changes.

With no other individuals wishing to speak at this time, Mayor Vincent closed public comment.

The Commissioners discussed the presentation and public response, with Vice Mayor Oldaker recommending more public outreach by both the Town and EDSA. He pointed out that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic prevents any action on the proposed project in the near future. He felt the issue should be postponed and revisited after the 2021-2022 budget process is complete.

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Commissioner Malkoon recalled that the Town had opted to undertake the proposed El Mar Drive project itself rather than partnering with the Broward MPO, as the Town has a successful record of implementing roadway projects of this nature. He also suggested that the project be postponed until after the Town's budget process is complete and an open forum or workshop meeting can be scheduled to meet with the public. He was not in favor of moving forward with any option at this time.

Commissioner Sokolow observed that some members of the community may have been misinformed by individuals acting as "activists" with regard to the proposed plans, who have cast aspersions on both the Town Commission and the design team. He emphasized that tonight's presentation, like previous presentations, have clarified that there are no plans to remove or reduce the median or make other drastic changes.

Commissioner Sokolow continued that the existing state of the sidewalks, road, and swales on El Mar Drive constitute hazards. He was in favor of proceeding with EDSA's recommended design, Option 1, rather than postponing the project further. He reiterated that individuals fearing changes to the median have been misled, and strongly emphasized the need to move past this misinformation.

Commissioner Strauss noted that while most public comment focused on the preservation of green space and was not in favor of significant design change, individuals also expressed support for sidewalk repairs and improved lighting and drainage. He pointed out that these improvements are the primary intent of the El Mar Drive project, and noted once again that construction would not begin for over one year.

Vice Mayor Oldaker noted that while all three plans proposed by EDSA include lighting, drainage, and sidewalk improvements, they also include changes to traffic and bicycle lanes. He again recommended that this choice be postponed until it can be ensured that the public better understands what is proposed in the designs.

Mayor Vincent recalled that the project was first proposed in 2014 with the intent of making repairs to sidewalks, drainage, and lighting. Since that time, it has continued to evolve to include other changes as well. He felt the majority of public comments at tonight's meeting showed that the public does not fully understand the project. For this reason, he was not in favor of moving the project forward, particularly during a time when the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic affects residents, businesses, and the Commission. He felt Staff's attention is better focused on recovery efforts at this time.

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Commissioner Sokolow made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Strauss, to proceed with starting further design of Option 1. Motion failed 2-3 (Mayor Vincent, Vice Mayor Oldaker, and Commissioner Malkoon dissenting).

Vice Mayor Oldaker made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Malkoon, to reconsider this [Item] at the first meeting in October for discussion, with the design team to continue public outreach. Motion carried 5-0.

13. NEW BUSINESS

None.

14. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Strauss urged the public to remain safe and wear masks.

15. ORDINANCES 1ST READING

None.

16. ORDINANCES 2ND READING

None.

17. RESOLUTIONS – PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. Resolution 2021-02 – A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA, FLORIDA, APPROVING A GRANT AGREEMENT FOR THE FUNDING OF \$19,233.00 THROUGH THE BROWARD COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 / 2021 FOR THE SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES PROGRAM; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE TOWN OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE THE GRANT AGREEMENT; AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF TOWN FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$64,367.00 TO COVER THE REMAINING COSTS OF THE PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT, SEVERABILITY, AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE (Lucila Lang, Finance Director)**

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At this time Mayor Vincent opened public comment, which he closed upon receiving no comment.

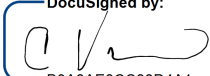
Commissioner Malkoon made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Oldaker, to approve. Motion carried 5-0.

18. QUASI JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARING

None.

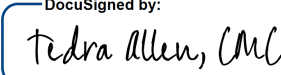
19. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to come before the Commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

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Mayor Chris Vincent

ATTEST:

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Town Clerk Tedra Allen

1/27/2021

Date

Town Commission Meeting
January 12, 2021
Public Comments

1.) Luis and Ana da Costa, resident (126 words)

Taking into account the opportunity that you gave for the LBTS residents to send comments about the El Mar Drive Streetscape Project, please consider the following:

Taking advantage of this repair, we suggest the removal of all the huge electrical poles and the electrical cables going underground, like already done in the El Prado Park area.

We presume this would bring a certain economy to the allocated funds to spend in one of the actual three project proposals.

There are innumerable streets in our beautiful city with very poor nightlights.

Maybe the eventual savings with less expensive works in El Mar Drive could help to improve this or other proposals from other residents.

We thank you for all your work and dedication to our fantastic city.

2.) Bill Smith, resident (273 words)

My name is William Smith and I live at 4445 El Mar Drive. I have been coming to LBTS and spending most of the winter here for over 10 years.

I am quite concerned to the different proposals as none of them seem appropriate and will negatively impact the best feature of this residential road (the median). I previously chose one of the options in the surveys presented but should have commented that none would be my choice.

The traffic density on el mar drive is so low that the need for more asphalt is not justified. The existing 2 lanes work fine as they exist for both vehicular and bike traffic. That also includes the need for vendor parking.

The highest use by far is pedestrian traffic. The need to improve, repair, replace significant areas of the sidewalks and related drainage swale would be a welcome improvement. Landscape enhancement or decorative lighting could be a welcome addition as well.

But adding a dedicated bike lane that causes the need for vendor parking areas is a substantial concession to the aesthetic of El Mar Drive. The existing median is already interrupted numerous time with cross streets, turn arounds, el Prado parking etc. Further Deletion of green space and adding asphalt seems extremely short sighted and significantly and negatively impacts the residential feel for the street.

The premise for the proposed work is improvements to el mar dr. Trading landscaped areas for asphalt is not an improvement. Let's put the emphasis on legitimate areas of need but not try to fix something that's not broken.

Thank you for your review of resident comments.

3.) Dan Darnell, resident (314 words)

I can't know what is in your minds or what you are thinking. I only know what it looks like from the outside. What it looks like is that you are facing a difficult decision and you are looking for the perfect solution (there isn't one) that will please everyone (you can't) or at least will please most of the people (you'll never figure that out because it's a moving target).

You keep delaying the decision, hoping that it will become clear what you should do. I believe each time you delay, each time you try a new poll, you make the problem and decision harder. You have allowed whole movements to form to try to influence you to their POV. These movements and these polls only muddy the waters. None of the polls taken are remotely scientific, no movement truly represents the majority, and no amount of public discussions will result in a perfect ranking of the choices.

Most LBTS residents (any group of people) are easily swayed by whatever they read or hear last.

If decisions are going to be made by polls, what do we need commissioners for? This is a case where you should rise above all the noise of the debate, controversy, and movements you have unintentionally created and do what we elected you to do - be forward thinking leaders.

Put aside what everyone thinks is the right solution and do a serious analysis about the future of LBTS. Consult city planning experts such as you have with EDSA, look at what other small towns are doing, and consider our unique setting. What future do YOU believe LBTS should be moving towards? Be the leaders we elected you to be! Instead of focusing on what works best today, select a plan that best serves the town for the next 20 years and allow that plan to become perfect.

4.) Hannah Gutner (124 words)

Good afternoon,

I would like to submit a public comment for the El Mar Streetscape Project. My name is Hannah Gutner. I live at 1550 NE 43 St Oakland Park, FL and visit LBTS regularly. I am expressing my support for Option 2 on the Streetscape Project, with wider bike lanes.

On that note, while biking to LBTS today I noticed the two large fish shaped bike racks on either corner of El Mar Dr and Commercial were removed. I cannot emphasize enough how disappointing it is to see the opportunity for a more bike friendly part of town presented by COVID reducing street size being ignored. Please reinstall these bike racks and widen the bike lanes on either side of Commercial.

Thank you.

5.) Jose Gonzalez Bello, resident (111 words)

Dear Commissioners and Mayor:

Respectfully, we disagree with the proposed El Mar Project. For us, El Mar Drive is the "lung" of LBTS and also, a sanctuary for thousands of birds who make it their sleeping habitat. We invite you to take a walk along with your children on El Mar Dr. right before dawn and you will experience the most amazing event, thousands of birds waking up and singing at the same time (Mother Nature at its best). This happens in front of the Oriana Condominium.

Please don't destroy our beauty and let's keep all of the green spaces we still have, love our town the way we do

6.) Bill McGarrity, resident (13 words)

I agree with Option 4, fix what needs fixing and keep the median

7.) Paul Myles, resident (151 words)

My family are 50-year residents of Lauderdale By the Sea. As to the El Mar project, do not ignore the obvious. Approx. 650 people responded to the EDSA Design Firm online design poll. That is 10% of the total full time resident population. That clearly means 90% of the full-time residents, just do not care!! Factor the 650-person response compared to full time and winter residents, that is a 7% response. Thus, 93% of the total population just do not care!

Why spend millions if 93% of the people just do not care or have not voiced some need for change to El Mar Drive?

Upgrade the sidewalks for safety reasons. Use the millions saved to upgrade parking around Anglin Square or put the millions in the rainy-day fund for some unknown future emergency need/project. Money spent should be for the benefit of the entire city, not 650 people.

8.) Doreen and William Cameron, residents (332 words)

To LBTS Commissioners

We first visited Florida in 1974 when we drove from our home in Pennsylvania. After visiting Orlando for 3 days, we had no plans for the rest of our 2-week vacation other than to hit the beach, so we simply drove down to Miami and worked our way back northwards. We saw nothing in Miami or Ft. Lauderdale that made us want to stop, then we came across a brand-new Howard Johnsons hotel (now the Plunge)! We loved the rooms where we could walk out onto the beach, the charming little town and its restaurants and even Sea Ranch Mall just across the street. Exceptional! Since then, we have returned with our children, several times, to stay for a few days before cruising. When my daughter's college roommate (who coincidentally lives in Coral Springs) got married, I suggested she use that hotel for her guests, which she did. Lauderdale by the Sea is truly a unique little seaside resort. Little did I know back in 1974, having traveled the world several times, we'd retire here! Congratulations, the town is even better than it was back then! This year I've sorely missed the many many hours we spend at Jarvis Hall on a multitude of activities.

When the survey came out regarding El Mar renovation I puzzled over the options. I don't remember what I picked, but I do remember not feeling great about my choice. Then I happened upon the "Option 4 Group" while taking my daily walk on El Mar where I usually bump into friends. I assumed they were township employees pushing one of the options and was delighted to discover their simple quest, "just fix what needs fixing". How simple and satisfying is that! El Mar, like everything else about LBTS is perfect the way it is, other than a much-needed upgrade of course. I hope you will do just that. Deleting some of the green median for 19 truck parking pull-offs doesn't seem an improvement.

9.) Stuart Kreitzer, resident (162 words)

I'm an LBTS homeowner and a daily user of El Mar for a variety of activities. I run the full length of the street in the morning and walk, bike, or inline skate in the evening.

I love doing these activities close to the beach, however El Mar is in poor shape for any type of exercise -- even walking. Limited and narrow sidewalks force people into the street where they dodge bikes and cars.

The road is particularly unfriendly to tourists walking and biking from hotels to the downtown.

We need wide sidewalks and an adjacent bike path for safety. A single lane for vehicular traffic is not only sufficient but will also serve to calm traffic.

I prefer option #2 of the 9-20-2020 proposal with a 9' sidewalk, 8' bike lane, and 10' traffic lane. The median pull-offs are a great compromise between maintaining a landscaped median and accommodating the many walkers, runners, skaters, and bikers that use El Mar.

10.) Tom & Sue Hawkey, resident (231 words)

Hello,

My husband and I became permanent residents of LBTS five years ago. I have been visiting LBTS for over 40 years and my husband and children for 35 years.

We don't understand why the city came up with the three different proposals for El Mar when there is nothing wrong to begin with. My husband is a quadriplegic in a wheelchair and we walk El Mar all the time with our two dogs. We stopped and looked at the proposals in the parking lot and we were not impressed. We were told that they would be more accessible friendly but until we try it out there is no guaranteeing that. We have been told that the wheelchair would be no problem in public areas before and find out that's not the case. Federal disability requirements have hardly been updated since the ADA was established and therefore have not kept up with custom equipment like my husband has. Thus new is not always better. The town's proposals are going to make walking a nightmare with traffic.

It's a mystery to me why public officials feel the need to change a good thing that works. El Mar is definitely a big part of the charm of LBTS. Tourists tell us that all the time. Please do the maintenance needed and leave it the way it is. We choose plan 4.

Thank you,

11.) Ann Byers (148 words)

Lauderdale by the Sea has a retro-beach flavor that has captivated residents and visitors for generations. Take a moment and read the sentiments carved in the bricks at the Pavilion and you'll see lifetimes of joyful memories shared in this seaside village. Blissful reminders of "mom & pop" & boutique hotel stays, family celebrations, restaurants & shops, the beauty of the ocean... a small town embrace where all are welcome!

While appreciating the improvement concepts put forth to reimagine El Mar Drive, I ask that you consider an additional plan:

Please entertain preserving this beloved drive for generations to come by improving the landscaping, sidewalks and lighting while leaving the median intact. El Mar Drive just needs a bit of TLC, not redevelopment. These enhancements are uncomplicated and would spare unnecessary expense, extensive reconstruction, noise and business disruption.

Help to maintain this small slice of paradise!

Thank you

12.) Maureen Smith, resident (119 words)

Dear Lauderdale by the Sea Town Commissioners,

My husband and I have owned a condominium on El Mar Drive since 2013. We are seasonal residents from the Boston area and had rented in LBTS for several years before our eventual purchase. This town appealed to us for many reasons; one in particular was the pedestrian-friendly design of El Mar Drive. We enjoy the attractive plantings in the well-kept median that runs the length of the street as well as the pet-friendly nature of the area (available dog waste disposal bags and trash bins). We would like to see El Mar Drive remain pedestrian friendly and green. We support Plan #4 - just make sidewalk repairs where needed.

Thank you,

13.) David Peck (98 words)

I'm writing this in response to the proposal of the "renovation" of El Mar Drive. To change the topography of El Mar Drive would be a HUGE injustice! In my opinion to change this iconic street would be the equivalent of paving over Central Park in New York! El Mar Drive is the reason people come to LBTS. To commercialize El Mar Drive for a monetary cash flow is ludicrous. Plus, the cost to do such an injustice would take decades to recoup! Also, to lose tourist revenue would be a big mistake! Please leave it as is!

Thank you,

14.) Deborah Palmer, resident (169 words)

My name is Deborah Palmer and I have lived in the Caribe for over twenty years.

We walk El Mar daily and I can't understand the need to make such drastic changes to something that is so beautiful and unique.

This is a residential area. Truck pull-offs into the median are not necessary if you leave well enough alone.

Yes, the sidewalks and drainage need attention, but a whole redo of the street is a big waste of time and of tax-payers money, as I am sure the funding you have available will not cover the expenses to be incurred.

We were all asked for our input on how we used the drive, now listen to our input on how we DON'T need to make such extreme and costly changes to our neighborhood.

I don't feel making any decision on something that so strongly impacts us all should be made at a time when we cannot meet in person to fully discuss everyone's feelings on the matter.

Thank you.

15.) William & Mersine Hennessey, resident (28 words)

We urge LBTS commissioners to approve El Mar Drive improvements consisting of repair to existing sidewalks and increased street lighting. Please leave the median as is. As an LBTS resident who uses El Mar Drive on a regular basis, I wish to let you know of my feelings about the median. Specifically, changes in the median will destroy the currently delightful character of El Mar Drive on a permanent basis. I would like to see the median remain as is. Improvements along the drive should take the form of better sidewalks and enhanced lighting.

Thank you,

16.) Sophia Roth, resident (81 words)

Hello,

I'm a resident of Lauderdale by the Sea. I run or walk most days on El Mar and really enjoy the median and the landscaping as it is now.

I'm asking that you just fix what needs fixing and leave the beauty as it is now. By taking away the median, you will make LBTS just like any other beach town and it will lose it's appeal. Please consider the residents aka taxpayers when you make your decision.

Thank you.

17.) Doug Frens, resident (45 words)

Dear city commissioners,

I want to go on record stating my support for not making the median any narrower than it is now. I support new sidewalks and drainage updates. I ride my bike there weekly and love the median just the way it is.

18.) Jim Dinverno, resident (141 words)

My wife and I have lived at 4318 Elmar for over 6 years and often walk the Elmar 1.8 mile loop! We STRONGLY recommend Elmar be reduced to one-way lanes on each side of the greenway (one-way with prominent signage) We also like the version that has separate and adequate lanes for walkers and bike riders with cutouts for limited truck deliveries! Recommend the current greenway be kept intact as much as possible and all the pavement and drains be leveled! Also recommend parking on El Mar within 100 feet of Commercial be eliminated as it is a danger to pedestrians! Speed bumps or warnings of virtual speed bumps (yellow paint with signs) are needed to slow down constant speeders! We are unable to attend but are willing to discuss further as this is important and needs to be done right!

19.) Michael Ferrara, resident (149 words)

I live on Garden Ct, off Sea Grape Dr south of Commercial. Just a few words complimenting the Mayor and Town Commission on their work regarding the El Mar Drive Streetscape Project. It was thorough with several opportunities for the community to provide input between multiple town

meetings and surveys. It is always hard trying to satisfy all the residents. I think you and the design firm did a terrific job with the final result. I may not agree with everything but the plan makes long overdue repairs and improvements. It also modernizes the look and feel of El Mar while maintaining the qualities we love. Most importantly, you gave everyone the opportunity to participate and be heard. There was a great response to the surveys and large participation. The majority, many silent, have spoken. It's a great result and plan. I appreciate the approach you took. Wanted to send a separate note from the one I just sent on the El Mar Drive Streetscape Project. Thank you for the overall handling of the COVID-19 crisis. You've done a great job keeping the beaches and businesses open while maintaining public safety guidelines. The leadership of the Mayor and Town Commission is much appreciated. Also, congratulations on getting the Holiday Inn demolition done. It's so nice being rid finally of the eyesore.

We live on Garden Ct. off Sea Grape south of Commercial. So while we appreciate the eyesore being gone and the excellent progress on the El Mar Streetscape Project, we are disappointed with the conditions of the Hibiscus Portal. Are there plans to clean up the piles of sand and add more sea grass on the left side as you enter the beach? It's been in this condition since before the pandemic. Also, anything else that could be done to beautify the area a little would be much appreciated. Understand there is probably nothing you can do, unfortunately, about the poor conditions of the properties on each side of the portal but the portal itself is arguably the least attractive of all the portals.

I know you are already aware but just wanted to reinforce that the crosswalk put in on Hibiscus and A1A is literally useless. We walk across regularly and cars never stop. A light pedestrians can push, something, needs to be added to the signage. Drivers simply do not realize it's a crosswalk.

Thank you for your consideration to the above. Thank you!

20.) Thomas Kuecks, resident (17 words)

I choose Plan #4 - Leave El Mar Alone - Just Fix What Needs Fixing. Thank you.

21.) Robert Noll, resident (117 words)

Dear LBTS Town Officials,

As a resident who resides at The Caribé, I am deeply concerned for the amount of money that is being allocated to "enhance the beauty" of El Mar Drive. All that needs to be accomplished is the repair of drainage issues, sidewalk repair work, and the accountability of dog owners to pick up feces their pets drop and the trash they leave behind. We currently have a beautiful landscaped area rich of mature shrubs, green grass, and palm trees that do not need to be ripped out and replaced.

This "pandemic" has taken a toll both physically and financially for many LBTS residents who DO NOT WANT TAX INCREASES to just make our town "look pretty".

Regards,

22.) James & Anne Giannella, resident (80 words)

This is James & Anne Giannella, taxpayers, 235 Codrington Drive. We are vehemently opposed to any of the proposals for El Mar. Please leave this beautiful street as it is. We view this as an

attempt to waste millions of taxpayer resources for a result that will not be beneficial to the community. If you have too much in taxpayer funds - please lower the tax rate. Many taxpayers and renters can hardly handle the burden as it is.

Respectfully submitted

23.) Joan Carino, resident (200 words)

My name is Joan Carino and I'm an LBTS resident, my family has owned our home since 1972. We love this town because it's unique. It has a small-town feel, low-rise buildings, it's family and pet friendly, a place to walk to the beach and or restaurants and feel safe and relaxed.

El Mar Drive is the oldest and most beautiful street in Lauderdale-by-the-Sea. It is one of the reasons we consider ourselves lucky to live here. It has never been a commercial street. The hotels along El Mar enhance its beauty. People and the places to stay here have co-existed in peaceful harmony for years.

Your current plan for El Mar would take away our beautiful wide median and force pedestrians and dog walkers into the street in order to go around the trucks.

There should be a fourth option but you have taken away the voice of the residents! No truck parking on El Mar, leave the wide median and pave the sidewalks. If you need one lane of traffic to allow room for a bike-lane, so be it, but PLEASE don't change the character and beauty of one of the "best little beach towns" in the country!

24.) Maurice Carino, resident (179 words)

Mr. Mayor, Commissioners,

During the November 10, 2020, Town Commission meeting, a storm water master plan update was presented by Ken Rubach, Public Works. The presentation summarized the tens of millions of dollars needed to upgrade LBTS's storm water system. During the meeting comments were made that LBTS is experiencing increased rainfall. Once predicted as a 100-year event is happening more often. During recent rain storms, many streets experienced flooding that took days to drain. Coupling these storm drainage issues with rising sea water, it seems prudent that available financial resources be dedicated to higher priority projects like those presented in the storm water review. The proposed modifications to El Mar do not rise to the priority level of those associated with flooding streets and properties. Nor does it appear that the citizens of LBTS, in general, support any of the proposed El Mar modifications. It is logical to have minor repairs needed on El Mar, such as sidewalk repair, be made in substitution of the three expensive proposals and that financial resources be dedicated to higher priority projects.

25.) Ellen Warburton, resident (50 words)

Commissioners: Please adopt/vote for Plan 4, I believe this option will continue to allow residents the ability to continue with the lifestyle and environment that drew us to this town and the reason we love our home in Lauderdale by the Sea. Thank you for taking my opinion into consideration.

24.) Herb Young, resident (85 words)

I'm a resident of sea ranch lakes c and I enjoy walking El Mar drive everyday. I don't think it needs a major redesign, just a little touch up, maybe fix some streetlights that may be out or patch a couple minor sidewalk cracks. Installing more prominent bicycle lanes will only encourage more bicycle clubs and you should ask yourself, have you ever seen a bicycle stop at a stop sign? Let's keep them on A1A where they won't run stop signs and cause accidents.

25.) Elizabeth Vienna, resident (127 words)

My husband and I have been owners of a condo in Starlight Towers for 23 years now. Every morning we take a two mile walk to LBTS center on Commercial rest on the square and walk back. As we turn off A1A onto El Mar Drive it is such a relief to walk down the street with the charming medium. There are always walkers, joggers, bikers, dog walkers to say hello. It is like you have become a part of the small town of LBTS. Always courteous drivers without the fumes of A1A. Do not take away that charming and relaxed part of our town. Save the parking for parking lots on A1A. Leave El Mar Drive to the walkers, joggers, bikers and dog walkers to enjoy

26.) Les Byron, resident (words)

I vote for Plan 4 where the median is not affected.

26.) Kevin Mahoney, resident (897 words)

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to oppose the three proposed designs for reconfiguring El Mar Drive. But before I get into my questions regarding the proposed designs and describe my preferred approach, I want to express some disappointment with the process that has led us to this moment – a moment when so many oppose the recommended plans.

In the summer and fall we were surveyed on the things we as citizens wanted. But the plans that were produced, rather than showing how the plans matched and addressed our needs, seem to have been forged based on code-required factors like requirements for sidewalk width when sidewalks are replaced, or the necessity of clear zones of a certain width, that should have been revealed in advance so people could tailor their preferences to what the Town would even consider. The plans sometimes seem to be window-dressing pretending to observe citizen input while really just calling code requirements (e.g., clear zone = Bicycle path) by a different name. It would have been helpful to know the decision rules in advance including the fact that the Town would not approve a plan where people could walk in the street. When some of the questioners at the demonstration asked why people couldn't continue to walk in the street given the low volume of traffic (currently 1000 vehicle trips a day) the answer was, "Because walking in the street is illegal". With social distancing requirements, people walking dogs in the median strip, and some peoples' obvious preference to walk in the street, does anyone think walking in the street will stop? Why are there no signs forbidding walking in the street now?

I appreciated the chance to view life-size images of current options but I was left with more questions than answers, even after speaking with the Town official at the demonstration. I am one of those who wear the SAVE THE MEDIAN shirts. I am still not convinced one can't just fix the sidewalks, meet clear zone requirements, and leave the median strip alone.

The width of El Mar is pre-determined so it seems we are dealing with a zero sum game, i.e., if you give more space to one aspect you need to take it from others. There seem to be three elements, SIDEWALKS, SO-CALLED BICYCLE LANES, and THE MEDIAN (which would need pull-outs if El Mar had only a single lane for traffic in each direction). Let me take each in turn:

- A) SIDEWALKS. The proposed sidewalks are 9 ft wide in Options 1 and 2 and 8' in Option 3. When I asked "why?", I was told that when sidewalks are redone they have to come up to ADA standards. But ADA standards are 5 ft. In fact sidewalks can be 3 feet wide if they have passing lanes at intervals. So why the extra width? I hope it is not because of those ugly cement poles (that hold the wires and cables) sticking out into the sidewalks. If that is the reason, ADA rules say the obstruction can be moved. (Wouldn't it be nice if those ugly wires were underground like they are near Commercial Blvd?) Maybe the power company would reconsider in light of ADA rules?
- B) BICYCLE LANES. When I mentioned that there already was a bicycle lane in front of the Courtyard Villas (on the east side of El Mar north of Datura), the Town spokesperson answering questions said I was wrong. I wasn't wrong. When I said it probably isn't used because it doesn't go anywhere and, with so few cars on El Mar, you don't need a bike lane. I went on to suggest that even if they put a bike lane on the full length of El Mar it doesn't go anywhere especially heading south on Palm to A1A south. I suggested that bike lanes belong on busy streets like A1A the way Ft Lauderdale does. The woman answering questions said all your points are irrelevant. We have to leave this space anyway so why not call it a bike lane. I thought one of the purposes of the redesign was to address bikers' wishes? (Option 2 has two bike lanes but that seems even more unnecessary given the low traffic volume).

MEDIAN STRIP PULL-OUTS. (which cut 9-ft into the median in Options 1 and 2) Other than near Commercial, there appear to be 10 pullouts (2 of which are large) north of Commercial and only 8 (all of the smaller size) south of Commercial. Am I correct? I asked why? Take a look at how many abandoned, dilapidated, half-built, or open space properties are on El Mar south of Commercial. I asked the Town spokeswoman if they really knew what would be needed south of Commercial given the number of unoccupied properties. She claimed they had good estimates. I asked why, once again, does the north side of town seem to get more attention? All the woman said was that they needed to plan for the pull-outs before construction because it would be quite difficult to add any later.

I would suggest that Town officials table these El Mar Re-Design plans. At the very least, I feel the need for transparency on what the decision rules are for acceptable plans. It seems the Town already knew, or had a very good idea of, what options would be recommended.

27.) Linda Aronowitz, resident (18 words)

My husband and I love walking and biking on El Mar Drive. Please don't change this beautiful area!

28.) Suzanne Morese, resident (151 words)

As a 20+ year resident of LBTS, I've seen a number of changes. Some pluses (landscaping and design, cleanliness, parks, etc.) and some minuses (over-ride district, out of area contract for parking, etc.)

None of these, however, will impact the charm and uniqueness of our town as the plans for destruction of the serenity of EL MAR DRIVE. Whether ending a day of work or just leaving the shopping and traffic of Ocean Drive and proceeding to El Mar -- one takes a breath of fresh air and is overcome with a feeling of peace. Ah-Ah!! How rare today to find this so close to home!

I implore you to leave EL MAR as is. We have major thoroughfares now jutting through LBTS -- Commercial Blvd., and AIA. Please leave EL MAR as a walking, jogging, biking thoroughfare with its greenery, cool, clean air and a minimal traffic flow. Please, Please!

29.) Perry & Patricia Miele, resident (281 words)

I am writing to you regarding the upcoming meeting on January 12th, and for my note to be submitted and read at the January meeting. Thank you and very much appreciated.

"I choose Plan #4 - Leave El Mar Dr. Alone - Just Fix What Needs Fixing" and keep maintained

We bought our home's here in the Town of LBTS, at VBS community Three and half years ago. (We loved the Historic and beautiful landscaping of El Mar Drive) this is why our family own three condo's at VBS, My wife and I, My Brother and my Cousin). We choose the Town of LBTS and VBS on El Mar Drive for its beautiful historic low rise properties, its main street with local independent restauraners, and shops. ***Most of all the beautiful and historical El Mar Drive with the park, and its wide center median landscaping, gardens, and Palm Trees.***

It would be heartbreaking and unconceivable to tear up a beautiful and historical El Mar Drive. Especially when it currently works beautifully for everyone, and there are no documented safety concerns or serious flooding issues that I have heard of, nor that I have seen. I am on my balcony at VBS everyday looking down and up El Mar Drive and have never seen any issues. All I see is family's taking a walk, jogging, biking and having fun in the park.

Sometimes beautiful historical things, and tranquility is right in front of us, and parts of our world should stay frozen to in time -- this is El Mar Drive.

Thank you very much for reading my note in the meeting -- Leaving Historic El Mar Drive as it is and basically maintained.

30.) Leslie & Judith Cole (words)

Dear Commissioners,

It is with great trust and confidence that you will listen to the residents and guests of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea and consider our wishes to preserve our magnificent greenway. As residents, we walk daily on the peaceful and scenic thoroughfare known as El Mar Drive.

Significant changes to the tress, grass, open spaces, and natural beauty will destroy the tranquility and serenity of this unique part of our town. The attractive qualities of LBTS are centered in its welcome and intimate atmosphere. As we walk, there are never issues with safety regarding trucks, vehicles, and pedestrian traffic. It would be devastating to remove the lush environment in lieu of additional parking and increased vehicular traffic.

Notwithstanding appropriated grant monies and government fundings, is incumbent upon the town planners to heed the input and concerns of those most impacted by such significant Changes. Please preserve our amazing El Mar Drive! Thank you for your consideration to this matter.

31.) Renee Oneal, resident (106 words)

We love our el mar Drive just the way it is. Do not change it. Stop wasting my taxes on projects that are not broken. I am a tax payer of LBTS for the last 28 years. I hate to see you waste our money. Spend the money on more open portals to the ocean. Please do not change El mar drive. I enjoy riding my bike in the bike lane and would not feel safe with only one lane. Stop wasting our tax payers money on projects that are not needed. Take the money and provide a portal on the ocean for residents to.

32.) Constantine Xanthos, resident (82 words)

During my eleven year residency in our community, I have made daily use of El Mar as a pedestrian. In my opinion, this street is the town's single biggest attraction other than the beach. Its calm, its greenery, its birdlife and its suitability for walking add tremendous value to the area. Any change that would impinge on the median, or change the flow of traffic, would detract from it. I support making no changes to El Mar other than repairing the sidewalks.

33.) Jim Mendillo, resident (34 words)

Please scrap the plans to change El Mar it is beautiful the way it is and all of us residents love it as is the proposed changes do not enhance its charm or functionality.

34.) Sean Scott, (168 words)

Thank you for taking the time to hear my comment; we have been coming to Lauderdale by the Sea for the past 23 years every Winter. We feel the town has a unique and quaint charm which certainly the median is a part of, and we feel it would be a devastating blow to lose this beautiful-landscaped treasure. I implore you to please reconsider your plans to destroy this.

Many times in life there are more important things than money and this should be considered as one of those. We feel that you should respect the will of the people, many of whom are long term residents and visitors who spend a great deal of money every season in your community, and we continue to return because we liked what we found so many years ago. Again, I am respectfully asking you to reconsider your plans and not remove the median and thus destroy the charm of this one mile stretch of road.

Thank you for your consideration.

35.) Robert and Peggy McHale, resident (89 words)

Dear Commissioner,

We believe that the Greenway should remain as is. The esplanade on El Mar is part of the iconic symbol for the town and its beauty should not be altered. We believe that the sidewalks should

be repaired and additional lightening installed to keep the area safe. Options 1, 2 and 3 will all mar the lovely street and its charm and we support option #4. Thanks for your consideration.

37.) John Walsh, resident (85 words)

I am fortunate to be a resident of LBTS for over 11 years and have seen numerous city projects that have enhanced our community, but I don't believe the El Mar project, as laid out by the city, is one of those projects. Please only fix what needs to be fixed on El Mar and allocate the funds to priorities. Also, please note, the parking spaces gained in the city plan are not worth giving up green space which is so coveted in South Florida.

38.) Steve & Debbie Hartley (165 words)

Having been a resident of LBTS for 50 years and an owner @ The Caribe for 40 years, I am writing this note for my concern for the Town. I walk El Mar Drive every morning @7:30 AM and again @ 2PM from The Caribe to Sea Ranch and back. It's a peaceful, quiet, pleasant walk with other neighbors on their bikes, with their babies and dogs. Never does there seem to be a problem of congestion, safety or space. Even with the Beer and delivery trucks @ 7:30AM there is not a problem. Why is there a need to ruin a good thing? I've seen the problems of a one-way lane on the weekends by Oriana where 10 or more cars back up do to a single lane. The sidewalks and drains need help. To implement a plan as proposed is a waste of our and my tax dollars. Leave the median alone. Fix the walks and drains. Let us walkers and bikers enjoy our domain as we have for so many years.

39.) Timothy Spesick, resident (193 words)

My name is Tim Spesick. I live on Bougainvilla Dr. in Lauderdale by the Sea. As a professional truck driver, I would like to add my concerns about the proposed changes to El Mar Dr. Mainly, my concern focuses on safety. Delivery truck parking should always be on the shoulder or lane of the same side of the delivery location, not in the middle of the road. If trucks are parked in the middle, with traffic traveling in both directions on both sides, that's very dangerous. The delivery driver would have to unload with traffic going by on both sides and he or she would then have to cross a lane of traffic to make the delivery. Very unsafe for everyone. If the truck was parked on the right side, same side as the delivery location, with cones out to set up a safe working area, with a lane for traffic to continue by, the delivery would be made safely, with traffic moving safely on only one side and the delivery person would not have to cross a lane of traffic to safely make the delivery. This is the safest process for everyone.

40.) Shelley Kirchner, resident (122 words)

Good evening commissioners, my name is Shelley Kirchner. I am speaking for myself and my husband Steve. We own a condo at Leisure Mar. Let me say that our choice would be option 4, to leave El Mar drive as it is, fixing the things that need it. We purchased our condo 3 years ago. We were very familiar with the area as my father has owned condos here for around 20 years. The way that El Mar sits in its current state is one of the reasons we love it here and why we chose to buy here. The lush medians are beautifully landscaped. Please make the right choice and leave El Mar as it is. Thank you for your time.

41.) Irena Xanthos, resident (102 words)

I live on El Mar. I walk El Mar every day. I like it as it currently is. The same can be said for many of my neighbors in the Caribe. Any change in the median could only detract from its appearance. Any change in the traffic flow could only detract from the street's walkability. My neighbors and I would be severely disappointed if the Commissioners were to support any modification to the

median or to the flow of traffic on El Mar. The future votes of the residents of the Caribe will be strongly influenced by your decision regarding El Mar.

42.) Susan Welker, resident (174 words)

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Susan Welker and I own three properties on El Mar Drive. These properties are used exclusively by my family. We all enjoy the beauty and quaintness of El Mar Drive. Regarding the 2 properties located at El Mar and Washingtonia, it is already difficult with two lanes to back out of the parking spots on to El Mar Drive because there is a stop sign there and traffic tends to back up right in front of our small parking area. I can't imagine what it would be like if it were to go down to one lane. Walking home last night from the square, after dark, it reaffirmed that we certainly need better lighting. I would definitely support better lighting and improved side walks (I had a bad fall last January where the sidewalk cement is uneven and had to seek medical help). I respectfully request that you leave El Mar as is with the exception of lighting and side walk improvements.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

43.) Cynthia and Raymond Mattia, resident (184 words)

Greetings Town Commission.

Please allow the residents of LBTS to determine if they want to reshape and rework El Mar Drive. My husband and I are NOT in favor of changing El Mar Drive's roadscape and prefer to see OPTION 4, Leave El Mar Alone, be implemented. It is abhorrent that the Town Commission is pushing it's agenda by not being forthright in their surveys through deceit and omission. Trick questions and discarding surveys that didn't pick any of their options but commented on an option 4, leaving El Mar alone, are shady practices. can't understand why simple improvements such as sidewalk repair, turtle friendly lighting, and drainage Improvement has to be tied to a total redesign of El Mar Drive. El Mar is not a state or county road. It's jurisdiction and road maintenance comes under local government. In 2010, another El Mar beautification project which sought to add a median walkway was put to rest by the efforts of LBTS residents. It is apparent that residents do not want to change El Mar Drive. It is time to put this project to rest as well.

44.) Sharlene (176 words)

My name is Sharlene and my husband and I have been a resident of LBTS for 10 years, we bought a new condo on El Mar. We came here many years before that, when we lived in Plantation. One of the main reasons we bought here was the quaintness of this street. It is very resident friendly and like a beach town. We cannot see any reason to change this. It seems like this is a very expensive endeavor that could be used in other ways for our town. I think many people on El Mar are very pleased with what we have. The original plan for development of El Mar is only 11 years old. Give it time to offset the original cost. There are a few things that can be fixed, but not redoing the whole street.

Thank you and I hope you will listen to the residents. It would be a great thing if we could vote on it as it has to do with just our street, and will not help the rest of LBTS.

45.) Raymond Robin, resident (71 words)

My wife and I are residents of Lauderdale by the Sea. We oppose the El Mar Reconstruction Plan. We have been living here (Sea Ranch Club Building C) for more than 4 years and appreciate El Mar Drive exactly as it is. We do not want it changed so that there can be more parking or for any of the reasons set forth in the proposal (or not).

Please Vote NO!

46.) Cathy Menniti, resident (85 words)

We are property owners and snowbirds here in Sea Ranch for over 18 years. Besides the beautiful area and wonderful amenities available in this area, we fell in love with El Mar Drive. Every morning we enjoy our walk along this road. We avoid the main road to walk because of all the vehicles and fumes. El Mar has minimal flow of cars. This allows everyone to jog or walk on the street that is environmentally safe and not dangerous. So leave it as is.

47.) Marissa Greenberg, resident (39 words)

Hello to All!

My name is Marissa Greenberg. We own Dee Jay Beach Resort at 4617 El Mar drive. There is a reason why we fell in love with Lauderdale by the Sea.....El Mar Drive. We choose Plan #4!

48.) Bengt & Monalisa Pettersson, resident

Dear sir,

I'm one of the owners of an LBTS condo, 4629 El Mar Dr #7, and I'm appalled with what you intend to do with the most treasured part of our beloved LBTS. El Mar Drive is the trademark for our little city and once massacred can't be restored. Please reconsider and follow the suggested Option 4, leave it alone and only do required regular maintenance. Save the money in a rainy-day fund for restoration after future disaster like the next hurricane.

49.) Bill & Mary Davis, resident (182 words)

My name is Bill Davis and my wife Mary and I are permanent residents located at Oriana in LBTS. We have been up in New Orleans since September with plans to return to LBTS as soon as possible. We have been trying to keep up with all the news re: El Mar project but we find it near impossible due to this Covid environment with virtual meetings etc. Please accept this email as our position on what we think is the present status of the Project although I'm sure we are limited in facts. We are totally against any reduction to the present greenway as it exists today. That includes every tree and bush. We are proud to live in LBTS because it is truly different. Those differences are primarily the height limit for buildings and of course the el mar greenway with its mature trees. I might suggest at this late hour that this project be postponed until after the time this Covid virus is more under control which would allow live meetings again at Jarvis Hall. Good health to all.

50.) chiefswife728@comcast.net (44 words)

I have been renting in this Paradise for more than 15 years and an up to 6 months - one of the Best things is the morning walk along El Mar - sidewalks need maintenance but no changes it's a great street AS IS!!

51.) John Capitumini, resident (88 words)

I purchased my home here because of the absolute beauty that El Mar Drive provides to the entire community and would prefer that it remains that way well into the future. I believe Plan #4 provides for that and ensures that for all residents of LBTS. I do understand and agree that there are some upgrades for safety and utilities that are necessary and am willing to accept these changes, but please try to "Leave the Median As Is" ! Please strongly consider this in making your decision.

52.) Cristina Archila, resident (146 words)

Hello, I am a long-term resident of Sea Ranch, and I am writing to strongly oppose any changes to El mar median and Boulevard. The median is a very charming and historic green space that provides much use by residence and is a corner stone to the unique historical character of our neighborhood with low buildings and an old-time Florida field. Green space is more and more rare these days and cutting down palm trees to create parking for a semi trucks is a terrible idea. Because it is a two lane Street, and only lightly used by traffic, The current scenario of Temporary stopping in the road by trucks to unload that blocks one lane does not cause any trouble. Please maintain the character of our town and leave the median intact. The scenery and drive for tourism is much more critical than parking spots.

53.) Don Troutman (87 words)

I'm from PA, this December was my first trip to your beautiful town. It was brought to my attention by many different individuals saying it was the picture-perfect beach town. It's exactly that the project may change the town forever maybe in a positive way or a negative way think hard and long before a decision is made once it's done its permanent. What you have alot of towns would love to have a place where you can relax from everyday pressure and appreciate the simple live.

54.) Sally Musser, resident (311 words)

There are so many residents that don't understand the continued persistence in the town pushing this unpopular plan. They want to know why? They want to know why is Plan 4—DO NOTHING--not even an option to be voted on? How is that fair? Why are SOME of the 5 elected officials NOT listening to the people? When things don't make sense at a quick glance or explanation, that tends to mean you are not privy to the same information that the decision makers are. Please be good stewards of OUR tax \$\$, it is our \$\$ to be spent in a responsible way. Use the \$\$ in other areas in LBTS, please leave the Median and El Mar Drive ALONE. By listening to the residents and biz owners, you will be preserving our special place and low key feel that brings the tourists and their dollars back year after year. Why don't you ask "the People" what they would like you to do with the \$\$\$? One issue that is really perplexing to all of us, we have been unable to see the projected costs for Plan 1, 2, 3, and 4, that have been requested many times. My emails went unanswered. Isn't that a pertinent part of the conversation? You know COST vs BENEFIT? Due to COVID , town businesses needs to recover, this is NOT a time to tear up the streets , so that 1 motel or restaurant does not lose out on even 1 customer. The Town has NOT been transparent throughout this entire process. The Town has changed the rules and moved the goal post at least two times. The 1st survey that was offered allowed ANYONE to respond, no matter where they lived. The 2nd survey actually REMOVED the Comment section after the Comments received were not favorable to some at Town Hall.

55.) Victoria Weidenthaler, resident (206 words)

Dear Mayor and Commissioners:

I am writing regarding the proposed plans to El Mar Drive. Firstly, I appreciate the Town seeking to make improvements to El Mar. However, the plans put forth currently do not afford residents efficient and meaningful use of El Mar. Currently, I walk or run along El Mar 4-5 times per week. The proposals to add more parking along El Mar take away from the aesthetic environment along El Mar and also impose more potential hazards for people passing by.

A month or so ago I voted on design options for El Mar presented by the Town. The survey unfortunately was flawed in that it made me chose one of three options presented and would not allow me to offer other suggestions. In my opinion, I would rather see El Mar left the way it is and those funds used for something else. Otherwise, I would suggest the Town make improvements to the pavement and underground the utilities along El Mar as a minimum to begin improvements.

I would request that the current proposal(s) be denied or more time be allocated whereby the Town can assemble a committee of residents to also provide feedback in this process.

Thank you for your consideration,

56.) Jeff Creary (17 words)

I would like to see No change to El Mar Dr. I walk daily and see no reason to make any changes. Fill free to contact me with any questions.

57.) Richard Mueller, resident (44 words)

Good Day, my name is Richard Mueller 2049 Coco Palm Place. At this time I am in support of "Plan 4" as it applies to El Mar Drive. Please consider my input as a 24 year resident of LBTS when voting on this issue.

58.) Jamie LeBlanc (101 words)

Good afternoon, my name is Jamie LeBlanc. I live in the community of Bel Air and is strongly against the changes proposed by the town. El Mar drive is a great place where a lot of people walk to avoid walking on route A1A. I believe the changes that should be made should be cleaning up the homeless and fixing up the sidewalks. A lot of people walk on the drive and adding the additional parking spaces will bring in unwanted vehicle traffic from different parts of Fort Lauderdale making the drive lose its appeal and feel of exclusiveness. Thank you

59.) Mrs. Donald Tjarksen, resident (15 words)

Mrs. Donald Tjarksen has advised, they're not in support of any changes to median.

60.) Lynn mickeymouselynn@gmail.com, resident (44 words)

As current residents of Edgemar Condominium, and long-time residents of LBTS, we want to be able to enjoy El Mar the way it has always been. Beautiful. No truck parking, no one lane traffic It's worked fine for 50 years. Please don't change it!

61.) Paul Clifford, resident (18 words)

Dear City Commission-

I have been coming to Lauderdale by the Sea since 1966 and am currently a full year resident. I choose plan#4 - Leave El Mar Alone just fix what needs fixing. Just like with the height restrictions which LBTS wisely enacted years ago something needs to be done to PRESERVE El Mar Drive. This rare and beautiful space should be left alone and left for the continued enjoyment of the public.

62.) Alena Alberani, resident (60 words)

Please keep the green boulevard along El Mar Drive. It serves as a beautiful linear park that should not be destroyed for trucks to park and deliver. That would be a disaster and ruin the inviting, relaxed atmosphere of the longest beach running avenue in Lauderdale-By-The-Sea.

Thank you for commuting to finding a smarter, more environmentally- and aesthetically-pleasing alternative.

63.) Kevin Kelleher, resident (149 words)

As a 30 plus year resident I have seen some change, but not too much in LBTS. That's why we love it. I see the group on social media that is so adamantly against any change that they do not agree with. I think there should be more energy put into keeping people from thinking El Mar is their personal walkway. So many of these arrogant people walk down the middle of the street. Why put money into sidewalks when these people don't even use the ones we have. I've had people yell at me and give me the finger because I want to drive down El Mar DRIVE. Let the town do what they have always done, what's best for the town. It may not be what you want but just let the qualified people do their job and accept that it may not be what you want.

64.) Hannah Hempstead, resident (25 words)

As a resident since 1953 I feel strongly that El Mar is part of LBTS history and should remain as is. I choose Plan #4.

65.) Lois Schmatz, resident (96 words)

All over the country there are cities trying to figure out how to let pedestrians, bicyclists and cars share the road, and bring a little home-town feel to their community. We should be proud because this is what we already have on El Mar Drive. Sometimes annoying? Sure But we accept the little annoyances knowing that the end result is a small town with a look and feel we love. Please don't ruin my El Mar view with ugly truck cutouts. Please just fix what needs to be fixed and let the rest be.

Thank you.

66.) Stephen Courtney, resident (28 words)

I vote for Plan #4 As an avid neighborhood cyclist I object to anything that might impair the safety of the drive. Please leave El Mar as is.

67.) Dean Hively, resident (130 words)

Hello. I am a resident at Sea Ranch, 5000 North Ocean Drive. I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed changes on El Mar drive and median. The median on El Mar, with its palm trees, grass, and landscaping, is a cornerstone of the historic nature of our neighborhood. It provides a space for social activity, and matches the low buildings and old style beach vibe of the area. I enjoy walks on it, from Sea Ranch to Commerce, every day, and have never experienced a problem with the current two lane quiet street, which allows trucks to deliver goods to commerce by temporarily blocking a lane of traffic. Cutting down the trees to make paved parking spots would be a terrible mistake. Please leave El Mar as it is!

68.) Roger Lucas, resident (22 words)

I support People's Plan#4, protect and preserve El Mar Drive. Just keep it the way it is and fix what needs fixing.

69.) Alex Fenech, resident (39 words)

I say: simply fix the eroding sidewalks & make the road only one lane in each direction. Walkers. Bikers, joggers etc will live together in peace. No need to get fancy. And the taxpayers will love you for it!

70.) David Nagle, resident (80 words)

To whom it may concern.

I am a resident and owner at 4540 N Ocean Dr. my property abuts El Mar Drive.

El Mar is one of the reasons I bought in this town. It is unique, quaint and wonderful as it is. The roadway and sidewalks should be improved but El Mar Drive should be preserved as it is today and has been for over 30 years.

Keep El Mar as it is preserve the best part of LBTS.

71.) Phil Caruso, resident (152 words)

I am the owner of 4540 N Ocean Dr #103, which faces El Mar Drive from the street level. My family has lived here for 45 years and loves this neighborhood/section of El Mar Drive. Having grown up here, I loved it so much that I bought my own unit in the building in 2017. I am vehemently opposed to the proposed parking project. It would ruin El Mar Drive, bring noise from trucks and people from outside the town coming to party on the corner, and destroy my property value; my unit currently enjoys a beautiful and quiet peace. The noise and unsightly cars or trucks directly outside the patio would significantly harm my property value as well as my day-to-day enjoyment of my property. If this proposal is approved, I may be forced to leave Lauderdale By The Sea entirely. Please reject this proposal and preserve our community. Thank you.

72.) Jennifer Titcomb (22 words)

They should continue to use the designer/planner that was used for the beach area on commercial blvd. It was done to perfection.

73.) Paul plhfmn@yahoo.com (6 words)

A bike lane both ways please.

74.) Jack Bergman, resident (417 words)

Dear El Mar Drive planning team,

I viewed the Lauderdale-by-the-Sea Town Hall meeting on Sept. 22 and enjoyed seeing more detail on the three El Mar Drive streetscape options, as well as hearing feedback from local residents.

I am a LBTS local resident where I live on Ocean Blvd, and El Mar Drive is my walking route. Thus I'm familiar with the lay of the land and the complexities this project offers. Full disclosure: I am a proponent of maximizing the width of the median. The median is the dominant feature of El Mar Drive, and it's why the street offers such allure.

For me the key takeaway from the Sept 22 session was the desire to "get it right" and not rush the process or the project. Patience is a virtue.

I firmly believe that **placing the utilities underground is key to the success of this project**. And getting the utilities underground **IS THE FIRST STEP**. Period.

While I did hear that the plan includes planning for the future by way of laying conduit for future undergrounding of utilities, I believe there is lost opportunity by not working diligently now to get the utilities relocation component taken care of in advance of the other elements of the El Mar streetscape project.

If I understand correctly, the current space occupied by existing utility poles plays into the sidewalk/swell placement and widths. If the utility poles are removed, does the space they occupy not become available for use in other areas (i.e. sidewalk, safety zone, median, etc.) ? Given the strong desire to maintain or at least maximize the width of the grassy median, the utility pole space (~ 18" square) is very important. By designing and installing a plan now (around the utility poles), we lose the opportunity to capture and reuse that space for the long-term. Let's get this right ... the first time.

Further to proper sequencing, I'm loath to see a beautiful new streetscape rolled out, only to have it dug up later when the utilities are placed underground. Repairing all the streetscape constitutes "rework" and any quality operation knows that rework is to be avoided as it is a real cost. Town leaders committed to not rushing the project. I believe waiting to get the utility work approved and executed is worth waiting for.

"There's never enough time to do it right, but there's always enough time to do it over." – Jack Bergman

Thank you for offering a means of input to our local project.

75.) Nicole Carrasco, resident (191 words)

Good evening,

Hope you had a nice holiday and happy new year. My name is Nicole and I have been coming to the nice town of Lauderdale-the-sea since I was a little girl. My grandparents vacationed here and bought a condo in Sea Ranch Lakes North after spending a few years as visitors. My parents bought their condo about ten years ago and I am living with them. We love our community. We choose plan #4. Leave El Mar Alone - we do not need to fix what isn't broken! One of my favorite

activities to do with my boyfriend or guests is to walk and jog along El Mar. I am fully against the intention of designers eliminating these pedestrian activities that we so much enjoy.

2020 was a tough year on mental health, it doesn't seem like 2021 will be any easier. Something that really helps most people is getting out and being able to exercise on El Mar with a relaxing feeling and beautiful view. DO NOT TAKE THIS AWAY FROM US. This is a heartbreaking discussion and I will fight to SAVE MY MEDIAN.

All the best,

76.) Lisa Tumminello, resident (350 words)

Good Afternoon,

My name is Lisa Tumminello, I live on El Mar Drive and I am an advocate for the city recommended Option #1 street design. El Mar Drive must be a safe place to walk, jog, ride a bike, and walk a dog keeping people on sidewalks. Option #1 stops people from walking in the lane of vehicular traffic which for some reason some people think it is a legal thing to do. I personally have tripped and fell while walking on the current sidewalk but I don't want it just to be repaired, I want it to be widened. I sit in front of my place and watch the speeding cars race down the 4 lane El Mar Dr all day long because they think it is a cut through to avoid A1A, after all it has 2 lanes in each direction and A1A only has 1.... There is no reason to have 2 lanes of vehicular traffic in each direction, it must be brought down to 1 for the safety of everyone and give meaning to what we are known for, *"the most walkable town"*.

The green shirt hotelier who is hell bent on flipping at least 3 commissioners is handing out free t-shirts and misleading people to think the city is removing the median, I personally have stopped people wearing the shirts to ask them what they know about the project and they are angry because the city wants to remove the median, after educating them on the truth and sharing the city design they love Option #1 and say how nice it looks. They said they were told something totally opposite.

I have taken the city surveys, I attended the full size street display which I thought brought things to life even though the green shirt people were there bullying people and misleading them.

You did such a wonderful job redesigning the downtown square and El Mar Drive is an extension of that and deserves to be just as beautiful, please approve and upgrade El Mar Drive with Option #1.

Thank you for your time.

77.) John Riccio (9 words)

I am against this proposal please leave it alone

78.) Bernard & Rita Petreccia, resident (88 words)

Our name is Bernie and Rita Petreccia. Lauderdale by the Sea has been our homestead for over 16 years. I have served on both the Planning and Zoning Board and the Board of Adjustment. We love the small town atmosphere that Lauderdale by the Sea offers. Our mayors, commissioners, board members come and go, but our little quaint town stays and endures. Please be firm in

observing our bylaws setbacks, height restrictions, etc. Please be firm in keeping what we have for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.

79.) Michelle mabent3218@att.net (43 words)

Our opinion on the project is neutral, but if “change” has to be done the original concept seems most feasible. We don’t believe any option will slow down speeders, therefore should have speed humps along Elmar and speed limit needs to be enforced.

80.) Alice Belusko, resident (25 words)

As a resident of LBTS, I implore you to reconsider the plans for the median. Please consider another plan that will save the mature trees!

81.) Peggy Mohler, resident (21 words)

Hello, I really think Elmar should be put on hold until the pandemic is over and business is returned to normal.

82.) Janet Molchan, (17 words)

Please save the lovely trees in the median. It give our town character and a upscale feel.

83.) Giovanna Moatamedi, resident (109 words)

Please accept this comment as a year-round resident of Lauderdale by the sea. My husband is retired and one or both of us walk from the Hampton Beach Club (where we live) all the way to the south end of El Mar Drive every day. It is crucial to our safety and well-being to move forward with one of the proposed changes. My preference would be number 3 because there is no need for the median to be as big as it is. I disagree with the group wearing the yellow t-shirts! Something must be done to make it safer to walk, run and bike along our beautiful area.

84.) Darrin Smith, resident (3 words)

Plan #4 please.

85.) Jim Van Dam, resident (126 words)

I have been a property owner in LBTS for the last couple years. When we were looking for Ocean Front property, my wife would have been happy with almost any convenient ocean front property. But I also insisted on a place where I could walk by myself, walk our dogs, run and bike in a low traffic area where other people were engaged in the same activities. El Mar Drive is unique in providing an ideal environment for supporting these activities.

People in general are courteous, friendly, and attentive to the safety of others. I love the “multi-use” character of El Mar Drive. It would not be the same if all these activities were compressed on to sidewalks. I would be very sorry to lose it.

86.) mosull8235 mosull8235@aol.com (23 words)

Please leave the street saline and just make needed repairs I’m a snow bird for the past 16 years and walk there everyday

87.) Debra Marten, resident (128 words)

I am writing in favor of proposal #4 as it pertains to the El Mar Drive project.

My family has been an owner at The Caribe for 45 years and my husband and I have owned since 1999. In that time, we have always regarded El Mar as the prettiest street in South Florida. It is filled by a community of

walkers, bikers, and people with dogs saying hello and enjoying the quiet and safety the street provides. There is AMPLE room for all of us including those in cars. This would not be the case if lanes were eliminated or medians reconfigured.

Change for change sake is never a worthwhile proposition. Please leave El Mar as is and let us continue to enjoy this very special street.

88.) Bob & Sherri Kimbel, resident (49 words)

El Mar is one of the most beautiful parts of Lauderdale by the Sea and one of the reasons we chose to live here. We hope that no major changes are made that would mar the intrinsic beauty and charm of this iconic street. Thank you for your consideration.

89.) Becky Weist, (147 words)

Regarding possible solutions to redevelopment of El Mar Drive and El Mar medians. I have been in and out of LBTS since 1976 with permanent residence since 2001. I am still having a monogamous love affair with Lauderdale by the Sea after all these years. El Mar Drive is one of my favorite special destinations to walk and visit with people I have known through these rewarding years. I have attempted to read and hear both sides of the possible design changes of El Mar Drive. I understand that we must keep up with the times - but not lose or destroy so much beauty and atmosphere at the same time in order to stay current and progressive with business, tourism, etc. Therefore, can't we compromise on this most peaceful, one mile strip of LBS facing the magnificent Atlantic Ocean? I cannot even imagine El Mar Drive ever resembling A1A or the likes thereof. Can't we all unite and vote for Plan 4?

The following comments were received after the Public Comments portion of the meeting:

90.) Chris Dietrick, resident (69 words)

Beautiful El Mar Drive has been part of my life for over 40 years now. It represents everything that is good about LBTS. Lined with palm trees, and spacious enough for safe travel for both cars and pedestrians. To do anything to effect the beauty and simplicity of this great street would be a step in the wrong direction. Sending peace and love from unit 908 at the Caribe.

91.) Shelley Haggerty-Rahn, resident (113 words)

El Mar is perfect the way it is. A treasure where so many walk, bicycle and run. The 2 lanes never get backed up and there is plenty of room for all. The speed limit is low so there is ample safety for all. Those who complain about pedestrians or cyclists can stick to A1A if they do not have the patience and courtesy to allow for the laid back El Mar atmosphere. It would be a huge waste of money and interfere with business as we slowly come back from COVID if major construction were initiated. Please opt for option 4 - only repair the minor issues and leave the median alone.

92.) Marie Briggs, resident (268 words)

I have been a full-time resident of LBTS since 2013. I live at the end of El Mar Dr where the road meets Palm Ave. I would like to see the grass median stay as is. Keep the road a two lane road both ways. Upgrade the sidewalks and bike lanes. Do the necessary repairs needed to make the walkway and bike paths safer, flat -repave sidewalks. I do not vote for any of the 3 choices that were presented. I ride my bicycle back and forth on the full length of El Mar Dr quite a bit and really do not want to see the street changed except for upgrading as I stated above. I believe people walk in the streets because the sidewalks are so uneven and unsafe. Also attached a recent pic of delivery trucks that were making their deliveries on the south side of Elmar- there is no way this could take place if you make this road one lane - it will be a nightmare for these businesses to get deliveries. Please listen to what the residents want, let us make a vote on fair choices and not have our opinions deleted and not heard because we did not pick one of the three choices you presented. My vote was for none of those 3 choices- Please listen to the people who live here especially the residents that are full time residents. See attached picture of delivery trucks on the south side of Elmar across from Mulligan's restaurant. This is a perfect example of why the road needs to stay as 2 lanes.

93.) Michael Morelli, resident (49 words)

We are full-time, owner residents at 5000 N. Ocean Blvd, Lauderdale by the Sea. We fully support the Town's El Mar proposal to modify El Mar to one major lane each way, along with expanded walkways and bike paths, etc. Nothing is ever easy - we support your efforts!

94.) Irene Reynolds, resident (74 words)

My husband and I, residents in Sea Ranch wish to give our voice to maintaining the beauty of the median. We would select option 4 with no bike lanes and 2 lane traffic. We need only to repair the sidewalks, improve the drains and parking so that pedestrians can get around. Perhaps the restaurants can use smaller trucks for their deliveries to them. We have a special atmosphere in LBTS, let's preserve it!

95.) Bruce Burns, resident (223 words)

As a year round resident of LBTS I find El Mar Dr. Perfect the way it is. It has an old Florida look and feel. A great street for walking, jogging, bike riding and walking a dog. It is just congested enough to keep traffic moving slowly and safely. The median is a great place to casually walk one's dog. The trees add to the natural beauty while providing shade in the summer. Pet stations are conveniently located. Yes it is a perfect setting of old Florida. There is never puddling in the streets after heavy rains as the water drains into the median nourishing the grass and the trees. I listened to the presentation by your city engineer who was pushing the project. She made little sense. She could not tell us what problem she was trying to solve by redesigning El Mar. Having been an elected person in my former community it seemed that the engineer was pushing for the project too much. It would seem that changes to a beloved street should have come from an elected official in LBTS and not a hired employee. Clearly the raises questions of potential impropriety. Throwing millions of dollars at a problem that does not exist makes no sense at all. Let's leave El Mar Drive alone. There is no problem to solve.

96.) Maria Ehlinger, resident (202 words)

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing about the median on El Mar in Lauderdale by the Sea, which I've heard the town is trying to remove. I am deeply upset about the possibility of that happening. My parent and family have been a resident of the Sea Ranch Club for over 35 years and it has been a family ritual for us to take our daily morning walks and evening strolls along El Mar. I do my daily runs along El Mar, my children when born were walked in their strollers, and now my daughter is strolling her children along El Mar. The beauty of El Mar is in the palm trees in the median and to take them down would take away all the attractiveness of the street. It would then look like commercial US 1. When I decided to also buy an condo in the Sea Ranch Club, it was because of the beauty of not only the Sea Ranch Club, but because of El Mar. To take away the median and landscaping planted there, would devalue my property. I'm sure if you lived there, you would feel the same way. Please reconsider this when making your decision. Thank you for your consideration.