

## **GALT OCEAN DRIVE BEAUTIFICATION AND RENOVATION PROJECT ZOOM MEETING Q&A**

After the February 11 zoom meeting on the Galt Ocean Drive project, several questions were generated from that meeting. This Q&A will attempt to answer and clarify some issues that may be unclear. We appreciate everyone who participated in the zoom meeting and offered questions for clarification.

It is important to understand that many factors are out of our control. Since the total funding is coming from Fort Lauderdale and the state of Florida (and no individual owners will be assessed for these renovations unlike 1996), that alone places some limits on us. Additionally, there are federal, state, county and city laws that govern certain items. While everyone wanted wider sidewalks, bigger bike lanes, wider driving lanes and more landscaping, we were working with a finite area – we could not expand the site on the east or west and take private property. So, we had to make the renovations within the existing boundaries.

Below are some of the Q&As asked by residents on the Galt Ocean Mile.

**Q:** Are they going to repave the street?

**A:** Yes, the asphalt will be removed, repairs made to the road surface, and then a new layer of asphalt will be installed, along with appropriate signage and lines on the street.

**Q:** Why use Japanese Blueberry Trees that shed berries and stain? A significant challenge to keep clean and can also be tracked onto individual property pavers.

**A:** The Japanese Blueberry trees that will be used do not shed berries. The trees and shrubs beside Winn-Dixie shed these berries, but not the trees we plan to install. If you want to see the Japanese Blueberry trees, look at them in front of Playa del Mar – they are tall, give shade, and have no berries. They have been there for over 5 years.

**Q:** Is it true the actual width of the road will be shortened by 3 feet to make room for the Bicycle Lane?

**A:** The lanes will be reduced because the current code (both city and Federal government) requires bike lanes to be 4 feet wide as opposed to the current 3 feet. Each lane will be reduced by approximately one foot.

**Q:** How will the Bicycle Lane be separated from the Driving Lane?

**A:** They will have lines marking the bike lanes, and bike riding symbols – similar to other bike lanes all over the city.

**Q:** Are the new streetlights “turtle friendly” or does it not matter given their proximity from the beach/ocean?

**A:** The street lights do not need to be turtle compliant due to the distance from the beach.

**Q:** Do the new benches have a different design from the current benches that would discourage non-housed people to sleep on them?

**A:** The benches will be like the one in front of Galt Ocean Club – with a divider so as to create two seating areas. Sleeping on benches is now illegal and should be reported to the city –this restriction is effective 24/7. If we don't report individuals sleeping or drinking or misbehaving on the benches at the time it is occurring, then the police cannot take actions.

**Q:** Will the number of benches increase?

**A:** No, we plan to keep the same number, but space them out over the course of Galt Ocean Drive.

**Q:** Is it true the current sidewalk will be removed and replaced (vs only an extension of the current sidewalk)?

**A:** The sidewalk will be replaced, and widened in certain areas to try and maintain a consistent width for those who walk on the Galt. The color was selected to give a clean appearance, and make it easier to match whenever a contractor cuts into the sidewalk to make repairs or installs new connections.

**Q:** Several were disappointed with the overall “drab, uninspiring design and lack of beauty.” Many stated “this is Florida, with so many viable options for lush and pretty plants.”

**A:** Plants were selected based on the city’s ability to maintain the landscaping and to discourage dogs from using the landscape areas for bathrooms (and creating another issue). We will attempt to add some color to the landscaping, but the basic design will remain. Because it is a roadway, we are limited on colors.

**Q:** What order/sequence will occur with the Project? Starting point(s)?

**A:** That’s undecided and won’t be until the contractor is selected. The design consultant will recommend a plan of action, but the final decision will be made by the contractor.

**Q:** Will we be able to get in and out of our association during construction?

**A:** Yes, the contractor will ensure that no association is completely blocked out of their property. Work on sidewalks and driveways will take this into consideration.

**Q:** How will the already congested parking strip alongside the curbs on Galt Mile (for deliveries and contractors) be handled when the construction/demolition occurs in the same areas?

**A:** The contractor will have people directing traffic and set up delivery areas. We will ask delivery people to be cooperative and work with us on this issue.

**Q:** The sidewalks, speed humps, and road are slated to be various shades of gray. Can any color be added?

**A:** There will be no “speed humps” on the Drive. The intersections and crosswalks are slightly elevated and colored to give the appearance of a much greater elevation to slow down traffic. We are bound by state, county and local laws that mandate colors for roadways. Some limited color can be added and that will be discussed with the contractor.

**Q:** Though not required, why eliminate “Up-Lighting” which adds much to the aesthetics of the sidewalk.

**A:** Space for the wiring is a consideration as well as tree roots causing damages (which is why most of the uplighting does not work). Uplighting is considered very out of date as a way of illuminating an area. Some uplighting will remain at the very south end of Galt Ocean Drive.

**Q:** Trash can color doesn’t seem to match the new sidewalk colors.

**A:** Trash cans will be the same design, but will be concrete grey to match the sidewalks. They will be raised at the base to allow water to drain out of them.