

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Tom Harmer, Town Manager
From: Isaac Brownman, Public Works Director
Report date: September 21, 2020
Meeting date: September 29, 2020
Subject: Utilities Undergrounding Project Update

Recommended Action

None, informational only.

Undergrounding Project – Funding

The Town Commission is in the process of formally adopting the FY21 proposed Budget, including Utilities Undergrounding Project components, at the September 29, 2020 Special Workshop Meeting. For the Undergrounding Projects, these elements are consistent with the current remaining budgets based upon Referendum and Bond balances.

Undergrounding Project – Design-Build RFP Wilco-FPL

Work in Phase 1 is within the anticipated schedule for contractor completion dates. All boring operations/conduit placement within Phase 1 Neighborhood (NH) is complete. Crews are finalizing installation of wire, setting of transformer equipment and terminations on remaining locations in Country Club Shores. Wilco has moved back into the GMD right-of-way, installing Town fiber, streetlight conduits, and junction boxes, as well as conduits for Comcast.

The process for energizing newly installed underground FPL equipment is known as the “switch order” process. We initiated this process on September 11, 2020, by submission of Wilco’s field “red line” drawings for Phase 1. Next steps involve:

- review by FPL engineering staff and acceptance of submitted field modified “red line”/“As Built” renderings;
- FPL field review, inspection, enrollment of crews to energize equipment, and final verification of circuit continuity. We anticipate this portion of the switch order process to be completed during October / November.
- Final conversions of individual overhead service drops can commence during this process, and based upon total number within Phase 1 should take approximately 30 days to be completed, in December.
- Final conversions occur incrementally, home by home.

Following final acceptance by FPL of all overhead to underground conversion work, pole removals will be scheduled by FPL. The Town street lighting order and manufacturing lead time to install for Phase 1, will help better determine anticipated dates for FPL pole removal, but are planned as soon as practical.

In Phase 2, in conjunction with Frontier and Comcast, Wilco will commence coordinated work for the initiation of the remaining GMD corridor work, and all Neighborhood UG work beginning this fall. They will also commence the installation of Town fiber and street light conduits as part of this work.

For Phase 3, Town staff has issued a Work Assignment and notice to proceed for Wilco to order and take receipt of FPL materials to begin work as soon as FPL/FDOT permitting is secured.

Frontier

Frontier has completed their work within Phase 1. Meanwhile, Frontier is actively working to complete their undergrounding and/or removal of non-active aerial facilities, and conversions of aerial fiber drops within Phase 2 and Phase 3.

Comcast

The project team is coordinating closely with Comcast and their sub-contractor, Knight Broadband, as they complete underground infrastructure in Phase 1, removing any active aerial service lines. This work will be completed ahead of the final FPL conversion switch orders, so as not to delay pole removals. Wilco has completed installation of Comcast conduits in the GMD/FDOT right-of-way.

Town Fiber Work

Installation of Town fiber conduit by Wilco, concurrent with FPL work, within Phase 1 Neighborhoods is complete. Wilco is completing the installations of the Town fiber vaults in the GMD right of way.

Installation of Town fiber conduit along Longboat Club Road is complete and does not involve any FPL or Town street lighting.

Smart Street Lighting (“SSL”)

Town streetlight conduit and vaults are being installed simultaneously with the Town fiber. Accordingly, the Phase 1 schedule for this work falls in line with the above fiber conduit.

Wilco has provided final street light submittals for GMD and Neighborhood poles, support arms, and fixtures. Wilco is completing designs for locations and wiring for all remaining neighborhood and GMD phases. The Town Public Works has approved the street light submittal package, and the package is in accordance with the design concepts previously approved by the Town Commission.

Phase 1 street lighting is planned to begin installation by the end of calendar year 2020. Conversion to new street lights will coincide with FPL pole removals.

The original intent of the Town Street Light Project was, and remains:

1. Improve both quality of light and pole/fixture aesthetics.
2. Provide poles that are “smart capable” for potential wireless and cell carrier enhancement, and
3. Replace any/all streetlights on existing FPL aerial facilities so that once the underground conversion is in place, the Town project can remove the aerial facilities/poles including FPL lights.

The project team is continuing outreach to homeowner association representatives as the project moves forward through each phase of the project.

Budget, Schedule, and Other Items of Interest

Phase 1

The project team is pleased to report, that as we near completion of Phase 1, we have not had to utilize any contingency funds to-date. The project has remained under the original budget as presented in previous updates.

The street lighting budget remains positive for GMD due to the reduction of original streetlights based on the FDOT Lighting Justification Study. Although the Town has been able to negotiate and bring the overall project under original budgets, the neighborhood street lighting budget remains at the original projected amount. This includes transferring some intersection street lighting into the GMD budget.

Phase 2

Similar to the above, the Town is pleased to report that budget for Phase 2, has not utilized any contingency funds to date. As with Phase 1, the Town will continue to mitigate any potential issues to preserve project contingency funds.

Fiber and streetlight conduit will be installed within Phase 2 once the Town has the final design and permits in place. Wilco will begin installations concurrent with FPL undergrounding.

Phase 3 (includes the Southern portion of the original Phase 5)

The Town has signed and returned the Binding Cost Estimate (BCE) from FPL for Phase 3. Staff has negotiated and issued a Work Assignment with Wilco for this Phase. As a result, the project is under the original budget estimate by \$1,238,872.

Phase 4 - Final Phase (includes the Northern portion of the original Phase 5)

The Town is in receipt of Phase 4 preliminary design from FPL for review and comment. This is ahead of the original design schedule and will be a positive for the goal of advancing the overall project schedule the Town is striving for.

Next Steps

- Finalize remaining Phase 1 and 2 easements to be submitted with final “as-built” drawings prior to switch orders for final power conversions.
- Finalize remaining phase designs for locations of street light poles, fiber-optic conduits, and electrical connections with Wilco. Street light submittals have been received and approved by Public Works. Wilco to immediately begin ordering light poles and fixtures for Phase 1. These are consistent with the Town Commission approved concepts for GMD and Neighborhood Street lights.
- Obtain FDOT permits for all Town fiber and street light work on GMD for remaining phases. Phase 2 drawings are submitted for FDOT review and approval.
- Issue Work Assignments for Wilco and Comcast to begin work in Neighborhoods Phase 2.
- FPL to complete Phase 4 design and development of the Binding Cost Estimate.
- Explore GMD multi-purpose pathway lighting options and cost out the improvements.
- Continue to explore opportunities to partner with the major carriers and/or other smart city providers to leverage the Town’s fiber conduit and smart ready street light poles.

Staff Recommendation

None, informational only.

Attachments

PowerPoint Presentation (Available from Town Clerk’s Office)

End of Agenda Item