

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Howard Tipton, Town Manager
From: Isaac Brownman, Public Works Director
Report date: March 15, 2024
Meeting date: March 25, 2024
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. All new underground transformers are energized and all secondary services (homes and businesses) are converted to the new underground system. Wilco is finishing up switching orders to complete the riser drops. This will enable all of the overhead wires to be demolished and removed, known as “wreck out.” FPL’s demolition contractor, IRBY Construction Company, crews are currently removing overhead wires and poles in Phase 2.

Phase 3

All Phase 3 undergrounding infrastructure work is complete. All new Phase 3 transformers have been terminated and installed. Wilco has received all the transformers that are needed to be changed out in Phase 3. They have developed a draft schedule that FPL has approved for load management on the outages to change the devices out. Wilco will choose a schedule that can accommodate the residents and begin changeouts in April 2024.

The first section of Gulf of Mexico Drive (“GMD”) feeders from Bayfront Park to Bay Isles Parkway have been successfully energized. Fifty-seven transformers are now energized in the areas of Buttonwood Drive, Longview Drive, Longboat Estates, Twin Shores Mobile Home Park, and GMD.

Wilco has started secondary service conversions (properties) and will continue throughout the areas that can be done. At this time Wilco has completed 118 conversions of 280 in all of Phase 3, the majority of which are in the two trailer parks.

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, which are planned to begin in April.

Final switch orders will be needed to convert a number of existing risers into the new underground system as well.

Phase 4

All Phase 4 undergrounding infrastructure work is complete. All new Phase 4 transformers have been terminated and installed. Wilco has developed a draft schedule that FPL has approved for load management on the outages to change the devices out. Wilco plans to choose a schedule that can accommodate the residents and begin changeouts in April 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. One hundred percent of the load and overhead transfers must be completed prior to beginning Phase 4 switching and conversions.

Frontier & Comcast

Both Comcast and Frontier continue to actively work towards completion.

Frontier has one remaining overhead copper line in Bayou Hammock in Phase 2 to be removed the week of March 18th. 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 substantially complete in Phase 2. 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 – Wilco is now able to start installing the eight (8) lights on the neighborhood plans where an overhead electric line was in the way.

Phase 3 – All street light poles are installed in Phase 3.

Phase 4 – Eight (8) lights on the neighborhood plans where an overhead electric line is in the way remain to be 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.

Purchase orders through the underground project have also been issued for new backlit street name signs in the amount of \$483,245 and also for design, permitting, and construction of an additional up to 60 new GMD Highway Street lights in the amount of \$1,333,760.

There are recent, approved change orders totaling \$201,426 related to significant conduit work conducted in the trailer parks and other locations, and also adjustments on Jungle Queen Way. There is another Wilco change order pending for streetlight materials that is being confirmed by the Town project team. Once confirmed, the team

will work with the Finance Department on rectifying all outstanding payments as the project proceeds towards completion.

Easement Update

Easements are ninety-nine percent (99%) complete. The final Publix easement is under review with FPL.

Town Fiberoptic Network

All Town fiberoptic conduit has been installed by Wilco, and the internal Town network to Town building facilities has been activated by the Information Technology (IT) Department.

Cellular Coverage and Smart City Concepts

Verizon has activated nine (9) new small cell poles and antennas on the north end of the island. The Town and AT&T have signed a lease agreement for use of Town streetlight poles. The Town is working with AT&T on a zoning text amendment to allow for their network design on Town poles.

During the week of March 18th, the Town's vendor vTech io is going to train Town IT staff in the use of recently installed Smart City technology.

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. FDOT has indicated that the eight (8) foot path will be replaced as part of the FDOT Fiscal Year 2026 and 2027 resurfacing projects for GMD.

Master Schedule Update

Conversions/energizing and final FPL pole removal (wreck-out) are pushed out for the final phases. All Phase 2 homes and businesses are converted and demolition is in progress. Final overhead to underground transitions are in progress to fully complete Phase 2. Phases 3 is in progress. Phase 4 will begin once Phase 2 is fully complete. The project team is working to complete the entire electrical project as quickly as possible.

Next Steps

- Complete Phase 2 riser drops. Continue energizing Phases 3 and 4 to completion.
- FPL complete all pole removal (wreck-out).
- Wilco complete remaining neighborhood streetlight installs after wreck-out.
- Wilco to begin installing and activating backlit street name signs in Spring 2024.
- Town and Wilco refine initial map for additional GMD Highway Light locations.

FPL System Resiliency

On January 26, 2024, FPL provided a response letter to the Town regarding ways to add resiliency to the underground electrical system. FPL will provide an update to the Town.

Staff Recommendation

None, informational only.

Attachments

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

End of Agenda Item