

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Tom Harmer, Town Manager
From: Isaac Brownman, Public Works Director
Report date: October 12, 2020
Meeting date: October 19, 2020
Subject: Utilities Undergrounding Project Update

Recommended Action

None, informational only.

Undergrounding Project – Funding

The Town Commission formally adopted the FY21 Budget, including Utilities Undergrounding Project components at the September 29, 2020 Special Meeting. For the Undergrounding Projects, these elements are consistent with the current remaining budgets based on Referendum and Bond balances.

Undergrounding Project – Design-Build RFP Wilco-FPL

Work in Phase 1 is within the anticipated schedule for contractor completion dates. Wilco crews are finalizing installation of wire, setting of transformer equipment and terminations on remaining locations. Wilco has completed the remaining Gulf of Mexico Drive (GMD) right-of-way work, installing Town fiber, streetlight conduits, and junction boxes, as well as conduits for Comcast.

The process for energizing newly installed underground FPL equipment, known as the “Switch Order” process, was initiated on September 11, 2020 by submission of Wilco’s field “red line” drawings for Phase 1.

Next steps involve:

- Final review and acceptance by FPL engineering staff of submitted field modified red line/as-built renderings, is anticipated to be completed by end of October 2020;
- We anticipate the field verification of the switch order process completion during the last week of October, and first week of November.
- FPL and Wilco are aware of multiple 3-phase transformer change outs that need to take place prior to initial energizing of all circuits per the Switch Orders, with adequate notice provided to residences/businesses. FPL and Wilco will coordinate these and keep the Town updated.

- 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 for December completion.
- Final conversions occur incrementally, home by home.

Following final acceptance by FPL of all overhead to underground conversion work, FPL will schedule pole removals. The Town street lighting order and manufacturing lead time to install for Phase 1, will be coordinated with FPL pole removal, with street light materials to be received as soon as practical.

In Phase 2 (in conjunction with Frontier and Comcast) Wilco has commenced coordinated work for the remaining GMD corridor, now in progress, and all remaining Neighborhood undergrounding work beginning by mid to late November. This includes the installation of Town fiber and street light conduits.

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

Frontier

Frontier has completed 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 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 has completed 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, they have been approved, and Wilco has ordered the GMD and Neighborhood poles, support arms, and fixtures

for Phase 1. Anticipated delivery is end of November/early December. Wilco is completing designs for locations and wiring for all remaining neighborhood and GMD phases. The street light submittal package complies with the design concepts approved by the Town Commission.

Phase 1 street lighting is planned to begin installation by the end of December. 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 progresses through each phase of the project.

Budget, Schedule, and Other Items of Interest

Phase 1

To-date, the Town has not utilized contingency funds as the project team nears completion of Phase 1. The project has remained under the original budget as 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 to bring the overall project under original budgets, the neighborhood street lighting budget remains as originally projected. This includes transferring some intersection street lighting into the GMD budget.

Phase 2

Similar to the above, the Town has not needed to utilize contingency funds for Phase 2. 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)

FPL and Wilco are continuing to work on receipt and delivery of Phase 3 materials. FDOT permit for FPL work in Phase 3 is pending approval and all current Requests for Additional Information were provided to the Department.

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 helps achieve the goal of advancing the overall project schedule for the Town.

Next Steps

- Finalize remaining Phase 1 and 2 easements to be submitted with final “as-built” drawings prior to switch orders for 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 schedule delivery of light poles and fixtures for Phase 1.
- 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 purchase orders to the approved Work Assignments for Wilco and Comcast to begin work in Neighborhoods Phase 2.
- FPL to complete Phase 4 design per Town comments and develop the Binding Cost Estimate.
- Explore GMD multi-purpose pathway lighting options and submit design and construction costs.
- 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