

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Howard Tipton, Town Manager
From: Isaac Brownman, Public Works Director
Report date: November 20, 2023
Meeting date: December 4, 2023
Subject: Request for Approval of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Project Priorities

Recommended Action

Approve the MPO project priorities list.

Background

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
- GMD (SR 789) Complete Street Corridor Improvements, including Sun Trail Multi-Use Path along GMD (East side)
- GMD (SR 789) at Longboat Club Road Roundabout

The first project, Country Club Shores left-turn lanes, is funded for construction by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) in the current year. The latter three projects are already in the MPO Long-Range Transportation Plan known as "Transform 2045."

Regarding the Country Club Shores Left-Turn Lane project, the Town currently has construction plans under final review with FDOT. Upon approval, the Town will be supplied with a joint-project agreement between the Town and FDOT. The agreement would allow the state to fund construction and inspection. FDOT has budgeted approximately \$1.4 million in the current fiscal year.

Regarding the Broadway Roundabout, the re-design as a result of FDOT permitting requirements has started and will be conducted through calendar year 2024. FDOT has committed \$1.685 million towards construction. Additional funding is identified in the MPO Long-Range Transportation plan in years 2026 through 2030.

The next step for the GMD Complete Street Corridor Plan is to develop a Project Development & Environment (PD&E) analysis. The MPO has PD&E funding identified in year 2026 plus additional project funding through year 2030.

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 MPO has funding identified in the Long-Range Plan from 2026 through 2030.

The recommended action is for the Town Commission to approve the ongoing priorities list for submittal to the MPO. As mentioned, three of the four projects are identified in the MPO Long Range Transportation Plan as “cost feasible” from years 2026 through 2030. This annual exercise is simply to confirm the projects and maintain the Town’s place and funding in the MPO Long-Range plan.

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