

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Tom Harmer, Town Manager
From: Isaac Brownman, Public Works Director
Report date: March 12, 2021
Meeting date: March 22, 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

The remaining work in Phase 1 will be accomplished with an adjusted schedule for contractor completion dates.

- Completed 1st Gulf of Mexico Drive (GMD) feeder switch order on January 26.
- Feeders from North extent of Phase 1 to Sloop Lane are energized.
- Wilco was notified on March 11th the next switching request could be scheduled to energize primary voltage distribution loops and to commence energizing related transformers. At this time, this is planned to commence the week of March 15.
- Project team is continuing to have routine switching coordination meetings with Florida Power & Light (FPL), and will continue coordination of final residential conversions on a street by street basis.

With the next switch order in progress, Wilco will start conversions to the Town's South Water Plant, Lift Station H, and the Mobil Gas Station on the South end of

the island. Subsequent switch orders will provide the clearance of all subsequent primary distribution loops energizing neighborhood transformers.

- FPL is now requiring all conversions within the current activated switch order sections to be completed before the release of next GMD feeder switch order.
- There will be approximately (17) total switch orders, and most will run concurrently. The next (2) switch orders for GMD feeders will be approved after conversions are completed in the current activated sections.

The project team conducts routine calls to closely coordinate with all parties to efficiently achieve the final conversions and will continue to provide routine updates to local residences as we continue to get clearances. The team is working closely to ensure this can be completed efficiently and will provide as much advance notice to homeowners as possible.

The Project Team was introduced to the new FPL Program Manager for Overhead to Underground Conversions, Mr. Hau Tran. Mr. Tran is a long-term FPL employee and replaces Chanda Young Brown, PMP, who has been promoted to Area Manager. Mr. Tran will be our new point of contact and has a local office here in Sarasota.

Following final acceptance by FPL of all overhead to underground conversion work, FPL will schedule installation of Automatic Meter Monitoring equipment and commence pole removals.

During the switching process in Phase 1, crews began installation of the Town streetlights. All poles arms and fixtures have been installed in the Country Club Shores neighborhood sections with the exception of a few areas where the existing aerial lines are too close to the new pole locations and place a safety constraint. In these areas the installation of new streetlight poles will immediately follow removal of existing FPL aerial facilities. Gulf of Mexico Drive poles have been received and will be installed in the near future.

Phase 2

Wilco continues progress in the northeast quadrant of the Longbeach Village area of Phase 2 providing installation of FPL, Town fiber/street light, and Comcast conduits, splice boxes, transformer pads, and secondary laterals to residence meter locations. Crews have moved to the southern side sections of Broadway and into the Bayou Hammock section to complete the Village areas. In the coming weeks crews will be moving South along GMD installing fiber and highway lighting conduits as well as commencing work in southern Phase 2 neighborhood streets.

Phase 3

- Phase 3 FPL materials are ordered and shipped on a regular as needed basis.

- All FPL feeder conduit, switch boxes, splice boxes and transformer pads for Phase 3 have been received and at our staging yard ready for installation.
- FDOT Right of Way Utility Permits are in receipt for FPL and Comcast feeder conduit installations and work can begin. Anticipated start date is within the month of March 2021.
- Frontier work is in progress and this phase of the project is in final stages of design for Town fiber and street lights and FDOT permitting.

Phase 4

- Phase 4 FPL preliminary design complete, reviewed, submitted back to 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.

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. The project team is 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.

Street Lighting and Smart City concepts

Phase 1 street lighting installation is primarily complete and energizing the system is to coincide with switch order progress. All final conversion to new streetlight systems will coincide with FPL pole removals.

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

The Town has engaged a qualified and competent advisor, KCI Technologies, Inc., to provide guidance, recommendations and assist with the ongoing planning of smart city/cellular/fiber project elements and continued conversations with providers. The project team will be introducing Marshall Pearsall, Wireless Infrastructure Consultant to discuss the results of initial of assigned tasks to review current design/build team efforts and future plans for fiber, use of street light infrastructure, installations, deployment and marketing.

Budget 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. Fiber & streetlight cost are currently under review and within the budget amount.

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

The Town recently signed a Work Assignment with Wilco for the FPL undergrounding portion and it remains under the original budget. Fiber & streetlight designs are currently under review and within budgeted amount.

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 will be getting the Binding Cost Estimate (BCE) from FPL this Spring. This will be the final FPL portion of the project and will help determine what the final cost for the FPL portion will be. Fiber & streetlight costs are currently under review and within budgeted amount.

Next Steps

- Continued work in all Phases will be accomplished with an adjusted schedule for Phase 1 contractor completion dates.
- Final coordination of switch orders for power conversions in Phase 1. Installation of street lights and removal of poles.
- Continue undergrounding work in Phase 2.

- Finalize remaining Phase 3 and 4 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, Phase 3 is in review.
- 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.
- Contract signed and kick-off meeting conducted with KCI, our qualified and competent advisor. Continue working with advisor to assist with ongoing planning of smart city/cellular/fiber project elements and to help advance continued conversations with providers.

Master Schedule Update

At the March 22, 2021 Regular Workshop Meeting, the project team will be providing a master schedule update. The last schedule shared with Commissioners indicated a March 31 completion date for Phase 1. At this time, the project team still anticipates the March 31 date for achieving substantial completion. Wilco has finished all FPL underground work, the installation of the majority of neighborhood streetlight poles, and GMD poles are anticipated to be installed as well. The only work that will be subject to extend beyond the March 31 date are due to delays in remaining FPL switch orders. Final overhead/underground conversions and the FPL pole removal(s) will follow the switch order progress. The final pole removal portion of the work is controlled by FPL. The project team continues to meet with FPL on a routine basis and continues requesting FPL's pole removals to be completed as soon as possible. There have been some other adjustments to estimated time frames for components within the individual phases based on updated information. Overall the master schedule continues to reflect project completion by December 2022. The project team will continue to provide monthly updates on the overall progress.

Staff Recommendation

None, informational only.

Attachments

PowerPoint Presentation (Available from Town Clerk's Office)

End of Agenda Item