

# Flagler remake follows new road

BY CATHERINE LACKNER

The beautification of Flagler Street downtown, which has followed a fits-and-starts pattern for more than three years, appears to be chugging along again. With only one block completed so far, the City of Miami has issued a notice to proceed for the Flagler Street design and utility investigation, also known as the pre-construction phase, for the rest of the project, said Terrell N. Fritz, executive director of the Flagler Street Business Improvement District.

The entire project will remake the street from the Dade County Courthouse to Biscayne Boulevard with pedestrian-friendly wide sidewalks, a slightly raised roadbed with no curbs, and other features that will imbue it with a 'festival-style' design that's compatible with major events. The new design was proposed by Moishe Mana, an investor who has bought a portfolio of Flagler Street properties, to make the street more open and inviting.

Lanzo Construction, which took over the contract from FH Paschen

in 2017, has already begun the work of finding out what's underneath the streets of the unrenovated blocks, Mr. Fritz said. A maze of wiring, drainage, and other surprises beneath the street, which is more than 100 years old, has hobbled the project.

"Lanzo will schedule the formal pre-construction meeting during April once they've refined the project schedule. [Senior Team Manager of Planning, Design, and Transportation] Patrice Gillespie Smith from the DDA and I will be invited to attend, and we will review the schedule, proposed phasing and other issues," he said. The downtown authority has championed the project since its inception and has contributed substantial funding.

David Adato and Robert Fenton are assigned to the project for the city, while Jorge Valdez will be the project manager for Lanzo Construction, Mr. Fritz added. "The city administration still plans to take the project to the City Commission in May or June."

Absent any further problems, the entire project could be completed

by 2021, in time for the 125th anniversary of the day Henry Flagler's Florida East Coast Railway rolled into town, he said.

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