

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Howard Tipton, Town Manager
From: Isaac Brownman, Public Works Director
Report date: October 14, 2024
Meeting date: October 21, 2024
Subject: Undergrounding Project Completion Update

Recommended Action

None, informational only.

Undergrounding Project – Funding

The Town Commission formally adopted the FY24 Budget, including Utilities Undergrounding Project components, and will be adopting the FY25 proposed budget. The electrical undergrounding remains favorably under budget.

Undergrounding Project – Design-Build Wilco and FPL Status

Hurricanes Helene and Milton brought back-to-back impacts to the Sarasota and Manatee County areas of Southwest Florida. Hurricane Helene made landfill as a Category 4 hurricane on September 26, 2024, in the Florida Big Bend area. As it passed, Helene brought a significant storm surge to the Town of Longboat Key causing widespread damage to the area. As the Town was in the midst of infrastructure restoration and recovery from that storm, Hurricane Milton made landfill in Sarasota as a Category 3 hurricane on October 9, 2024. Wilco, as an FPL authorized emergency contractor, and FPL itself went into emergency response and recovery mode after both storms. As a result, impacts to the Underground project schedule related to Hurricanes Helene and Milton are unknown at this time.

Once recovery efforts have stabilized, it is presumed that FPL will continue meeting its commitment of streamlined, dedicated switch order processing, and Wilco will deliver on the progression of work. The last status update received from Wilco through September 20, 2024, prior to Hurricane Helene's pre-storm preparation activities is detailed below:

Phase 2 (North End - Dream Island Road to Longboat Pass Bridge)

- Phase 2 is fully complete and all poles have been removed.

Phase 3 (Country Club Shores to County line)

- Transformers: 70 of 70 energized, 100% complete
- Service Conversions: 283 of 283 complete, 100% complete (last update was 95%)
- Switching Orders: 93 of 95 orders, completed 98% (last update was 97%)

Phase 4 (County line to Dream Island Road)

- Feeder: 100% energized
- Feeder Switch Cabinets: 17 of 17 energized, 100% complete
- Transformers: 72 of 76 energized, completed 95% (last update was 82%)
- Service Conversions: 48 of 252, 19% complete (last update was 0%)
- Switching Orders: 78 completed of an estimated 115 orders, 68% (last update was 53%). All remaining switching orders have been requested to FPL.

Frontier and Comcast

Regarding Frontier, all Phase 3 mobile home park issues previously identified have been resolved. Frontier is working to complete Phase 3 service connections. Work by Frontier continues in Phase 4 as well.

Comcast continues to work and coordinate with Wilco on Phases 3 and 4 to completion.

Construction Budget and Other Items of Interest

Overall, the undergrounding project remains under budget. The project is currently tracking over a \$6 million surplus from the original total budget, plus investment income. There is an additional change order pending for final close-out work, so that will be worked into the final reconciliation. Other added work elements that already have been accounted for include:

- Added scope for new backlit street name signs: \$483,245.
- Added scope for additional, new GMD Street lights: \$1,333,760.

Street Lighting

Remaining streetlights:

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

Next Steps

- Wilco and FPL revise underground electrical completion dates and demolition completion dates on the master schedule to account for storm impacts.
- Continue energizing Phases 3 and 4 to completion.
- FPL to complete all pole removal (wreck-out) by December 31, 2024, or new date as amended.
- Wilco to complete remaining Phase 4 neighborhood streetlight installs after wreck-out.
- Wilco to begin installing and activating backlit street name signs and east side GMD Highway light poles along the multi-use trail.

FPL System Resiliency

After Hurricanes Helene and Milton, a substantial portion of the new underground system was able to be activated successfully. As of the writing of this memorandum, FPL is actively working on subaqueous electrical line repairs as well as remaining on-island power restoration efforts as part of Hurricane Milton recovery.

Staff Recommendation

None, informational only.

Attachments (Available in Town Clerk's Office)

PowerPoint Presentation

End of Agenda Item