

## Las Olas Beautification Plan

May 2017

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Northside:**

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

**Southside:**

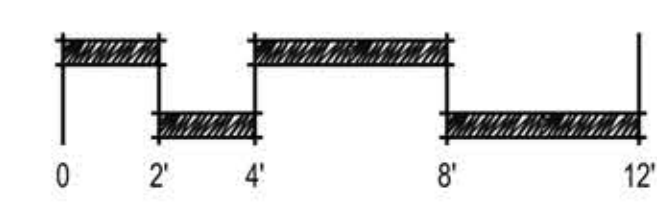
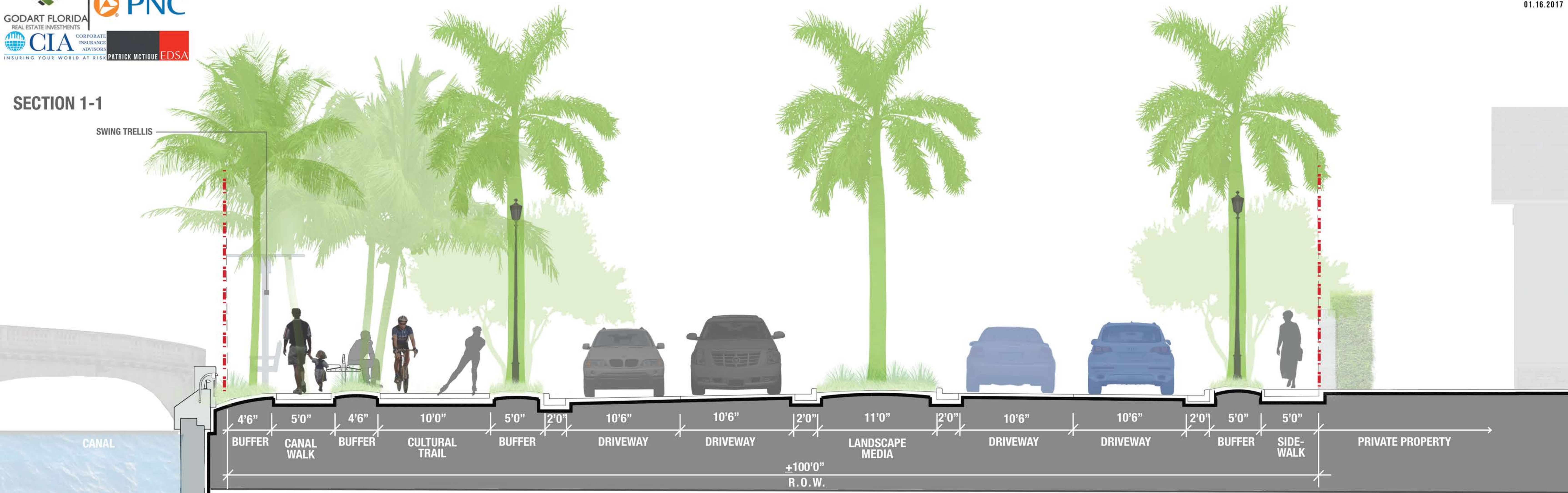
- Currently, the only buffer between the street and the side walk is a patch of grass. As a result of the plan, the area separating the sidewalk from the street will be widened to 5 feet to allow a landscape buffer of trees between the sidewalk and the street.

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

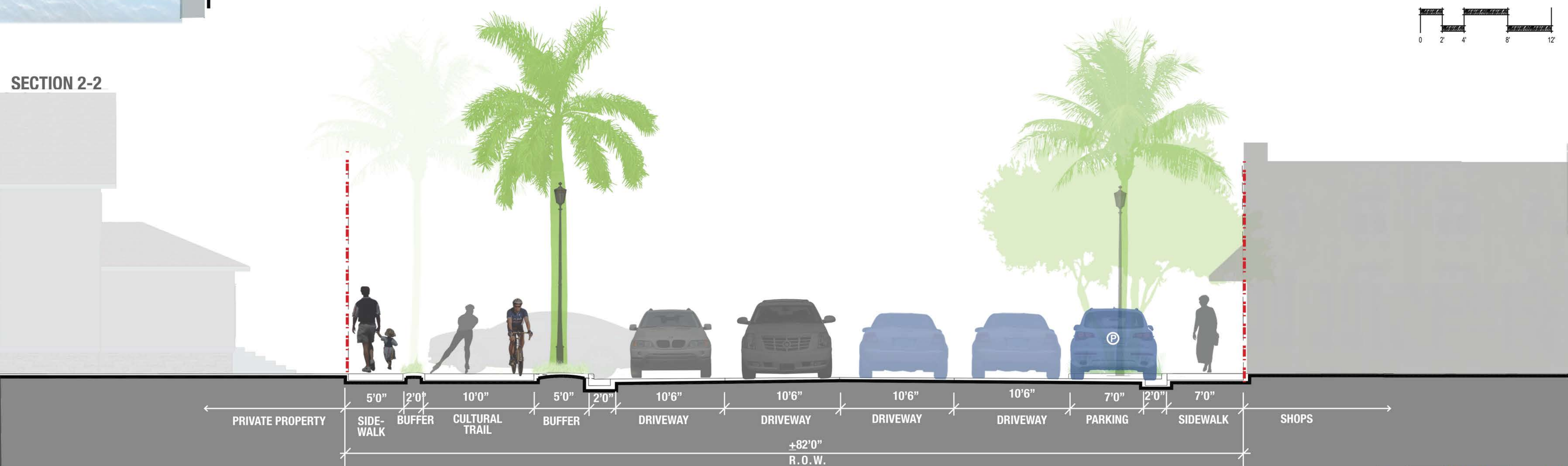
- The plan still allows for continuity to continue the lineal park to the bridge.

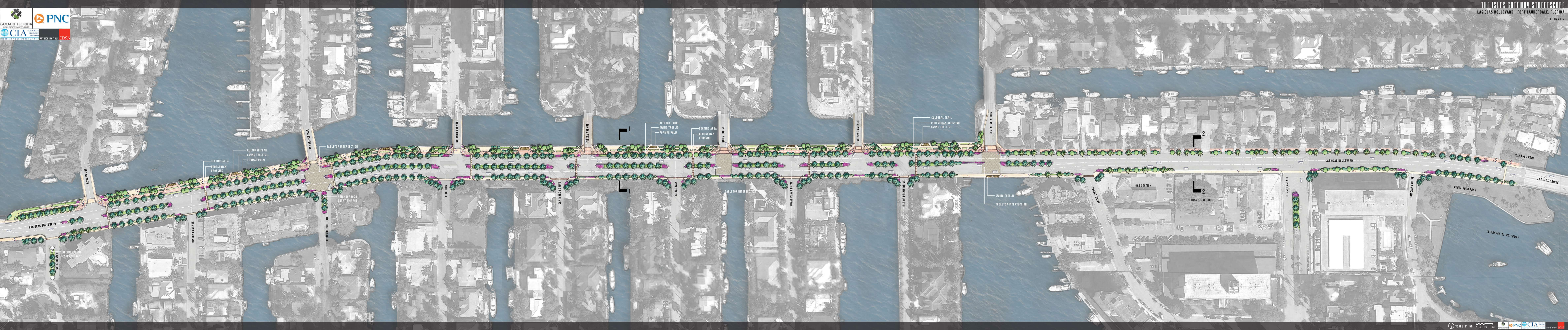
**All of this will create a signature, pedestrian friendly environment that will encourage people to walk, run, and bicycle from the beach into Retail Las Olas.**

SECTION 1-1



SECTION 2-2





SEATING AREA  
PEDESTRIAN  
CROSSING

CULTURAL TRAIL  
SWING TRELLIS  
FORMAL PALM

TABLETOP INTERSECTION

NEIGHBORHOOD  
ENTRY STORAGE

SEATING AREA  
PEDESTRIAN  
CROSSING

CULTURAL TRAIL  
SWING TRELLIS  
FORMAL PALM

SEATING AREA  
PEDESTRIAN  
CROSSING

CULTURAL TRAIL  
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CULTURAL TRAIL  
PEDESTRIAN  
CROSSING  
SWING TRELLIS

SWING TRELLIS  
TABLETOP INTERSECTION

GAS STATION  
CHIMA STEAKHOUSE

MERLE FOGG PARK  
INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY