

## M E M O R A N D U M

**To:** Howard Tipton, Town Manager  
**From:** Isaac Brownman, Public Works Director  
**Report date:** September 15, 2023  
**Meeting date:** September 26, 2023  
**Subject:** Utilities Undergrounding Project Update

### **Recommended Action**

None, informational only.

### **Undergrounding Project – Funding**

The Town Commission formally adopted the FY23 Budget, including Utilities Undergrounding Project components at the October 3, 2022, Special Meeting at 5:01 p.m. The electrical undergrounding remains favorably under budget (currently estimated at \$3.7 million under and does not include contingency).

### **Undergrounding Project – Design-Build Wilco and FPL Status**

#### **Phase 1**

All Phase 1 FPL undergrounding work is complete.

#### **Phase 2**

All Phase 2 FPL undergrounding infrastructure work is complete. Existing transformer replacements are in progress. There are 24 new Village transformers that are subsequently in progress for switch orders, conversion and energizing. Because of the size and complexity of Phase 2 and incremental switch order authorization process, no new date for Phase 2 completion is provided at this time, but aiming to be done by the end of the calendar year.

The Town's contractor, Wilco Electrical, LLC ("Wilco"), has indicated that switching orders for the remaining new transformers have been requested and the FPL command center is steadily writing these. Once the load conversion is complete, Wilco will be finishing the transition of the existing high-voltage cable to interface with the new underground. There will be an abundance of switching order requests for those as well. Once the high voltage underground cables are off the poles is when the overhead lines will be de-energized allowing for pole removal to begin.

#### **Phase 3**

All Phase 3 undergrounding infrastructure work is complete. All new Phase 3 transformers have been terminated and installed. Wilco, through FPL, is awaiting manufacture, programming and delivery to replace 11 existing transformers to properly integrate with new equipment. FPL is working to acquire the additional transformers, and their estimates continue to be the first quarter of calendar year 2024 for receipt. Then installation and conversion proceeds.

FPL and Wilco are actively working to energize Phase 3 feeders along Gulf of Mexico Drive ("GMD") ahead of receipt of these transformers. Once feeders are energized, Wilco and FPL also plan to continue pursuing and authorizing switch orders to

energize new transformers and converting homes. Wilco has indicated that if all goes according to the current plan, conversions should be starting in October 2023.

#### **Phase 4**

All Phase 4 undergrounding infrastructure work is complete. All new Phase 4 transformers have been terminated and installed, with the exception of a transformer on backorder for 5155 GMD (Outrigger). All vista switches have been installed, terminated and are ready for energizing. Wilco, through FPL, is awaiting manufacture, programming and delivery to replace 13 existing transformers to properly integrate with new equipment. FPL is working to acquire the additional transformers, and their estimates continue to be the first quarter of calendar year 2024 for receipt. Then installation and conversion proceeds. Wilco has indicated that Phase 4 switching may have to wait until Phase 2 is complete. This is due to the complexities of switching and load management on the feeders. The challenge is that Phase 4 is wedged between Phase 2 and 3.

#### **Frontier**

After a thorough investigation by Frontier and Wilco, Frontier determined they needed 2 more drills bored. These are in Phase 2 in Bayou Hammock and in Phase 3 on Kingfisher Lane. Work is in progress.

#### **Comcast**

Comcast further clarified their ongoing work effort to the Town: Phase 2, 3, and 4 underground work is complete, and currently working on all tie-ins and service drops to make transfer from overhead to underground.

#### **Street Lighting**

Regarding remaining streetlights:

Phase 2 – eight (8) lights on the neighborhood plans where an overhead electric line is in the way.

Phase 3 – six (6) lights on the neighborhood plans where an overhead electric line is in the way.

Phase 4 – the remaining eight (8) GMD highway light poles that had been backordered have been delivered and installed.

#### **Construction Budget and Other Items of Interest**

Electrical undergrounding work remains favorably under budget. As work is completed, invoicing for final quantities will assist in reconciling total savings. Streetlight and fiber conduit remain within original budget.

#### **Town Fiberoptic Network**

All Town fiberoptic conduit has been installed by Wilco. The Town authorized Wilco to install an internal Town fiberoptic network in coordination with the Town's Information Technology (IT) Department. The fiberoptic network installation is progressing well. Wilco has indicated that laterals into buildings/locations are complete. The mainline requires measurement of each run to ensure cable is ordered correctly to length. This process requires a measurement string to be installed in the conduit; that effort is 75% complete. Once finished, the cable will be procured and installed.

#### **Easement Update**

Easements are ninety-nine percent (99%) complete. There are two remaining across the whole project.

### **Cellular Coverage and Smart City Concepts**

Verizon has activated nine (9) new small cell poles and antennas on the north end of the island. A lease agreement with AT&T to utilize Town infrastructure to add wireless enhancing equipment has been signed by the Town.

The Town is working with vendors Dell EMC and vTechio to implement initial traffic count and camera technology at the two island ends and within Bayfront Park, respectively.

### **Multipurpose Pathway Lighting Update**

Locations, concepts, costs, and timing will be considered once the Florida Department of Transportation (“FDOT”) replaces the existing eight (8) foot wide path on the east side of Gulf of Mexico Drive. The FDOT pathway replacement project is anticipated in 2025/2026 pending funding.

### **Master Schedule Update**

Conversions/energizing and final FPL pole removal (wreck-out) are pushed out for the final phases. New Phase 2 completion is targeted for end of December 2023, but is dependent on switching process variables. Phases 3 and 4 are awaiting receipt of replacement transformers that are estimated to arrive in the first quarter of 2024. From there switch authorization, energizing and conversion can continue, but end dates remain undetermined until those units are received and switching continues.

Remaining neighborhood streetlights will be installed once pole removal (wreck-out) in the respective area occurs.

### **Next Steps**

- Acquire all outstanding equipment from FPL and continue energizing Phases 2, 3, and 4 to completion.
- FPL pole removal (wreck-out) and final neighborhood streetlight installations.
- Wilco working on proposal to replace all Town street name signs with newer, LED backlit street name signs and also additional GMD Highway light poles. Intent is to encumber funds by December 31, 2023.

### **Hurricane Idalia**

For the September 26, 2023, Town Commission Workshop, FPL will have a representative present to discuss any updates to the ongoing investigation and resolution of Hurricane Idalia flood impacts to certain specific transformers and electrical system components within Sleepy Lagoon and the Village.

### **Staff Recommendation**

None, informational only.

### **Attachments**

PowerPoint Presentation (Available in the Town Clerk’s Office)

**End of Agenda Item**