

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Tom Harmer, Town Manager
From: Isaac Brownman, Public Works Director
Report date: March 14, 2022
Meeting date: March 21, 2022
Subject: Gulf of Mexico Drive (State Road 789) Complete Streets Corridor Plan Update

Recommended Action

Provide direction to Manager.

Background

The Town engaged Kimley-Horn and Associates (“KHA”) to develop a Gulf of Mexico Drive Complete Streets Corridor Master Plan, to include strategies for segments along the full 10-mile roadway corridor. A “complete streets” approach to corridor plan elements can help increase pedestrian and cyclist safety, reduce congestion, improve connectivity, improve aesthetics, and enhance the Town’s sense of place.

There are a number of ongoing initiatives along Gulf of Mexico Drive, including pedestrian/bicycle crossing improvements, the implementation of Barrier Island Traffic Study recommendations, such as Broadway Roundabout design, and Country Club Shores Left-Turn Lane design (includes wider bike lanes, reduced lane width, and planted medians). The Broadway Roundabout and Country Club Shores Turn-Lane can be considered the beginnings of the Complete Streets Corridor Plan implementation.

The Town Commission received an initial Corridor Plan public update on November 15, 2021. This presentation is a follow-up to provide information regarding preferred typical sections, including wider bike lanes and multi-use trail, speed reduction zones, emergency vehicle access, suggested turn lanes, landscape medians as pedestrian refuge areas, and other concepts. The staff and KHA will provide a status report on their efforts to date, and seek input as the master planning project advances. In addition to this public update, a public outreach session is being planned for input on the Plan’s recommendations.

Next steps include the following:

- KHA proceed with recommended placement of landscaped medians while maintaining driveway access (does limit available areas for landscape medians).
- KHA approach FDOT about recommended speed reduction areas.
- Town proceed with FDOT PHB and RRFB enhancement project.

- If the Town proceeds with a future 35-mph zone mid-island, proceed planning for adding a RRFB with in-pavement lighting at the Gulf Shore / Twin Shore / Bayport area.
- Hold a public outreach session for input on the Plan's recommendations
- Develop initial cost estimates, and a phasing and implementation of the Plan
- Present final Plan to the Town Commission

Staff Recommendation

Provide direction to Manager.

Attachments

PowerPoint Presentation (Available from Town Clerk's Office)

End of Agenda Item