

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Tom Harmer, Town Manager
From: Isaac Brownman, Public Works Director
Report date: November 18, 2022
Meeting date: December 5, 2022
Subject: Request for Approval of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Project Priorities

Recommended Action

Approve the MPO project priorities list.

Background - Sarasota-Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization Project Priorities

The Sarasota-Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) annually requires each member jurisdiction to adopt its priority list of Transportation & Mobility project priorities for MPO funding and also submit/update applications related to each of those projects. Below is the current list of ongoing project priorities requesting funding along Gulf of Mexico Drive (GMD) within the Town's jurisdiction:

- GMD (SR 789) from Channel Lane to the North Entrance of Longboat Club Road: Country Club Shores Left-Turn Lanes
- GMD (SR 789) at Broadway Street Roundabout
- Sun Trail Multi-Use Path along GMD (SR 789) (East side)
- GMD (SR 789) at Longboat Club Road Roundabout

Regarding the Country Club Shores Left-Turn Lane project, the Town currently has resubmitted construction plans to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). This additional review is to support the FDOT's internal process to accommodate a joint-project agreement with the Town. The agreement would allow the state to fund construction and inspection of the turn lane and widening improvements in their fiscal year 2024/2025 work plan budget.

The Broadway Roundabout initiated design kick-off in October 2021, and design is 90% complete. Project is underway with final FDOT drainage and roadway permitting.

The Longboat Club Roundabout project development work has not been initiated. This is a recommendation of the Barrier Island Traffic Study and the Gulf of Mexico Drive Complete Streets Corridor Plan. It is anticipated that this project will begin to gain momentum at the time the resort development proceeds with additional unit development.

The Sun Trail Multi-Use Path will now focus on enhancing the existing trail (essentially, building new) on the East side of Gulf of Mexico Drive, replacing the current 8-foot wide path with a minimum 12-foot wide trail consistent with the Town's development of a Gulf

of Mexico Drive Complete Streets Corridor Study (previously, the Sun Trail had been targeting the West side).

Future MPO Project Priority applications may include project elements to be derived from the Town's GMD Complete Streets Corridor Master Plan, once completed.

The recommended action is for the Town Commission to approve the ongoing priorities list for submittal to the MPO. It is important to note that the two roundabouts and Sun Trail improvements have already been identified in the MPO Long Range Transportation Plan as "cost feasible" in year 2030. This annual exercise is simply to confirm the projects. As the Town's GMD Corridor Plan is completed, future projects are expected to be identified and discussed with the MPO and FDOT for inclusion in the Long-Range Transportation Plan and ultimately in future funded work plans.

Next Steps

The Town will submit this year's project applications to the MPO.

Staff Recommendation

Approve the MPO project priorities list.

Attachments

PowerPoint Presentation (Available from the Town Clerk's Office)

End of Agenda Item