

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Tom Harmer, Town Manager
From: Isaac Brownman, Public Works Director
Report date: December 6, 2021
Meeting date: December 13, 2021
Subject: Utilities Undergrounding Project Update

Recommended Action

None, informational only.

Undergrounding Project – Funding

The Town Commission formally adopted the FY22 Budget, including Utilities Undergrounding Project components at the September 27, 2021 Special Meeting at 5:01pm. 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 Utilities Undergrounding Project follow.

Phase 1

The remaining work in Phase 1 is being accomplished with an adjusted schedule for contractor and FPL completion dates.

Feeders from North extent of Phase 1 to Southern extent are de-energized. The final Feeder Switch Order was completed November 19th, 2021. This will allow commencing pole removals along Gulf of Mexico Drive, schedule to be determined by FPL for completion.

Remaining street light poles, arms, and fixtures in Phase 1 are scheduled to be installed with GMD pole removals.

Final construction close out is in progress including remaining punch list items.

Phase 2

Wilco continues progress in the Village, Bayou Hammock, and Sleepy Lagoon sections of Phase 2 providing installation of FPL equipment and installing primary and secondary wiring. Installation of Town fiber/street light and Comcast splice boxes is occurring in the Gulf of Mexico Drive right of way.

Conduits, splice boxes, transformer pads, and secondary laterals to residence meter locations is occurring in the southern Sleepy Lagoon neighborhood

sections and Dream Island Road. In the coming weeks crews will be installing Town and highway lighting poles and continuing work towards the southern Phase 2 neighborhood streets.

Phase 3

All FPL feeder conduit and Primary conductor conduits have been installed in the Gulf of Mexico Drive right of way. Crews are now working South to North installing the switch boxes, splice boxes and transformer pads and installing Feeder and Primary conductors for Phase 3.

Town street light, fiber and Comcast conduits and splice boxes have been installed by a separate crew throughout the Phase 3 areas. All Town fiber conduits have been installed in the Harborside sections of Phase 3.

Frontier work continues in progress in this phase.

Neighborhood sections of Buttonwood Harbor and Longboat Key Estates are completed with conduits, splice boxes and transformer pads set in place. Work in the two mobile home parks is to follow with final design change approvals by FPL.

Phase 4

Phase 4 FPL FDOT Right of Way Utility and Highway Lighting Permits are in place and construction work is in progress and ahead of schedule. The Town contractor will be entering Emerald Harbor within the coming weeks.

Comcast & Frontier Phase 4 work is in progress to coincide with FPL work.

Frontier

Frontier has completed work within Phase 1 with the exception of one standalone wood pole providing service to a single customer that should be removed in the near future. 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 completing designs for activation of work assignments in Phase 4.

Comcast

For Phase 1, Comcast has completed all installations and all aerial facilities have been removed.

Town staff is continuing to coordinate with Comcast in the field to verify design plan installations are complete ahead of our current work within Phase 2 and Phase 3. The project team is also working with Comcast to have them finalize and secure their FDOT permit for phase 4.

Street Lighting and Smart City concepts

The Town has engaged 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. Meetings continue with service providers and carriers with design/build team efforts and future plans

for fiber, use of street light infrastructure, installations, deployment and marketing. The Town has had very productive meetings with both ATT and Verizon regarding plans to enhance cell coverage on the Island. Verizon is in process of seeking approval to install up to 9 small cell poles and antennas on the island to address current coverage issues. Their request was heard by the Planning & Zoning Board in November and at the request of Verizon continued to their February 15th Meeting.

Budget and Other Items of Interest

Phase 1

To date, the Town has not utilized construction 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 construction contingency funds for Phase 2. As with Phase 1, the Town will continue to mitigate potential issues to preserve project contingency funds.

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

Similar to the above, the Town has not needed to utilize construction contingency funds for Phase 3. As with Phase 1, the Town will continue to mitigate potential issues to preserve project contingency funds.

Phase 4 - Final Phase (includes the Northern portion of original Phase 5)

Negotiated construction cost have been finalized with the contractor and is under the original budget. The work has begun, primarily along GMD, and has not needed to utilize construction contingency. The neighborhood sections should begin at start of 2022.

This is 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.

Multipurpose Pathway Lighting Update

Town staff is working with Wilco for Multi-Purpose Pathway Lighting. Once options have been further developed, they will be brought to the Commission. The Town is working with Wilco to compare 36" to 42" bollard style lighting versus taller pedestrian scale light poles and luminaires to match Town Center lighting designs that will be focused onto the pathway. Cost per unit length will

be developed and then a review of recommended locations along Gulf of Mexico Drive.

Next Steps

- Continued work in all Phases will be accomplished with an adjusted schedule for Phase 1 and 2 contractor completion dates.
- Commencement and completion of feeder pole removals along GMD in Phase 1.
- Continue undergrounding work in Phase 2.
- Continue undergrounding work in Phase 3.
- Continue undergrounding work in Phase 4.
- Further develop and refine GMD multi-purpose pathway lighting options for presentation to Town Commission.
- Continue working with our advisor, KCI, and telecommunications providers directly to support ongoing cellular coverage improvements as well as planning of future smart city/cellular/fiber project elements.

Master Schedule Update

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 including additional time necessary for complexities surrounding Phase 2, but work productivity is ahead of schedule in Phases 3 and 4. Overall the master schedule continues to reflect project completion by December 2022. The project team will continue to provide quarterly updates to the Town Commission on the overall progress.

Staff Recommendation

None, informational only.

Attachments

PowerPoint Presentation (Available from Town Clerk's Office)

End of Agenda Item