

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: Broadway at Gulf of Mexico Drive (SR 789) Roundabout Redesign Update

Recommended Action

None, informational only.

Background

Gulf of Mexico Drive is a state road within the Town of Longboat Key known as State Road 789. In April of 2023, the Florida Department of Transportation (“FDOT”) rejected the Town consultant’s, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. (“KHA”), original project design that maintained the roadway cross-slope and drainage in similar to current conditions with a proposed roundabout at the Gulf of Mexico Drive (“GMD”) and Broadway Street intersection. The FDOT desire to have the Town create a normal crown roadway resulted in an overall redesign needed to accomplish the project and expanding the project limits, scope, and overall future construction cost. Because of the level of effort to redesign and reconstruct substantially more of the roadway, the Town decided to incorporate complete street elements into the full roadway improvement rather than a roundabout only project. These include:

- 7-ft. wide buffered bike lanes
- 12-ft. wide multi-use trail on the east side
- Landscape and median treatments
- Elevation/Resiliency Improvements.

For this effort, the Town chose to re-engage with KHA for redesign in late 2023. Because there was already a large amount of data collection and design work that could still be used, the project is at approximately 60% design.

Due to some dramatic differences in the nature and character (look and feel) of the roadway elevations and related work, Public Works has started engaging in discussions with surrounding property owners to share visual changes that will occur with the new roadway. These will include:

- Exposed retaining walls and handrails along the northeast leg.
- Removal of most, if not all, existing vegetation within the right-of-way along the northwest leg.
- Increased elevation into the southeast driveway entering the Whitney’s Restaurant.

The new FDOT required project elements plus Town Complete Street elements will significantly increase construction cost. An engineer's opinion of probable construction cost estimate will be developed after FDOT and Southwest Florida Water Management District ("SWFWMD") permitting. FDOT has currently committed \$1.685 million to the construction project.

The next steps will be to complete discussions with property owners, begin renewed FDOT and SWFWMD permitting, and then proceed to 90% design with cost estimates.

Staff Recommendation

None, informational only.

Attachment

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

End of Agenda Item