

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Tom Harmer, Town Manager
From: Isaac Brownman, Public Works Director
Report date: December 7, 2020
Meeting date: December 14, 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

A summary of work accomplished to date including the current high-level accomplishment and status for the Undergrounding Project follow.

Phase 1

- Phase 1 FPL Conduit – 53,650 Lineal Feet (10.16 Miles) 100% complete.
- Phase 1 Town Fiber Conduit – 39,306 Lineal Feet (7.4 Miles) 99.9% complete (2 small shots at Key Club N entrance).
- Phase 1 Streetlight Conduit – 24,341 Lineal Feet (4.6 Miles) 99.9% complete (same as above).
- Phase 1 Streetlights –73 Neighborhood decorative streetlight heads received, poles forthcoming followed by installation.
- All Comcast installation is complete and final cut-over from aerial to Underground is scheduled to be complete by the end of December.
- All Frontier work is complete and costs are under the original estimate.
- Five 3-phase transformer change outs in Phase 1 competed.
- No contingency funds have been used.

Phase 2

- Phase 2 FPL Conduit – 30,186 Lineal Feet (5.71 Miles) 42% complete.
- Phase 2 Town Fiber Conduit – 12,228 Lineal Feet (2.32 Miles) 34% complete.
- Phase 2 Streetlight Conduit – 10,782 Lineal Feet (2.04 Miles) 31% complete.
- All Frontier work is complete except one remaining section in Bayou Hammock private development.
- Comcast installations are being installed concurrent with the town fiber conduit installations noted above.
- No contingency funds have been utilized at this time.

Phase 3

- Phase 3 FPL design complete and materials are ordered.
- All FPL feeder conduit, switch boxes, splice boxes and transformer pads for Phase 3 received and at our staging yard ready for installation.
- FDOT Right of Way Utility Permit is pending and once received, FPL feeder conduit installation work can begin. Anticipated start date is late January 2021.
- Comcast & Frontier are in final stages of design.

Phase 4

- Phase 4 FPL preliminary design complete, reviewed, submitted back and now with FPL Engineering to finalize. Receipt of Final design is estimated for Spring 2021.
- Phase 4 Fiber & streetlight design is in progress.
- Comcast & Frontier Phase 4 design is planned to coincide with FPL design.

Due to the impacts of Hurricanes threatening and impacting the Gulf regions of Florida and out of State events that FPL responds to, FPL staff has experienced delays in processing the activation date for completing final switch orders to energize newly installed Phase 1 infrastructure and power distribution networks.

Continued work in Phase 1 that remains will be accomplished with an adjusted schedule for contractor completion dates. Wilco crews have finalized installation of wire, setting of transformer equipment and terminations on all locations.

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 second week in December.

- The project team anticipates the field verification and initiation of energizing the switch order process to commence by mid to late December.
- Final conversions of individual overhead service drops will commence during this process, and based upon total number within Phase 1 should take approximately 30 days. We are anticipating a January completion date for homes in Phase 1, but will know better once they actually start the individual home conversions.

Following final acceptance by FPL of all overhead to underground conversion work, FPL will schedule pole removals. The Town street lighting installation for Phase 1 will be coordinated with FPL pole removal.

In Phase 2 (in conjunction with Frontier and Comcast) Wilco has commenced coordinated work for Neighborhoods undergrounding, work now in progress, this includes the installation of Town fiber and street light conduits.

Wilco is currently completing work on the northwest quadrant of Phase 2 Neighborhoods, and is moving into the Village areas of Broadway, Longboat Drive North, and associated streets in the northeast sections.

For Phase 3, Town staff issued a Work Assignment and Notice to Proceed for Wilco to order and take receipt of FPL materials. 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, and reviewing designs for activation of work assignments in Phase 4.

Comcast

For Phase 1, the project team is coordinating with Comcast and their sub-contractor, Knight Broadband, as they complete installing new pedestal and tie-ins to new underground system. This work will be completed ahead of the final FPL conversion switch orders, so as not to delay pole removals. Town staff met with Comcast in the field to verify design plans for commencement of work in Phase 2 and work will occur in conjunction with Wilco FPL installations currently underway.

Smart Street Lighting (“SSL”)

Phase 1 street lighting is planned to begin installation by the end of December/early January. Conversion to new streetlights will coincide with FPL pole removals.

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

- Improve both quality of light, and pole/fixture aesthetics.
- Provide poles that are “smart capable” for potential wireless and cell carrier enhancement, and
- 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.

Illustrations of the basic poles and streetlight fixtures approved by the Commission in 2019 will be presented.

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 portion of the 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.

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 FDOT. Anticipated receipt is mid-January 2021.

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 and has submitted review comments. This is ahead of the original design schedule, and helps achieve the goal of advancing the overall project schedule for the Town.

Next Steps

- Final coordination of switch orders for power conversions Phase 1.
- Finalize remaining Phase designs for locations of street light poles, fiber-optic conduits, and electrical connections with Wilco. Wilco in progress of 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.
- FPL to complete Phase 4 design per Town comments and develop the Binding Cost Estimate.
- Explore GMD multi-purpose pathway lighting options and update the Commission on recommended solutions.
- 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