

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Tom Harmer, Town Manager
From: Isaac Brownman, Public Works Director
Report date: January 13, 2021
Meeting date: January 19, 2021
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 Utilities 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) 100% complete.
- Phase 1 Streetlight Conduit – 24,341 Lineal Feet (4.6 Miles) 100% complete.
- Phase 1 Streetlights – all 73 Neighborhood decorative streetlights have been received and stored at the yard, poles and installations to coincide with the Switch Order and conversion process.
- All Comcast installation and cut-over is complete. Coordination for the final removal of their remaining aerial facilities is underway.
- All Frontier work is complete and costs are under the original estimate.
- No contingency funds have been used.

Phase 2

- Phase 2 FPL Conduit – 35,033 Lineal Feet (5.71 Miles) 44% complete.
- Phase 2 Town Fiber Conduit – 15,761 Lineal Feet (2.32 Miles) 39% complete.
- Phase 2 Streetlight Conduit – 13,005 Lineal Feet (2.04 Miles) 37% complete.
- All Frontier work is complete except one remaining section in Bayou Hammock private development.
- Comcast UG conduit 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 March 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.

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 the FPL first series of switch orders, which have been submitted, and are waiting operations clearance. The switching is a process that involves FPL's engineer, project manager, operation center, switch order manager, and our utilities undergrounding contractor.

- There will be approximately (17) total switch orders, and most will run concurrently. The first (3) switch orders that are approved will be the GMD feeders.
- The completion of these initial (3) switch orders for the feeder circuits allows for the release of the next series of switch orders that involve

primary laterals that include the residential sections starting from the South progressing North.

- Wilco will be starting these conversions to the individual homes following the clearance of the first three initial GMD switch orders. Energizing GMD feeders are anticipated to be complete by the end of January.

The project team are conducting weekly calls to closely coordinate with all parties to help efficiently achieve the final conversions and will continue to provide routine updates as we continue to get clearances.

Final conversions of individual overhead service drops will take place concurrently during the above process as sections are cleared and energized. The schedule for these conversions are tied to the above switching orders. The order of the service meter connections will begin at the southern end and progress North which is consistent with the switching order plans. We are working closely to ensure this can be completed efficiently, and we will provide as much advance notice to homeowners as possible.

Following final acceptance by FPL of all overhead to underground conversion work, FPL will schedule pole removals.

During the switching and meter conversions in Phase 1, we will begin installation of the Town streetlights starting in the Neighborhood sections then GMD. There are a few areas where the existing aerial lines are too close to the new pole location and place a safety constraint. In these areas the installation of new streetlight poles will immediately follow removal of existing aerial facilities.

In Phase 2 Wilco has commenced coordinated work for Neighborhoods undergrounding, work now in progress, this includes the installation of Town fiber and streetlight conduits. Work also includes Frontier and Comcast conduits.

Wilco is currently working on the northeast quadrant of the Village Phase 2 Neighborhoods and will continue to work from North to South.

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, Comcast has completed all installations and their final cut-over to pave the way for their aerial facilities to be removed. We are working with

Comcast to schedule their aerial facilities removal ahead of the FPL pole removal. Other than a few isolated sections, all neighborhood aerial lines have been removed. Town staff is continuing to coordinate with Comcast in the field to verify design plan locations in the field ahead of our current work within Phase 2 neighborhood sections. The project team is also working with Comcast to have them finalize their permit drawings & permit for all future phases.

Smart Street Lighting (“SSL”)

Phase 1 street lighting is planned to begin installation by the end of 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.

The project team is continuing outreach to homeowner association representatives to update them as the project progresses through each Phase of the project.

In addition, the Town is in the process of engaging a qualified and competent advisor to provide guidance, recommendations and assist with the ongoing planning of smart city/cellular/fiber project elements and continued conversations with providers.

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 remaining 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 February 2021.

Phase 4 - Final Phase (includes the Northern portion of 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.
- Obtain FDOT permits for all Town fiber and street light work on GMD for remaining Phases. FDOT permit for Phase 2 has now been obtained.
- 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.
- Finalize contract with qualified and competent advisor to provide guidance, recommendations and assist with the ongoing planning of smart city/cellular/fiber project elements and continued conversations with providers.

Staff Recommendation

None, informational only.

Attachments

PowerPoint Presentation (Available from Town Clerk's Office)

End of Agenda Item