

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Tom Harmer, Town Manager
From: Isaac Brownman, Public Works Director
Report date: September 27, 2021
Meeting date: October 4, 2021
Subject: Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Update Regarding Mid-Block Pedestrian Crossings on Gulf of Mexico Drive

Recommended Action

None, informational only.

Background

The Town of Longboat Key is an island community with access on and off island via a single State road owned and maintained by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) known as SR 789, also known locally as Gulf of Mexico Drive (GMD). SR 789 continues North and South and connects to other State roads to reach the mainland in both Sarasota and Manatee Counties.

The Town remains keenly interested in both on-island and off-island improvements that can have a positive or negative impact to multi-modal island traffic. Pedestrian Crossing safety is an issue that was highlighted in the 2021 Citizen Survey and the Town Commission has identified “pursue enhancements for GMD crosswalk enhancements with FDOT” as one of the 7 major priorities in the 2022 Strategic Plan initiatives. Staff has met with the FDOT to discuss enhancements to the mid-block crosswalks on SR 789 as a result of various reports of “near misses” by those using the existing crosswalks currently marked with Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB). There are six (6) of these marked crossings within the Town.

FDOT has suggested the possibility of a pilot project on Longboat Key to test two (2) crossing enhancements within the Town and monitor before-and-after-peak season results. These crossing treatments are as follows:

- One location would outfit an existing RRFB with an enhancement that includes in-pavement warning lights that work in concert with the RRFB.
- A second location would involve a high-pedestrian count location that would be outfitted with a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB), which were formerly known as HAWKS.

For the enhanced RRFB, an example from the website of Lux, an in-pavement warning light vendor, and can be found at: <https://www.iirpm.com/--ped-crosswalks.html>

The proposed locations at this time are as follows:

- Enhance RRFB with in-pavement lighting: Country Club Shores Crossing near Longboat Club Road
- PHB installation (remove RRFB and install): Bayfront Park Beach Access and Parking Crossing

The FDOT staff will be at the October 4, 2021 Town Commission Regular Meeting to present their plan to implement a pilot program on the island.

Next Steps

Town staff to continue to work with FDOT to advance the implementation of the pilot project.

Staff Recommendation

None, informational only.

Attachments

PowerPoint Presentation (Available from Town Clerk's Office)

End of Agenda Item