

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Howard Tipton, Town Manager
From: Isaac Brownman, Public Works Director
Report date: June 6, 2024
Meeting date: June 28, 2024
Subject: Broadway at Gulf of Mexico Drive (SR 789) Roundabout Update

Recommended Action

None, informational only.

Background

The Town Commission has been discussing the plausibility of roundabouts on Longboat Key since an October 3, 2011, Comprehensive Plan discussion, and the possibility of a north-end roundabout since a June 21, 2012, discussion about crosswalk feasibility on Gulf of Mexico Drive (GMD). Then, at the December 10, 2014, Regular Workshop Meeting, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) presented findings of pedestrian counts along GMD with a plan to add crosswalks and other pedestrian safety measures on the island. The meeting minutes reflect that former Vice Mayor Jack Duncan then requested consideration to agenda the issue of a roundabout in the area of Broadway and GMD (approved Minutes, December 10, 2014).

At the March 2, 2015, Town Commission Regular Meeting, the commission approved an ordinance for a budget transfer to conduct a roundabout feasibility study and the Town subsequently hired Alternate Street Design, P.A., to conduct the study. Study results were presented at the March 23, 2015, Workshop, and the Commission, by consensus, asked the Town Manager to have staff proceed with investigations of options/funding/FDOT discussions.

A subsequent roundabout discussion was held at the March 23, 2016, Workshop as part of another Longboat Key Sidewalk Project update, and then roundabout planning and design funding discussions ensued at the May 21, 2018, and June 17, 2019, Special Budget Workshops, respectively.

As a result, the adopted Town FY 2019 Capital Improvement Program budget included funding for a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study for the roundabout. A key feature of an intersection PD&E is the Intersection Control Evaluation, which the Town conducted through its consultant. Through this evaluation, the FDOT approved the roundabout as the control of choice for the intersection on February 18, 2020, and authorized the Town to proceed with the design.

At the recommendation of the Town Commission during the May 18 and June 21, 2021, Budget Workshops, \$300,000 was added to the proposed FY 2022 Capital Budget for the Broadway Roundabout engineering design. The budget was subsequently adopted on October 1, 2022, and design began.

Engineering design continued throughout 2022 and then during the 90% review phase, in April of 2023, the FDOT formally 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 GMD and Broadway Street intersection. The FDOT's desire to have the Town create a normal crown roadway resulted in an overall redesign needed to accomplish the project and expand the project limits, scope, and overall future construction cost. Because of the level of effort to redesign and substantially reconstruct more of the roadway, the Town moved forward to incorporate Complete Street elements into the full roadway design 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.

Current Status

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 now approximately 90% complete.

KHA submitted for FDOT permit review on May 7, 2024, and the project team is awaiting the first round of comments. The required FDOT project criteria combined with Town Complete Street elements will significantly increase construction costs. A preliminary opinion of costs has been developed by our engineer and is roughly around \$5.4 million. With incidentals and construction engineering inspection, this could become \$6 million. Additional FDOT comments and criteria may increase this further.

Public Works has also been engaging with surrounding property owners to discuss new retaining walls and handrails, removal of existing vegetation within the right-of-way along the west side, elevation increases, and sign visibility.

Funding Support Status

FDOT has currently committed \$1,685,000 to the construction project in their FY 2025 Work Program. Manatee County has stated that they would provide construction administration and some financial support as well. The MPO has a total of \$4,860,000 identified in the "Transform 2045" Long Range Cost Feasible Plan with construction identified in year 2030. The Town has maintained a strategy of funding engineering design and then working with FDOT, MPO, and others to help fund Gulf of Mexico Drive construction improvements since it is State Road 789. The Town currently has \$600,000 programmed for FY 2025 for the project.

Recommendations and Next Steps

- Finish all permitting and finalize this design. Develop one final opinion of cost and approach FDOT for additional funding in the near term.
- If FDOT funding is not available in the near term, then "shelve the project" until such time as all external funding sources become available.
- Work with our engineer and FDOT on a potential "interim safety enhancement" project as applicable.
- Conduct a roundabout engineering plan update at a time closer to the availability of construction funding and also update all permits.
- Re-engage with the Town Commission and property owners.

- Bid Project and Proceed with construction.

Staff Recommendation

None, informational only.

Attachment

PowerPoint Presentation (Available in Town Clerk's Office)

Alternate Street Design, P.A. Technical Memo (2015) (Available in Town Clerk's Office)

End of Agenda Item