

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Howard Tipton, Town Manager
From: Isaac Brownman, Public Works Director
Report date: December 1, 2023
Meeting date: December 11, 2023
Subject: Undergrounding Project Update

Recommended Action

None, informational only.

Undergrounding Project – Funding

The Town Commission formally adopted the FY24 Budget, including Utilities Undergrounding Project components. The electrical undergrounding remains favorably under budget.

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 is complete. There is one existing transformer replacement remaining. Three new Village transformers are in progress for switch orders, conversion and energizing. There are 10 remaining secondary service conversions (properties) left in the project; these will be conducted once the last 3 new transformers are energized.

Once the Phase 2 load conversions are complete, Wilco will finish the transition of the existing high-voltage cable to interface with the new underground system. Wilco is still targeting Phase 2 fully energized by the end of the calendar year. Overhead line de-energizing will then allow for pole removal.

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. Estimated time of arrival (ETA) continues to be the first quarter of 2024.

The first section of GMD feeders from Bayfront Park to Bay Isles Parkway have been successfully energized. Thirty-one transformers are now energized in the areas of Buttonwood Drive, Longview Drive and Longboat Estate.

Wilco has started secondary service conversions (properties) and will continue throughout the areas that can be done.

Once that section is complete and load is transferred, Wilco can then submit switch orders for the remaining feeders and go through the same sequence. Wilco and FPL

are working around the remaining, existing transformers that need to be installed and switched over.

Final switch orders and conversions will occur for the remaining 11 existing transformer replacements and associated areas once they are received and installed.

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 (Outtrigger). Wilco, through FPL, is awaiting manufacture and delivery to replace 13 existing transformers to properly integrate with new equipment. ETA continues to be first quarter of 2024.

Phase 4 switching has 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 & Comcast

Both Comcast and Frontier continue to actively work towards completion.

Frontier can now work on removing lines from poles in Phase 2. Frontier is also working through Phase 3 mobile home parks to ensure all homes are connected for the entire park so that the aerial facilities can be removed. Phase 4 requires one final install on Companion Way and then removals from FPL poles can begin.

Comcast is still working on activating new underground lines and splicing last remaining tie-ins in Phase 2 and have started removing aerial facilities from poles. Comcast is actively working on conversion to the new fiber on GMD in Phase 3 and is scheduling night splicing. Work is in progress on Phase 4.

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 – all of 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.

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 trunk and service installation to the buildings are complete and passed testing. IT will begin Town building connections.

Easement Update

Easements are ninety-nine percent (99%) complete. There is one remaining easement with Publix across the whole project. All others have been obtained and recorded. Publix legal and corporate made minor modifications to the language, and FPL has it under review.

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; AT&T has communicated that they are actively working on a network enhancing design.

The Town is working with vendor vTech io to implement initial traffic count technology at the two island ends and camera technology within Bayfront Park and at the Town boat ramp.

Multipurpose Pathway Lighting Update

Locations, concepts, costs, and timing can be considered once the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) replaces the existing eight (8) foot wide path on the east side of GMD. The FDOT pathway replacement project was previously anticipated in 2025 and 2026 with resurfacing of GMD sections. However, the resurfacing projects have been pushed out to 2026 and 2027 due to inflationary pressure and funding constraints, so the Town is working to determine whether or not funding for the pathway is included.

Master Schedule Update

Conversions/energizing and final FPL pole removal (wreck-out) are pushed out for the final phases. Phase 2 completion is still 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 to develop construction schedule for backlit street name signs.
- Town and Wilco work on additional GMD Highway light poles locations and begin design/permitting process.

Hurricane Idalia

On September 26, 2023, FPL indicated that 90-days would be required to thoroughly analyze and evaluate transformer failures that occurred as a result of Hurricane Idalia in certain low areas of Sleepy Lagoon and the Village. The Town is awaiting results of FPL's analysis and any recommendations to come from that analysis.

Staff Recommendation

None, informational only.

Attachments

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

End of Agenda Item