

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Howard Tipton, Town Manager
From: Isaac Brownman, Public Works Director
Report date: September 13, 2024
Meeting date: September 23, 2024
Subject: Gulf of Mexico Drive (SR 789) at Broadway Street Roundabout and Longboat Pass Bridge Updates

Recommended Action

None, informational only.

Background

At the June 28, 2024, Town Commission meeting, the commission directed the Town Manager and staff to discuss options for funding the high cost of the Gulf of Mexico Drive (SR 789) and Broadway Street Roundabout and also review other alternatives for the intersection with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). On August 23, 2024, the Town Manager and staff met with the FDOT District 1 Secretary, Mr. LK Nandam, and his engineering and leadership team. The following were discussed regarding the intersection:

- FDOT funding the roundabout construction, which is estimated between \$5.4 million and \$6 million. The FDOT has currently committed \$1.685 million.
- Town perform a peak season signal warrant analysis and if the intersection meets warrants/criteria, FDOT place a traffic signal to the intersection.
- FDOT install a pedestrian hybrid beacon (PHB) at the intersection.
- Town and FDOT work together to design and install a pedestrian refuge island.

The discussion and FDOT responses include the following:

FDOT believes, endorses, and has approved the roundabout as the best ultimate control solution for the intersection. The FDOT currently has committed \$1.685 million towards construction, the Town has \$600,000 budgeted, and Manatee County previously indicated up to a \$500,000 contribution. From a \$6 million cost standpoint, that leaves a construction shortfall of \$3,215,000. The FDOT responded that they do not have the money to fund that remaining construction cost. Because the roundabout is believed to be the best long-term control, a traffic signal would not be supported at the intersection by FDOT. In addition, neither a PHB nor a pedestrian refuge island would be supported in the interim due to the existing super-elevation at the intersection, the intersection configuration, and proximity of other marked crossings north and south.

From the Town perspective, those existing marked crossings are somewhat distant from the intersection, with the north crosswalk approximately 750-feet away and the south crossing approximately 300-feet away. Nevertheless, the FDOT found the existence of these available crossings as sufficient for now and suggests the Town wait until Sarasota Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) funding comes to fruition in the 2030

timeframe to build the roundabout. 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.

Then, after these discussions with FDOT, on September 11, 2024, the MPO contacted the Town to inform the Town that the MPO may have substantial funding to contribute to the roundabout construction shortfall in either state FY 2025 or 2027 due to the other project deferrals at this time. As an example, the MPO can fund the roundabout in state FY 2025 as long as construction begins by June 30, 2025.

Recommendations and Next Steps

For use of FY 2025 MPO directed funding:

- Determine a path forward for delivering construction as an FDOT Local Agency Program (LAP) project
 - Confirm Manatee County agrees to administer construction as a LAP certified entity, confirm timeframes and logistics, or
 - Pursue other avenues for LAP project delivery
- Finish design and permitting
- Enter into Interlocal Agreement with Manatee County, or other entity as needed
- Procure per State and Federal requirements
- Execute contract by June 30, 2025 and begin construction

If the above timelines and logistics do not materialize, plan for a FY 2027 construction start using MPO directed funds. If MPO funding does not materialize for FY 2027, hold the project until MPO Long-Range plan funding comes to fruition around FY 2030.

Town staff can provide an update through the Town Manager regarding the feasibility of a June 30, 2025 construction start date after consulting with Manatee County and further evaluation.

Longboat Pass Bridge

As far as the Longboat Pass Bridge Replacement project, the FDOT has introduced an additional option to be further evaluated. Due to the inflationary pressures being experienced across the state on all FDOT projects, the FDOT is analyzing the merits of repairing the existing bridge to extend the life of the bridge further in the short-to-mid-term.

Staff Recommendation

None, informational only.

Attachment

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

End of Agenda Item