

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: 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

All FPL poles within Phase One have been removed.

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

Phase 2

Wilco continues progress in all sections of Phase 2 providing final installations of FPL equipment, primary and secondary wiring to meter services. Installation of Town street lights is complete and wiring is in progress. 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 installing the switch boxes, splice boxes and transformer pads as well as installing feeder and primary conductors for Phase 3.

Town street light, fiber and Comcast conduits and splice boxes have been installed 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.

Work in the two mobile home parks is in progress with final design change approvals by FPL.

Phase 4

All Phase 4 FPL conduits in the FDOT right-of-way and utility and highway lighting conduit work is complete. All Emerald Harbor and Spanish Main conduit work is complete.

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

Frontier

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 initiating 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 work in phase 4.

Street Lighting and Smart City concepts

The Town has had very productive meetings with both ATT and Verizon regarding plans to enhance cell coverage on the Island. Verizon has approval to install 9 small cell poles and antennas on the North end of the island to address current coverage issues.

In addition, at the February 22, 2022 Town Commission Regular Workshop, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) shared positive support about the highway street lighting portion of the project along GMD. The Town's street lighting will cover 5 of 8 additional locations the FDOT was considering for additional mid-block Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) crossings. However, recent changes in Florida roadway standards precludes the use of RRFBs in a 45-mph zone. Therefore, at a minimum, FDOT wanted to see these additional areas lit.

The additional three (3) unlit locations are:

- White Sands of Longboat (MP 1.385)
- Sage / Zota and Public Beach Access (MP 0.740)
- Sutton Place (MP 0.306)

The FDOT expressed encouragement for the Town to light these remaining three locations as part of our project. Preliminary cost to run electric and stand additional poles to service these three areas is \$16,000 for each location plus a

recommended 15% contingency amount of \$2,400 per location. Total cost approximately \$55,200.

The Town has available funds in the GMD Highway Street Light account. Unless the Town Commission objects, Public Works intends to proceed with lighting these locations.

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

The Town has not needed to utilize construction contingency funds for Phase 2. The Town will continue to mitigate potential issues to preserve project contingency funds.

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

The Town has not needed to utilize construction contingency funds for Phase 3. 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)

The Town has not needed to utilize construction contingency funds for Phase 4. The Town will continue to mitigate potential issues to preserve project contingency funds.

Multipurpose Pathway Lighting Update

Town staff is working with Wilco for multi-purpose pathway lighting options. The Town has compared 36" to 42" bollard style lighting versus taller (up to 11 ft.) pedestrian scale light poles and luminaires to match Town Center lighting designs that will be focused onto the pathway. For aesthetic reasons, Town staff is recommending low level bollard style. Cost per unit length has been developed in 2021 and will need to be updated, but provides an initial idea on costs based on illumination and fixture spacing; however, fixtures can be set further apart to simply provide pathway identification. Staff will be looking further into suggested locations along GMD. The Town street light budget cannot support pathway lighting all 10-miles nor does Public Works recommended maintaining that many bollard/fixtures, conduit, wiring, meters and connections. Therefore, locations will be discrete and may have fixtures spaced apart.

Next Steps

- Continued work in all Phases will be accomplished with adjusted schedules for Phase 1 and 2 contractor completion dates.
- 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 telecommunications providers directly to support ongoing cellular coverage improvements as well as planning of future smart city/cellular/fiber project elements.

Easement Update

The project team continues to work on obtaining the required easements for the project.

- Phase 1 – All easements are complete
- Phase 2 – Easements are on-going with a major focus on the feeder equipment locations so that we can request the FPL switch order for that portion. Within the Neighborhood sections we are still working with affected property owners to get the required survey and signatures.
- Phase 3 – A large majority of equipment locations are along the GMD corridor and consents have been obtained. The team is also working with the affected property owners within the Neighborhood sections, and we have received consents. The team is working to get the required survey and signatures.
- Phase 4 – Coordination is on-going since this phase is still under construction. The team has received several consents at this stage in the project and are working on the remainder.

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 substantial completion of the Town portion of work 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