

# GALT MILE NEWS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GMCA

## SUN TROLLEY **NEEDS** YOUR FEEDBACK

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SEPTEMBER 2015

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# The Sun Trolley Needs Your Feedback



The FREE Sun Trolley Galt Link currently runs Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and stops at the following locations:

- Broward County Galt Library
- Coral Ridge Mall
- NE 26th Street/Bayview Drive
- Coral Ridge Towers North
- Broward Health Imperial Point
- Galleria Mall
- Beach Community Center
- Holy Cross Hospital
- The Palms/NE 21st Street

To better serve you, the Sun Trolley would like your feedback regarding service on the Galt Link. To provide your feedback, please complete our 10 question survey in one of three ways:

## Option 1: Online

To complete the survey online visit <http://bit.ly/gallink>

## Option 2: Paper

Flip to the back cover of this publication, complete the survey and drop it off at the Galt Ocean Mile Reading Library.

## Option 3: In Person

Please join us on Thursday, October 1, 2015, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. or from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Galt Ocean Mile Reading Library, 3403 Galt Ocean Dr., for refreshments as we discuss Sun Trolley's Galt Link.

If you have not completed a survey, you may do so at the meeting. While RSVP is not required, it is recommended by September 28, 2015. Please RSVP for one of the two community meetings at <http://bit.ly/galtsvp> or (954) 732-0754.

PLEASE NOTE: Please complete the survey by September 28, 2015. If you have completed the survey via options 1 or 2 above, you may still attend the meeting to ask questions.

Thank you for your continued support  
of the Sun Trolley!

## Stay Connected with the Sun Trolley!

Sign Up to receive information and alerts via email about the Galt Link at [www.suntrolley.com](http://www.suntrolley.com) or call (954) 761-3543.



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# The Galt Mile Bus Blockade

About two weeks after the Galt Mile A1A Greenway Project kicked off on July 27, 2015, residents in several local associations noticed daily traffic jams in front of their homes – invariably caused by Broward County buses. Dismayed association officials soon learned that the buses – often parked on both sides of Galt Ocean Drive – weren't an anomaly. When asked why they were swarming a small beachfront side street, the bus drivers either shrugged or spit back, "I'm just following orders."

## **FDOT: Maintenance of Traffic Rule**

For every highway transportation project, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) mandates the development of an MOT (Maintenance of Traffic) strategy. As sections of roadway become work zones, a minimum number of lanes must be maintained for traffic throughput in all directions. For instance, when working on the northern lanes of a 4 traffic-lane highway like A1A, planners will use traffic control devices and alter pavement markings to temporarily turn the two southern traffic lanes into a self-contained two-way thoroughfare.

When fewer lanes are available to manage the same amount of traffic, planners will help relieve anticipated congestion by re-routing any public transportation on the highway. Prior to commencing construction of the Galt Mile A1A greenway, when FDOT planners asked County liaisons to temporarily clear the work zone of Broward County buses, the "request" filtered through the County bureaucracy to the operations personnel at Broward County Transit (BCT).

When lanes abutting construction on A1A were closed to traffic, buses from routes that ordinarily stop in those lanes to board or discharge passengers – or park while the driver grabs a snack – were shifted to Galt Ocean Drive. Buses that formed up three and four deep on the east side of A1A just south of 41st Street were now gathering "en masse" in front of Playa del Mar and Regency Tower. While assembling on A1A, traffic moving north along the busy thoroughfare would slingshot around the three or four buses blocking the bike lane and the turn lane to 41st Street. When this traffic plug was transplanted to Galt Ocean Drive, it wrought havoc.

## **The BCT Boogiemer**

On August 10, 2015, Broward County Transit (BCT) Operations Representative Oscar Correa visited Playa del Mar (PDM) and Regency Tower, asking to speak with "Someone in Charge". At Playa del Mar, he told the General Manager that the buses would stop in front of the building throughout the project's duration – which he estimated at "two – possibly three years." In Regency Tower, he informed Board Presi-

dent Eileen Bendis that BCT was planning a bus stop in front of the building. By the time the BCT emissary announced County intentions, buses had already been blocking both buildings for several days. Buses would park on either side of an association driveway, blocking the view of drivers turning onto Galt Ocean Drive. They also blocked the view of elderly pedestrians attempting to cross the street.

Bendis accompanied Correa to the cutout in front of Playa del Mar. While pointing to an adjacent curbside sewer, Correa exclaimed that a recent engineering report by the City disclosed a depression discovered under the cutout, palpable evidence of a sinkhole. Assuring Bendis that the PDM cutout was scheduled for structural repair, Correa said that the report warns against parking a heavy vehicle above the depression, as a collapse would affect anything close by, including vehicles and passing pedestrians. As if delivering a punchline, Correa exhorted "Buses we planned to park here will now have to be parked in front of Regency Tower." Evidently, Correa's concerns weren't shared by BCT drivers, who repeatedly perched their buses squarely on the depression – and in the Regency Tower cutout.

## **Bus Stops or Bus Depots?**

The sites weren't being used as bus stops for boarding or discharging passengers, as characterized by Correa, but as a bus yard, where three or four buses would be abandoned in front of the buildings on both sides of the street. After pulling into a cutout or parking curbside, the drivers would leave the bus for a slice of pizza at DaVinci's, coffee and sandwich at Dunkin Donuts or a boxed fried chicken lunch from Winn Dixie. In addition to these daily breakfast and lunch excursions that took several hours, later in the day, 3 or 4 buses were repeatedly left unattended in front of both associations – for reasons only known to the missing drivers. Officially termed "layovers" – brief breaks that are supposed to take 5 minutes but actually last for 20 to 30 minutes, and often extend up to 2 hours.

To protect departing association motorists from wholly obscured oncoming traffic, and safeguard pedestrians who would otherwise have to walk into the middle of the street to spot approaching vehicles, association security personnel were assigned to the street, where they could help motorists and pedestrians safely navigate past the wall of buses. Fearful of crossing the street or driving off the premises, enraged PDM and Regency Tower residents complained bitterly to association officials, who closely monitored unfolding events in front of both buildings, taking pictures, videos and testimony during incidents, or after "close calls".

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

OCTOBER/SEPT

<p><b>13</b> Las Olas Outdoor Green Market 333 E Las Olas Blvd. &amp; SE 4th Ave. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-426-8436</p> <p>5th Annual Tunnel To Towers 5K Run &amp; Walk Huizenga Plaza, 7:30 p.m. Info.: 718-987-1931</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Commissioner Bruce Roberts: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center, 6 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5033</p>	<p><b>15</b> BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Sanger: 954-563-7268</p> <p>Fort Lauderdale City Commission Meeting City Hall Regular Agenda: 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>16</b> BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063</p>
<p><b>20</b> Las Olas Outdoor Green Market 333 E Las Olas Blvd. &amp; SE 4th Ave. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-426-8436</p> <p>Your Next Step is the Cure 5K Charnow Park in Hollywood, 7:15 a.m.</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b> BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Sanger: 954-563-7268</p> <p>Erev Yom Kippur</p>	<p><b>23</b> BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063</p> <p>Yom Kippur</p>
<p><b>27</b> Las Olas Outdoor Green Market 333 E Las Olas Blvd. &amp; SE 4th Ave. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-426-8436</p> <p>Erev Sukkot</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b> BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Sanger: 954-563-7268</p> <p>Condo Board Certification Course Kaye Bender Rembaum (1200 Park Central Blvd. South, Pompano) 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Info.: 928-0680</p>	<p><b>30</b> BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063</p>
<p><b>4</b> Las Olas Outdoor Green Market 333 E Las Olas Blvd. &amp; SE 4th Ave. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-426-8436</p> <p><b>Sunday Jazz Brunch</b> Riverwalk, Downtown FL 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-396-3622</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Simchat Torah</p>	<p><b>6</b> BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Sanger: 954-563-7268</p> <p>SE Florida's Senior &amp; Health Expo Inverrary Country Club &amp; Expo Center, Lauderdale 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Info.: 954-549-3568</p>	<p><b>7</b> BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063</p>
<p><b>11</b> Las Olas Outdoor Green Market 333 E Las Olas Blvd. &amp; SE 4th Ave. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-426-8436</p> <p>South Florida Italian Culture &amp; Heritage Festival ArtsPark at Young Circle, Hollywood Noon to 8 p.m. Info.: 954-825-1027</p>	<p><b>12</b> Columbus Day</p> <p>Community Services Board City Commission Chambers, City Hall, 7 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5911</p>	<p><b>13</b> BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Sanger: 954-563-7268</p>	<p><b>14</b> BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063</p>

SEPT 19: Night Owl Market Street Festival, Peter Feldman Park, 5 to 11 p.m., Info.: 954-785-7474  
 SEPT 19: Fun Glow 5k, Vista View Park, 8 p.m., Info.: funglow5k@gmail.com  
 SEPT 19-20: Fort Lauderdale Gun & Knife Show, War Memorial Auditorium, Info.: 954-828-5380  
 SEPT 19-20: Fort Lauderdale Arts & Crafts Show, National Guard Armory, Info.: 888-770-3218  
 SEPT 27: Gold Coast Derby Grls vs. Lakeland Derby Dames (Roller Derby), War Memorial Auditorium, 6 p.m., Info.: 954-401-8712  
 SEPT 27: Isle Casino Annual Fall Classic Car Show, 777 Isle of Capri Circle, Pompano, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Info.: 954-383-2285  
 OCT 2-4: West Palm Beach Antiques Festival, South Florida Fairgrounds, WPB, Info.: 941-697-7475  
 OCT 3-4: American Diabetes Association Step Out West Palm Beach, CityPlace, WPB, Info.: 954-772-8040 X 3011  
 OCT 3-4: Fort Lauderdale Arts & Crafts Show, National Guard Armory, Info.: 888-770-3218  
 OCT 3-4: 21st Annual Downtown Delray Beach Craft Festival, 330 E Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Info.: 954-472-3755

# ONE SOURCE FOR COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

THU

FRI

SAT

## LOTS HAPPENING IN OCTOBER!

**17** South Florida Fall Business Expo  
Sheraton Ft Lauderdale Airport Hotel  
Biz to Biz Networking: 5 to 8 p.m.  
Info.: 954-838-9644

G.M.C.A. Advisory Board Meeting  
Nick's Italian Restaurant, 11 a.m.

**18** The West Palm Beach Bus Loop  
Clematis Street, WPB  
6 p.m. to Midnight  
Info.: 954-574-6000

Friday Night Tunes:  
The Old Skool Gang (R&B, Soul, Funk)  
Carter Park, 7 to 10 p.m.  
954-828-7275

**19** Riverwalk Fall Festival  
Esplanade Park, Noon to 5 p.m.  
Info.: 954-468-1541 X 205

Ocean Conservancy's Coastal Cleanup  
9 a.m. to Noon  
Register: [coastalcleanup@broward.org](mailto:coastalcleanup@broward.org)  
Cancellation Info.: 954-519-1270  
Locations: [www.broward.org/NATURALRESOURCES/BEACHANDMARINE/Pages/BeachCleanup.aspx](http://www.broward.org/NATURALRESOURCES/BEACHANDMARINE/Pages/BeachCleanup.aspx)

**24** Sun Sentinel Career Fair  
War Memorial Auditorium  
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Info.: 815-308-5426

**25**

Operation Lift Hope Gala  
Broward County Convention Center  
6 to 9:30 p.m.  
Info.: 754-307-4579

**26**

Brew at the Zoo  
Palm Beach Zoo, 6 p.m.  
Info.: 561-547-9453

**1**

Great Balls of Fire:  
Comets, Asteroids & Meteors Exhibit  
(Through 1/3/16)  
Museum of Discovery & Science  
Info.: 954-713-0930

**2** Coral Springs Craft Guild  
Fall/Holiday Craft Show  
(Through 10/3)  
La Quinta Inn and Suites, Coral Springs  
Info.: 954-918-4666

11th Annual Oktoberfest  
(Through 10/3)  
Jaco Pastorius Park, Oakland Park  
Info.: 954-630-4507

**3** Goliath Gauntlet  
Sheridan House Campus, Davie  
8:40 a.m.  
Info.: 954-583-1552

9th Annual Stitch Rock Indie Craft Fair & Bazaar  
Old School Square, Delray Beach  
Noon to 6 p.m.  
[Info.: rockthestitch.com/rockthestitch/contact.asp](http://Info.: rockthestitch.com/rockthestitch/contact.asp)

**8**

**9** Go Solar & Renewable Energy Fest  
(Through 10/10)  
Broward County Convention Center  
Info.: 954-765-5900

Pompano - Music Under the Stars  
Natty Bos (Blues/Rock-a-Billy)  
Pompano Beach Great Lawn  
6 to 9 p.m.  
Info.: 954-786-4111

**10** Riverwalk Mutts & Martinis  
Esplanade Park, Noon to 3 p.m.  
Info.: 954-468-1541 X 205

S Florida Walk for Farm Animals  
Huizenga Plaza  
Check-in: 10 a.m.  
Walk: 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Info.: 305-979-7905

**15** An Evening with Buddy Guy  
Hard Rock Live  
8 p.m.  
Tix.: 800-745-3000

G.M.C.A. Advisory Board Meeting  
Nick's Italian Restaurant, 11 a.m.

**16** 42nd Annual Oktoberfest  
(Through 10/18)  
5111 Lantana Rd., Lake Worth  
Info.: 561-966-6464

Friday Night Tunes  
Ladies of Soul (LOS) - (Top 40, Motown)  
Carter Park  
7 to 10 p.m.  
Info.: 954-828-PARK

**17** Lantern Festival:  
In The Spirit Of Obon  
Morikamii Museum  
3 to 8 p.m.  
Info.: 561-495-0233

8th Annual Glam Doll Strut  
Esplanade Park, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Info.: 954-298-5607

October 10  
New Times Broward-Palm Beach 18th Annual Beerfest  
Esplanade Park, 6 to 10 p.m.  
Info.: 305-571-7579

October 10-11  
38th Annual Pridefest - 2015  
War Memorial Auditorium  
Info.: 954-561-2020

October 10-11  
Buckler's 3rd Annual Craft Fair  
The Promenade at Coconut Creek  
Info.: 386-860-0092

October 10-11  
Harvest Festival & 5th Annual Scarecrow Competition  
3750 S. Flamingo Road, Davie  
9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Info.: 954-473-2955

October 10-11  
The Downtown Boca Raton Arts & Crafts Festival  
Sanborn Square at US1 & Mizner Park, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Info.: 954-472-3755

October 11  
25th Annual Open Water Bermuda Round the Sound Swim  
Harrington Sound, Bermuda c/o Randy Nutt, Coral Springs  
8 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Info.: 954-821-3294

October 18  
Smoke on the Water BBQ Feast  
Esplanade Park  
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Info.: 954-468-1541 X 205

October 18  
20th Annual Down Syndrome Buddy Walk & 5K Run  
Markham Park, 8:30 a.m.  
Info.: 954-577-4122

**FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF EVENTS, GO TO THE CALENDAR AT WWW.GALTMILE.COM**

OCT 4: Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Drop-off Events, Coral Springs Public Works Westside Maintenance Complex, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Info.: 954-828-8000

OCT 9-11: 42nd Annual Oktoberfest, 5111 Lantana Road, Lake Worth, Info.: 561-966-6464

First Saturday of Every Month: Beach Cleanup, Commercial Blvd. & the Beach LBTS (Meet at Pavilion), 9 to 9:30 a.m., Info.: 954-776-1000

First Saturday of Every Month: North Beach Art Walk, 3280 NE 32nd St, 7 to 11 p.m., Info.: 954-537-3370

Second Saturday of Every Month: Beach Sweep, Fort Lauderdale Beach Park, 1100 Seabreeze Blvd., 7 to 11 a.m., Info.: 954-593-8501

Mondays: Food Trucks at Artspark, 5:30 to 10 p.m., Youngs Circle in Hollywood

Sundays: Tour-the River Ghost Tour, Stranahan House & Water Taxi, 7:30 p.m., Tix.: 954-524-4736

Saturdays: Saturday Night Under the South Florida Stars, Fox Astronomical Observatory at Markham Park, Sunset to Midnight, Info.: 954-384-0442

Daily: Yoga on the Beach, Ocean Manor Resort (4040 Galt Ocean Dr.), 9:30 a.m. (weather permitting), Mats supplied, \$10 donation, Open to the Public, Info.: 754-779-7519 or 516-840-1455

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buses, a Fire-Rescue EMT approaching from behind was stopped cold at the bus barricade. Losing precious minutes, this emergency vehicle followed the garbage truck as it worked its way past the buses - while BCT drivers looked on from Dunkin' Donuts. Promising to explore some alternative to the bus blockade on Galt Ocean Drive, Douglas said she would respond to Bendis a week later. She never did. While fielding angry complaints from Playa del Mar and Regency Tower, the neighborhood association learned that BCT was exploring cutouts from Galt Ocean Club to Southpoint, and considering whether the bus routes should be permanently anchored on Galt Ocean Drive, intimating that the bus blockade might soon endanger every association on the block.

Bus...Continued

Before slipping back into the shadows, Correa told Bendis that although the changes were precipitated by the construction on ATA, certain City officials are insisting that they be made permanent. An incredulous Bendis asked Correa if he would mind returning the next day, and meet with another Regency Tower official. Instead, he stopped by just long enough to drop off a business card and a message "This is my boss; call her if you have any questions." Correa was too busy scoping other association cutouts along the block. It seems that the "bus stops" force fed to Playa del Mar and Regency Tower were the first of several planned for Galt Ocean Drive.

Furious and frustrated, Bendis snatched up the card and contacted BCT Project Manager Arethia Douglas, describing the danger to residents while pleading for relief. While sympathizing with Bendis, Douglas claimed that she was directed by FDOT and the City to move the bus routes to Galt Ocean Drive. She said the drivers are following work protocols enumerated in their union contract, which provide for an opportunity to stretch their legs or eat lunch. Aware that certain "bus stops" are used by drivers as layover sites, Douglas said "I knew this was a bad idea." She also couldn't explain why some buses were left unattended for two to three hours.

### Licensed to Crash

Negotiated by the County and the Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 1267, the contract mentioned by Douglas had recently attracted unwanted notoriety when the Sun Sentinel disclosed provisions in the agreement that entitle Broward bus drivers to cause 5 accidents and run 4 red lights every two years - without jeopardizing their jobs - although they could be disciplined for clocking in late. Since the slate is wiped clean every two years, Broward bus drivers can smash into 50 vehicles and run 40 red lights during a 20-year tenure, without losing a wink of sleep over employment concerns. While humiliating to Broward officials, it's the type of document that brings a smile to Federal Law Enforcement agents who've built sterling careers by jailing corrupt politicians and bureaucrats in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach.

Citing county records, Sun Sentinel journalist Brittany Wallman reported that a Broward bus driver named Fred Fischer benchmarked a 30-year career by rear-ending 13 vehicles and crashing his bus 21 times while enduring 19 suspensions and 32 disciplinary actions. Despite having been assessed a total of 40 unpaid days off, he is still plowing his bus through County streets - and he is not unique. By comparison, drivers who knowingly park over a sinkhole or abandon their vehicles for up to half their shift seem almost heroic.

Of course, there are also legitimate reasons for driver layovers, such as when required to adjust a route schedule. If a bus arrives at a stop 20 minutes ahead of schedule, the driver will wait for 20 minutes before returning to service. This Chinese menu of institutional delays and inane contract protocols turned the makeshift Galt Mile bus stops into an on-street depot. A few days later, Playa del Mar Board member Andrew Becker also contacted Douglas, documenting narrowly avoided collisions, while detailing how the buses interfere with critical association operations.

### Just Following Orders

Bendis and Becker informed Douglas that associations use the cutouts to park dumpsters awaiting collection by waste vendors. When owners or tenants move in or out of the building, associations reserve the cutouts for their moving vans. Also, if the weight of heavy equipment used in certain construction projects exceeds the load tolerance of the association's parking deck, the cutout temporarily serves as a construction staging area. While enumerating how the buses disrupt association functionality, both association officials cited resident safety as their primary concern.

When the buses are warehoused on both sides of the street, cars traveling north and south along Galt Ocean Drive must patiently take turns inching through this traffic funnel. When moving vans or garbage trucks enter the mix, it turns the gauntlet into a barricade, and raises the table stakes. On August 22, as a garbage truck slowly made its way past the

Continued on page 9



The Galt Mile cutouts usurped by Broward County Transit differ significantly from other loading zones throughout Broward. Unlike public Right-of-Ways funded with local taxes, the association cutouts were built and paid for by Galt Mile residents. Part of a self-assessed neighborhood improvement project, the cutouts were approved and installed for the benefit of adjacent associations. In exchange for the windfall improvements, the City gave assurances that they would only be used by the public as loading zones, and maintained in a "Disney-like" manner.

In her discussion with Bendis, Douglas identified Dayana Iglesias as one of the officials who originally advised the County to relocate the bus routes while A1A was under repair - which subsequently evolved into Douglas' "Marching Orders". Iglesias serves as FDOT's communications nexus for issues related to the Galt Mile A1A Greenway improvements. When informed about the bus dilemma, Iglesias said, "Although I thought there might be complaints about the way they look or even about the way they smell, I never realized there would be a safety issue. That's unacceptable." Iglesias said she would raise the issue at the next A1A Greenway progress meeting on September 4.

Despite the best efforts of Playa del Mar and Regency Tower officials to reverse this ill-conceived policy, neighborhood association officials suspected that the contacted bureaucrats either wouldn't - or couldn't - effectively address the dilemma - at least not before someone was injured - or worse. Following an emergency teleconference, Galt Mile officials decided to enlist assistance from District 4 Broward Commissioner Chip LaMarca.

**Paydirt - LaMarca and Garling**

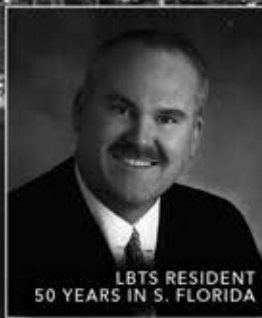
In an August 25 discussion arranged by LaMarca with Broward County Transit Director Tim Garling, GMCA President Pio Ieraci framed the policy as "a tragedy in the making," describing how the buses endanger local residents while disrupting adjacent associations. Garling agreed to explore remedies that would minimize any adverse impacts to ridership. This wouldn't be easy, since the BCT drivers who used the "bus stops" as depots were assigned to four different bus routes: 11, 36, 55 and 72. On September 2, Garling outlined how he planned to make good.

Once approved at a mid-September administrative transit hearing, Route #36 will cease operating along Galt Ocean Drive on October 11. For buses assigned to Route #s 55 and 72, Garling planned to relocate the layover to a site north of the Galt Mile. Although Route #11 will continue to service Galt Ocean Drive, buses assigned to the route will be expressly limited to picking up and discharging passengers - no more extended layovers for multiple mid-day pizza parties. Since Garling specifically requested that we report any deviations from this protocol, the administrations at Playa del Mar and Regency Tower will monitor the BCT barricade over the next month, and document if and when buses are warehoused by drivers, whether in cutouts or curbside.

On September 8, the Lauderdale-by-the-Sea Town Commission learned that Garling planned to use El Mar Drive between Hibiscus Avenue and Palm Avenue (in front of the old Holiday Inn) as the alternative layover for buses assigned to Routes #55 and #72. Concerned about prospective noise, congestion and plans by the adjacent property owner (Florida Development Group) to renovate the building, the Commission agreed to the layover for the Route #72 buses, but not for the Route #55 buses. Garling reached out to Fort Lauderdale Transportation & Mobility Director Diana Alarcon, who agreed to help locate an alternative layover location for the Route #55 buses. Given the sparsity of municipal parking lots or other viable layover locations in the Galt Mile neighborhood, Alarcon has a tough row to hoe.

If the threat abates over the next month as promised, Playa del Mar and Regency Tower residents will owe a debt of gratitude to Broward Commissioner Chip LaMarca, BCT Director Tim Garling, and a neighborhood filled with sleepy retirees who react poorly when abused. As for other Galt Ocean Drive associations that were scrutinized as future depots by the BCT boogieman - they will have dodged a bullet. However, Galt Mile officials are pressing for an expedited timetable. If someone is injured (or worse) before the bus blockade is fully mitigated, these sleepy retirees are apt to devolve into nonagenarian ninjas - as the conflict explodes from the street into Circuit Court. Tick Tock. •

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# Commissioner Chip LaMarca's AUGUST 2015 Newsletter

soon became rote, as company officials and drivers for traditional taxi companies and Uber pumped out corporate party lines on both sides of the issue.

Traditional taxi patrons expressed concern about loosening the safety standards for drivers or falling through the insurance gap in Uber's coverage if involved in a collision. Some Uber advocates expressed intrigue with the new technology while late night Fort Lauderdale bar-hoppers predicted a jump in DUIs and alcohol related accidents if deprived of cell phone access to Uber.

Although unable to agree on a final version, commissioners passed a motion by a vote of 6-to-2 (Dale Holness and Barbara Sharief dissenting) that directs the County Attorney to draft an amended Motor Carrier Ordinance for consideration by the Board in September. Transplanting elements from a similar law in Tallahassee, the new Ordinance would comprise content from parts of two consecutive motions on the August 11 agenda.

A motion contained in Agenda item 92 requires the County Administrator to collect all outstanding airport and port pickup fees owed to the County by transportation network companies (TNCs) since their arrival in Broward County. Given the County surcharge of \$3 for fares at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, Aviation Director Kent George estimated an accrued debt of \$450,000 to \$500,000. The motion also established a "Broward County Accountable Taxi Program". Taking a page from how Uber rates drivers, the program would provide all taxi passengers with the taxi driver's name, license number, and the taxi number for the purpose of evaluating the service.

Other changes were drawn from Agenda item 93, a seven-part motion by Commissioner Mark Bogen that embodied most of the relief sought by TNCs. Instead of requiring drivers to demonstrate chauffeur registrations and approved vehicle permits, TNCs that contract with drivers will certify these regulatory requirements before allowing them to use their online platforms. To ensure compliance, the County will inspect and/or audit TNC records, while protecting rider privacy and any proprietary trade confidences.

Level II background checks will be stepped down, allowing the County or a third party to perform driver background checks based on standards set forth in the Ordinance, which won't include fingerprinting, but will include vetting via PACER (Public Access to Court Electronic Records). Instead of requiring TNCs to list each individual vehicle on its insurance certificate, they can purchase a blanket policy for all TNC drivers, approved by Statute and issued by an insurer with an AM Best rating of A- or better.

Of all the Ordinance provisions eschewed by Uber, these cut closest to home. When confronted by the fact that Uber had agreed to comply with fingerprinting requirements in Columbus and Houston, Uber officials admitted to consenting without realizing how deeply the measure would cut into its driver pool, crippling its ability to meet fast-changing demand, a key contributor to its bottom line. Given the spectrum of likely reasons why drivers would risk their jobs to avoid inclusion in a law enforcement identification database, this issue squeaked by despite being hammered.

Also gone are mandates to place a county-issued permit number on all advertisements or maintain a 24/7-customer service telephone number. Finally, instead of maintaining a physical office in Broward County, TNCs can open an office anywhere in Broward, Palm Beach or Miami-Dade counties.

The commission decision to revisit the ordinance drew a mixed reaction by Uber officials. Despite optimistic comments by Uber's regional Public Policy Director Trevor Theunissen, leery Florida General Manager Matt Gore demurred, remarking "I can't turn the app back on until the law is passed. That will give me certainty." After vetting the revised Motor Carriers Ordinance at a September Public Hearing, the Commission will vote on the measure. If they enact the compromise, taxi drivers will be miffed, but weekend bar-hoppers who plan to overindulge in celebration of their victory can use their "Digital Designated Driver" to dodge post-partying DUIs.

A staple in its corporate playbook, Uber marshalled its drivers and riders to help erode Commission resolve. The efficacy of this carrot and stick tactic might have been the object of a quote by Denzel Washington in Remember the Titans, "It's like Novocain, give it time and it always works." A staunch supporter of TNCs, District 4 Broward Commissioner Chip LaMarca was pleased by the outcome, commenting "I think we really need to get to the same place and give people back the option to their own transportation... I don't think that's our business." For the rest of LaMarca's August 2015 message to constituents, read on. - [editor]\*

Continued on page 11

*In his August 2015 Newsletter, District 4 Broward Commissioner Chip LaMarca benchmarks a year of speeding cargo to railheads across the US via the Port Everglades Intermodal Container Transfer Facility (ICTF) - progeny of the Port and the Florida East Coast Railway (FECR), showcases pet-tracking facial recognition technology by Finding Rover, announces the Third Annual Go SOLAR & Renewable Energy Fest, applauds recognition of Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL) as "Airport of the Year" by the Air Line Pilots Association International, celebrates August as Water Quality Month and invites constituents to "Stay Connected" using County social media.*

*LaMarca opens his update with a painfully predictable tap dance by Uber and the County Commission. Following a year of high-testosterone ring toss for control of a County ordinance, the Broward Board and Uber are crafting an endgame that allows both sides to claim victory - and save face.*

*On April 28, the County Commission approved an amended Motor Carriers Ordinance that enabled Transportation Network Companies (TNC) to operate legally in Broward County. The new law blended statutory requirements with consumer protections recommended by the Federal Trade Commission. The ordinance provides for Level 2 State and national background checks with fingerprinting, 24/7 commercial insurance coverage, county-issued permits for vehicles inspected by county-approved mechanics, chauffeur registrations for drivers and a corporate office with a Broward County address. It dispensed with a corporate cap on the number of vehicles deployed for livery services and cleared the way for discretionary rates set by each TNC - except for fares at Port Everglades and Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, where the County has historically collected a "taste of the gate".*

*Exclaiming an inability "to operate under such onerous regulations," on July 9, Uber and Lyft announced their intention to abandon Broward, pulling the plug three weeks later. Since Uber severed access to its cell phone app on July 31, Commissioners who supported the Ordinance affirmed that their email inboxes and voice mails were brimming with invective, presumably an Uber-supported tactic to engineer a revision. Conceding to having been "Ubered Out", Commissioners decided to roll out a more productive venue for complainants.*

*On August 11, the Commission convened a public hearing to explore ordinance revisions cited by Uber as a precondition to reversing its July 31 suspension of services in Broward. The legislative outcome was prefaced by a 4-hour input marathon by 100 speakers who either supported or opposed diluting the current ordinance. The feedback*

# LaMarca's Letter

Dear Broward County Residents, I am honored to serve as a County Commissioner, representing our coastal communities from Deerfield Beach to Fort Lauderdale. Here are some recent highlights from Broward County.

## Commissioners Propose Laws for Transportation Network Companies

Broward County Commissioners considered new guidelines for Transportation Network Companies (TNC) such as Uber and Lyft. They listened to comments from more than one Hundred people at a public meeting on Tuesday, August 11th before reaching a tentative agreement on a proposal. The proposed legislation under consideration would require background checks that meet county standards, but could be processed through the County or a third party without fingerprinting. TNCs would be required to provide blanket insurance coverage that complies with state law and the County will audit and inspect TNC records to ensure full compliance with the proposed ordinance. TNC operations at Broward County's Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport and Port Everglades will also need to be addressed. Commissioners agreed that possible changes made to the current TNC ordinance will apply to taxis as well as for hire transportation services in Broward County. The newly drafted legislation is expected to come back to the Commission for discussion and review in September.

## New Florida East Coast Railway Intermodal Facility at Port Everglades

Florida East Coast Railway (FECR) is celebrating its first-year anniversary operating its new Intermodal Container Transfer Facility (ICTF) adjacent to Port Everglades with a 26 percent increase in volume. In a model public-private partnership, the FECR built the ICTF on 43 acres provided by Broward County's Port Everglades. Prior to the opening of this facility, containers were transported by truck to and from Port Everglades to off-port rail terminals in Fort Lauderdale and Hialeah. FECR's direct connection to the nation's Class 1 rail network allows for service to 70 percent of the U.S. population within four days. This results in more domestic containers moving north as loads, instead of empty, and increasing the efficiency of the intermodal network. The ICTF will reduce congestion on interstate highways and local roadways because loading and offloading cargo will take place at the Port as opposed to offsite facilities. As a result, air emissions will be reduced by diverting an estimated 180,000 trucks from the roads by 2027.

## New Facial Recognition Technology App Will Help Find Lost Pets

Broward's Animal Care and Adoption and the Humane Society of Broward County have joined forces with the Finding Rover mobile app company to bring free, real-time facial recognition technology to pet owners throughout the County to identify a dog or help find their lost dog.

The app features a special, easy-to-use lost and found notification system. If a dog is found, the finder can upload its picture. Once the photo is recognized through Finding Rover's facial recognition software, the finder will receive information on how to contact the pet's owner. As part of the effort, both Animal Care and the Humane Society will automatically upload and integrate information from their database into the Finding Rover system, and every dog that leaves either shelter will already be pre-registered in the Finding Rover database. Once adopted, the new pet owner can download the app and register with Finding Rover and their pets' information will conveniently be transferred to their new account. The Finding Rover app can be downloaded on any Apple or Android device. It can also be accessed at FindingRover.com.

Continued on page 12

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**Third Annual Go SOLAR Fest Set for October**

Go SOLAR website. The Third Annual Go SOLAR & Renewable Energy Fest will be held in October at the Broward County Convention Center. Go SOLAR Florida will sponsor this FREE event, which includes free parking, to educate businesses and residents on solar and renewable energy. The Fest will run from 10AM-6PM Friday, October 9th, and from 10AM-4PM Saturday, October 10th. This year, the exhibit hall will be on the ground floor of the convention center, which will enable alternative fueled vehicles, vans, and trailers to be inside with other exhibitors.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has awarded the Go SOLAR - Florida team a \$1.6 million SunShot Initiative Rooftop Solar Challenge II competitive award to make it easier for Floridians to obtain grid-tied solar installations. Its purpose is to increase the use of solar energy and access among the state's residents and businesses over the next two and a half years. The Go SOLAR Florida team is a partnership of Florida counties, cities, the Florida Solar Energy Center and Florida Atlantic University representing approximately 4 million Floridians.

**FLL International Airport Named "Airport of the Year"**

The Air Line Pilots Association International honored Broward County's Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL) as 2014-15 Airport of the Year. The award recognizes FLL's outstanding commitment to engaging with airline pilots during construction of the new South Runway. The elevated runway is part of the airport's improvement program to reduce delays and meet future growth. JetBlue pilots flew the first plane to land on the new 8,000-foot elevated South Runway. The new runway lies on the south side of the airport and runs parallel to an existing 9,000-foot runway. It is built on a bridge-like structure on its eastern end to allow U.S. Route 1 and a freight railway line to pass under it.

FLL is ranked 21st in the United States in total passenger traffic with about 24.6 million passengers traveling through the airport annually. With more than 300 departure and 300 arrival flights a day, the airport offers nonstop service to more than 100 U.S. cities as well as international destinations. FLL is ranked 21st in the United States in total passenger traffic with about 24.6 million passengers traveling through the airport annually. With more than 300 departure and 300 arrival flights a day, the airport offers nonstop service to more than 100 U.S. cities as well as international destinations.

**August is National Water Quality Month**

With current extreme drought conditions in parts of Broward County, practice these tips to protect Broward's natural resource. Best management tips to protect our water include:

- Walk dogs away from water bodies and remember to pick up after them.
- Don't use a hose to clean your driveway; use a broom.
- Inspect your irrigation system regularly for breaks and misaligned sprinkler heads to reduce run-off onto paved areas and overall use of water.
- Use a rain barrel to collect rainwater to water your plants.
- Your toilet and sinks are not wastebaskets. Don't flush medications or other trash down the drain.
- Storm drains are for water, nothing else. Please dispose of chemicals according to manufacturer directions. If you don't know where to dispose of them properly, contact your local Public Works Department.
- Plant trees! Trees catch rainwater, reducing the amount of water that runs off buildings and roads. Storm water runoff is a major source of pollution in urban areas. Trees such as Bald Cypress and the Florida Red Maple are also great for those wet spots in your yard.
- Volunteer at local water clean-up events or start your own. Broward County participates in the annual International Coastal Cleanup, sponsored by the Ocean Conservancy. The Cleanup takes place in over 104 countries around the world and is typically on the 3rd Saturday of September. The 30th Annual Coastal Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, September 19, 2015 from 9AM until noon. Email [coastal-cleanup@broward.org](mailto:coastal-cleanup@broward.org) to register for this year's cleanup event.

**Contact Us**

The Resident's Guide to Government provides a convenient resource to help people stay connected to their local government. It includes contact information for County officials and Federal, State, and local agencies. Visitors can stay connected by subscribing to E-news and social media sites. Sign up at [Broward.org/District4](http://Broward.org/District4) to receive email updates from our office. If there is anything that we can do to assist you with your vision for a better Broward, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 954-357-7004 or by email at [clamarca@broward.org](mailto:clamarca@broward.org).

As always, it is my honor to serve you. Have a wonderful summer with family and friends.

**Chip LaMarca**

Broward County Commissioner, District 4

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# Galt Mile A1A Makeover: Speedway to Greenway

By Eric Berkowitz

What a mess. The long-rumored transmogrification of A1A along the Galt Mile is upon us. Since 2006, City and State (FDOT) bureaucrats have been pledging to transform the Galt Mile's blighted A1A "speedway" into an opulent beach boulevard that safely embraces vehicles, pedestrians and bicycles while appealing to visitors and local residents. When neighborhood residents voted to approve their preferred design option in 2009, recessionary pressures compelled planners to split the venture into two less financially intimidating projects. An initial component that was completed in February, 2013, reduced the number of traffic lanes from 6 to 4, and modernized roadway infrastructure in preparation for a second project meant to "fine tune" traffic control and enhance the route's appearance.

## Looking Back

While many features in the current A1A Greenway were originally conceived in 2006, the project's underlying rationale was hatched several years earlier. In 2003, when the residents of Coral Ridge Towers East and South complained bitterly about their adjacent stretch of A1A devolving on weekends and evenings into a drag strip, the neighborhood association asked then Police Chief Bruce Roberts to clamp down on the nightly racing by hot rods and Harleys.

Roberts' "Traffic Enforcement Action Plan," temporarily mitigated the abuse during stretches of 2004 and 2005, by raining down citations for speeding and aftermarket motorcycle mufflers that emulated automatic weapons fire. However, whenever police resources were reallocated, the freak show resumed. A more permanent structural cure was considered in 2007, when the Florida Department of Transportation initiated preparations to rehabilitate State Road A1A from Flamingo Avenue to Oakland Park Boulevard. To structurally inoculate the roadway against street races wherein competing vehicles require dedicated lanes, the City commissioned Kimley-Horn and Associates Inc. to conduct a "Lane Reduction Feasibility Study".

As original Project Engineer Michael Melendez later explained, "This is not a typical project. You usually don't have many opportunities to reduce the number of road lanes. You can see where people speed up because of the open corridor. One of the benefits will be to slow down traffic, not to the point where it obstructs traffic, but to allow more pedestrians to walk on the sidewalk and bring more exposure to businesses along A1A."

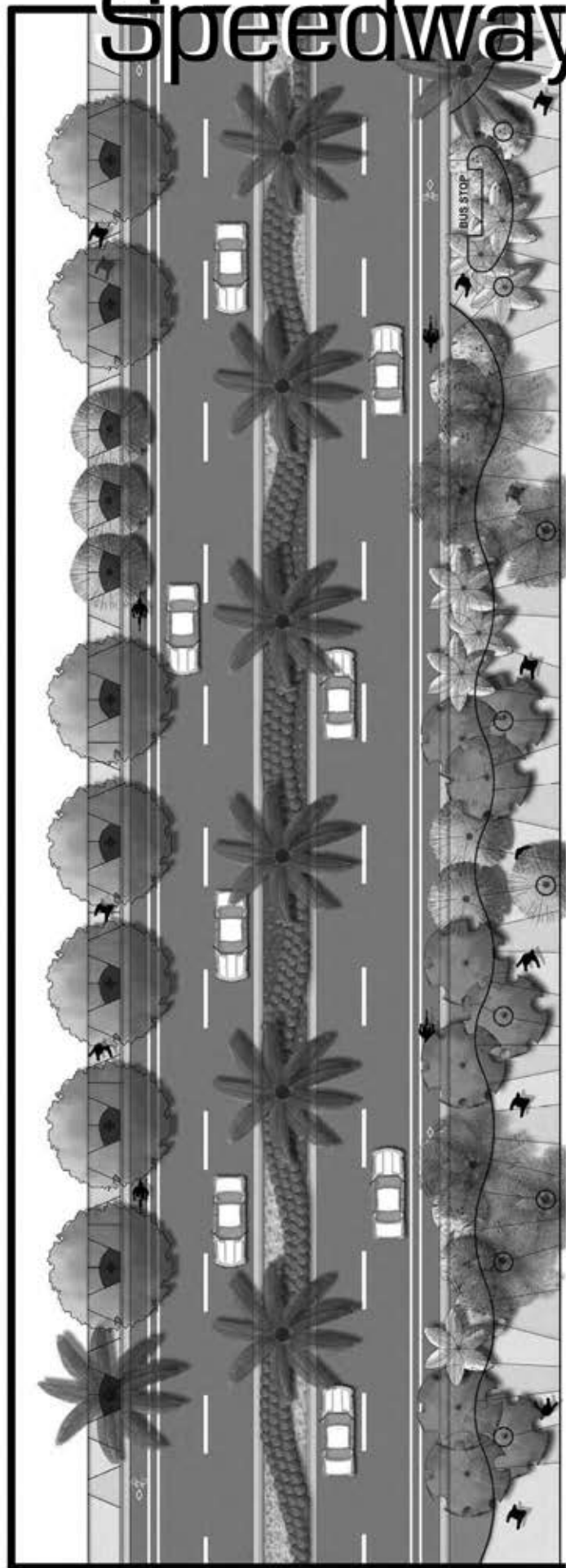
Drawing on the Kimley-Horn findings and a Conceptual Streetscape Study by urban planners Glattig Jackson Kercher Anglin (since acquired by Los Angeles-based AECOM), FDOT and City planners packaged various design options into a referendum for local residents. Galt Milers selected a 4-lane version of A1A with many of the design elements featured in the current plan.

## Florida Scenic Highway: FDOT Kisses the Frog

When former FDOT Secretary Stephanie C. Kopelouso notified Broward County that its 32 miles of A1A had been designated as a Florida Scenic Highway on July 20, 2009, the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) was saddled with a problem. Although FDOT had recently reconstructed A1A in Lauderdale-by-the-Sea as a beautiful transportation corridor, and the Ocean Highway approaching and adjacent to the Fort Lauderdale beach was a world-class high-end destination site, the connecting section of A1A along the Galt Mile was a festering embarrassment – a dangerous speedway scarred for decades by potholes, spiderweb cracks and crispy brown landscaping.

To make A1A in Broward County worthy of its designation as a Florida Scenic Highway, Commissioners in Fort Lauderdale and Broward County had promised to rehabilitate the sordid span of A1A along the Galt Mile. Fiscally constrained by the 2009 post-recession economy, Broward MPO divided the selected plan into two parts, and added the first phase to a list of projects which are considered annually for funding. On October 7, 2011, the \$1,728,489.86 proposal submitted by Weekley Asphalt Paving, Inc. snagged the project's first phase for the Pembroke Pines contractor, although a sweetener of almost \$400,000 pumped project costs to \$2.1 million.

Continued on page 14



The initial phase was kicked off in May 2012. By the February 2013 completion date, the road was reduced to 4 lanes, partially refitted with mast arm assemblies and stamped with a bike lane. Traffic lanes and intersections were restriped and fitted with new signage along the entire route. The tough fiscal climate was underscored by sparingly vegetated medians that would be fleshed out "down the road," a reminder that the project was a precursor to the final upgrades promised in the current project. 12 years after angry residents in Coral Ridge Towers East and South placed A1A drag races on the GMCA agenda, improvements to our long-stigmatized stretch of Ocean Highway are finally underway.

**What Will \$9.3 Million Buy?**

Entitled "A1A Improvements Project from Oakland Park Boulevard to Flamingo Avenue in Fort Lauderdale" and ascribed the financial identifier 431204-1-52-01 by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT - the State agency responsible for temporarily turning A1A into a demilitarized zone); the 1.04 mile project was officially launched on July 27, 2015, and is expected to continue for 648 days working days - up to two and a half years.

Given the inconsistent attendance at several project-related Town-Hall style meetings convened at the Beach Community Center, it's no surprise that few Galt Mile residents know the project's final structural objectives - or which contractor hit the jackpot. After advertising the project for procurement and soliciting bids, FDOT set the letting date at April 3, 2015 at 10:30 AM. When the smoke cleared on April 6, 2015, the \$9,297,344.20 bid offered by Medley-based Central Florida Equipment Rentals was the lowest of seven contractor proposals that ranged up to \$12,106,706.36. Of the \$13.4 million projected for the "makeover," here's what we get for the almost \$9.3 million tucked into the contractor's feedbag:

After peppering the route section with construction signage, the company's demolition crew began stripping asphalt and shattering concrete. 40,000 sq. yds. of resurfaced roadway will be framed by 10,000 sq. yds. of pedestrian walkways and striking hardscape features. A network of crosswalks comprised of decorative pavers will span A1A, linking new tabby shell colored concrete sidewalks along the east and west sides of the thoroughfare. ADA compliant concrete

ramps will connect sidewalks to crosswalks. Improvements above and below the new roadway skin will enhance the road's stability and prolong its useful life. 1,368 linear feet of pipe culvert will be integrated with more than 70 drainage structures, pacifying the subterranean detritus that turns the Galt Mile's section of A1A into a 2-mile petri dish whenever it rains.

New signage, traffic lines, stripes and street glyphs will adorn the corridor. Elevated lamps will illuminate the entire greenway while low level lighting will brighten pedestrian footfalls. To insure compliance with the City's controversial beach lighting ordinance, the lamps are equipped with a variable intensity function designed to increase or decrease illumination in conjunction with sea turtle nesting season. However, since a concrete rampart of high-rise associations blocks any view of A1A - or its lamps - from the beach, there's no reason to ever dim the lamps - or throw money at remotely accessible dimmer switches. Of course, this investment could prove fortuitous if the Galt Mile is ever rezoned as a farming community under the Greenbelt Law.

During the first phase of the two-part A1A rehabilitation plan, mast-arm assemblies replaced dangling span wire traffic signals that failed to meet safety standards at 32nd Street, 34th Street, 36th Street, 41st Street and Flamingo Avenue. Since the signal mid-block between 36th and 40th Streets and the one at 40th Street were code compliant, their replacement was postponed until the project's current phase (despite vehement neighborhood protests). Since a planned two-block "drive aisle" along the east side of A1A will shift the other traffic lanes a few feet to the west, the existing mast arm on the east side of 34th Street will be replaced by an upgrade with a longer reach. Pedestrian crossing signals are being upgraded to countdown timers, a proven deterrent to pedestrians who might otherwise "jump the gun" while impatiently awaiting signalized permission to cross the street.

From 34th Street to 36th Street, a belt of head-in parking fronts the businesses along the east side of A1A. For decades, departing patrons parked in front of the stores had to back into the fast moving traffic on A1A. Drivers would wait for a break in the traffic before nervously executing a reverse three-point turn in order to escape.

Continued on page 15

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If their perspective or maneuvering skills were less than perfect, the drivers might join literally hundreds of other collision victims along that morbid stretch of A1A. Helpful merchants would often walk out with their customers and stand in the road waving oncoming traffic into the adjacent lane as the driver backed out. Otherwise, the driver was forced to risk being sideswiped - or killed.

To business owners competing for customers, what should be a prime location proved a double-edged sword. While a high-profile A1A address would catch the eye of passing motorists, local residents would often opt to forego the hair-raising parking dilemma and frequent more "accessible" competitors. After intensely studying the problem, traffic engineers at FDOT and the City of Fort Lauderdale hammered out a solution - a dedicated business access drive aisle along the east side of those two blocks.

Vehicles traveling north along A1A will be able to enter a 13-foot wide single lane service road at 34th Street and slowly cruise past the businesses along the east side of A1A before either re-entering A1A at the end of the block - or turning onto 35th Street. Another service aisle that opens at 35th Street will similarly route drivers past the businesses on the east side of A1A between 35th and 36th Streets. Customers will be able to safely park or depart without risking a coronary - or a collision. Although the strategy will add back one of the traffic lanes dispensed with during the earlier project, instead of serving as the grandstand for a drag race, this traffic calming design element should help win back customers who were fearful of parking along these otherwise vibrant commercial blocks.

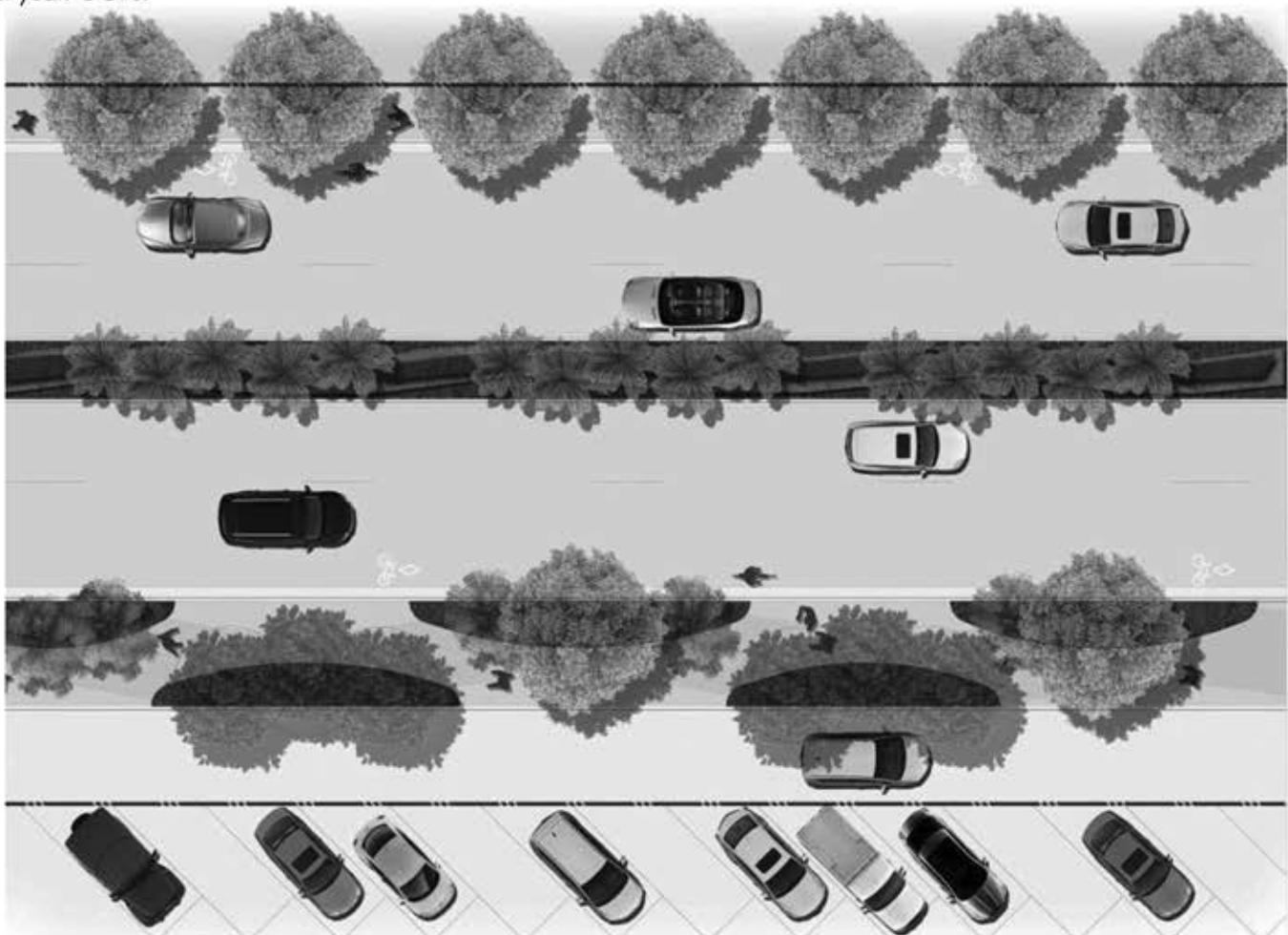
Along the west side of A1A, pedestrians will share an 8-foot walkway with a broad swath of lush landscaping. Except for the two blocks bordering the drive aisle, pedestrians on the east side of A1A will stroll through a 24-foot wide well-canopied greenway (that is - when the trees mature). From 34th Street to 36th Street, the 24-foot walkway will be replaced by the drive aisle abutting a 6-foot sidewalk and a 4-foot planter. The route's central north and south traffic lanes will be separated by a 14-foot median brimming with designer landscaping. Oddly enough, the median's planned greenery will replace landscaping newly purchased and planted only last year. OOPs!

Annually, every Galt Mile association donates dozens of abandoned bicycles to Goodwill, Faith Farm or some other charitable thrift merchant - clearing out rusting garage clutter for some modest tax write-off. That said, there are literally hundreds of bicycle enthusiasts living along the Galt Mile. Unfortunately, Galt Ocean Drive is barely wide enough to safely support two single lanes of traffic, much less a bike lane. For decades, bike riders have sought a way of enjoying their two-wheeler without endangering nonagenarian pedestrians or risking their necks on the street.

In 2010, longtime FDOT management consultant Jim Hughes observed "There's a lot of bicycle traffic in the area with no bike lanes, so I think the bike lanes will be a big addition." Although bike lanes were placed on A1A during the project's first phase, they were sparingly used. Since they were imprinted directly adjacent to traffic lanes, bike riders were rightfully fearful of being up-ended by a cell phone wielding teenager with a Learner's Permit or mowed down by a pickup driven by an astigmatic gardener. Heeding their concerns, project planners decided to correct the deficiency. To protect bicycle enthusiasts from lead-footed predatory motorists, 4-foot wide bike lanes on either side of A1A will be separated from the adjacent 10-foot wide traffic lanes by a 1.5 foot wide buffer covered with high-visibility stripes.

The outcome of every major road project largely depends on preparation. The first phase of the Galt Mile A1A Greenway project was planned by former FDOT Project Manager Jim Hughes, Dominic Novello (Transportation Manager at engineering and design firm Atkins North America) and the City of Fort Lauderdale's Transportation & Mobility Director Diana Alarcon. FDOT's former project information specialist Miranda Iglesias kept GMCA officials up to speed with regular progress updates while then Construction Coordinator Sara Duffoo escorted the plan to completion. Although Alarcon and Hughes still anchor the current project's institutional memory, a new team is at the helm.

Continued on page 16



### New Blood in Phase II

FDOT staged another due diligence tournament for the \$714,221 consultancy "cherry". On January 12, 2015, a panel assembled by former FDOT District 4 Secretary Jim Wolfe vetted seven competitors vying to provide CEI services (Construction Engineering & Inspection) for the project. Of three hopefuls that made the shortlist, Keith and Schnars, P.A., bagged the brass ring on January 26, 2015.

Licensed in both Florida and Illinois, the FDOT Project Manager is Angela Lietz, P.E., a Professional Engineer who works as a Project Administrator for Calvin, Giordano & Associates. Jorge Blanco, an award-winning consultant with Keith and Schnars, will serve as Project Administrator, a position he's filled for FDOT in various districts since 1987. The Senior Project Engineer, also with Keith and Schnars, is Jorge Armando Ortiz, a seasoned veteran who helped build Wiles Road while employed by Broward County and completed Highway Transportation projects in FDOT Districts 1, 4 and 6. Not surprisingly, they all eat and breathe asphalt.

When engaging stakeholders in South Florida, FDOT uses the nationally renowned Corradino Group. As Corradino's avatar in Broward County, transportation projects are coordinated by public information specialist Dayana Iglesias. Iglesias was charged with keeping everyone up to speed about project progress - a communication nexus for community residents, government officials, project planners, local merchants and later in the project - contractors.

To reignite the high level of community support maintained throughout the project's first phase, Iglesias interfaced with neighborhood associations, local civic groups, and merchant associations as well as individual residents and business owners. On July 22, 2015,

Iglesias hosted the last in a series of town-hall style meetings at the Beach Community Center. Accompanied by Lietz, Blanco, and Ortiz from the new project team - as well as Jim Hughes - they invited questions and solicited community input for eleventh hour project tweaks.

Once the project launched on July 27, 2015, Iglesias' responsibilities were expanded. In addition to serving as a conduit bridging the community, elected officials and project planners, she would also keep tabs on the contractors. She has already begun issuing regular construction (and traffic) updates to stakeholders who subscribe to this free service. When necessary, she will help broker resolutions to unanticipated construction blowback. If this promising new team is successful, the project will parse on schedule with its objectives - and budget - intact. If not, the neighborhood gets shortchanged, and we pay the freight. •

“FDOT staged another due diligence tournament for the \$714,221 consultancy “cherry””



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Another in a series of monthly senior get-togethers  
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Please join us for an afternoon of fun, food and friends.  
Bring a guest or come alone and  
meet other like-minded individuals.

A prize will be awarded to the  
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**Third Tuesday of each month**

**(September - May)**

**3-4:30pm**

**Broward Health Imperial Point**

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**6401 N. Federal Highway**

**Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308**

*Physician Lecture or Guest Speaker. Call to inquire.*

RSVP is required. Please call **954.759.7400**



## The Sun Trolley Needs Your Feedback!

To better serve you, the Sun Trolley would like your feedback regarding service on the Galt Mile Link Route. Once you have completed this survey please drop it off at the Galt Ocean Mile Reading Library. If you would like to complete a survey in person, ask questions or further discuss the Sun Trolley's Galt Mile Link Route, join us on Thursday, October 1, 2015 from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. or from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the Galt Ocean Mile Reading Library (3403 Galt Ocean Drive). Call (954) 732-0754 to RSVP by 9/28/15 for one of the community meetings.

www.suntrolley.com  
(954) 761-3543

1. On average how often do you use the Sun Trolley to access shops, restaurants and other destinations in your area?

- Daily
- Monthly
- Hardly Ever
- Weekly
- Quarterly

2. What is the easiest way for you to receive information about the Sun Trolley?

- Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
- Galt Mile News
- Jewish Journal
- At HOA Meetings
- From the driver
- Hi Riser Newspaper
- The Pelican
- \*Via Email
- Radio

\*Please provide us with your email address, so we can provide you with up-to-date information about the Sun Trolley.

3. The Sun Trolley currently runs Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Do these service times meet your needs?

- Yes
- No

If No, Why Not?

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4. The Galt Link currently runs north on A1A to NW 41st Street. If service were extended to Washingtonia Ave. in Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, would you use the Sun Trolley more frequently?

- Yes
- No

If No, Why Not?

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5. Do you use the Pelican Hopper service?

- Yes
- No

If yes, explain how you use it (connect to Sun Trolley, etc.)

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6. In the past year, how many times have you utilized the Sun Trolley to visit a hospital or doctor's office?

- None
- 4 to 7
- More than 10
- 1 to 3
- 7 to 10

7. How do you primarily get to the hospital or doctor's office?

- I Drive
- Call a Cab
- Use the Sun Trolley
- Use the Pelican Hopper
- A Friend or Family Member Drives Me
- Other

8. For each dollar amount listed below, please select the likelihood of you using the Sun Trolley at that rate.

	Not likely	Somewhat Likely	Very Likely
\$0.50 per ride			
\$1 per ride			
\$2 per ride			
\$19.95 per month for unlimited ridership			

9. I am a:

- Full Time Resident
- Snowbird who lives here 6 months out of the year
- Frequent Visitor who stays for weeks at a time on a more frequent basis
- Other (please specify)

10. What is your age range?

- 18 or younger
- 25-30
- 46-60
- 70 or older
- 19-24
- 31-45
- 61-70